Omega programme Module 1
the spine of Biblical prophecy
solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil
Heb 5.14
module overview

- historical scene
- the temple
- the public prophecy
- the private prophecy
- the 4 Laws
- overview of key phases
- foundational chronology

study to show yourself approved to God

2 Tim 2.15a
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.

Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!’
the day before

Passover / Pesach

on or around 13th day of Nisan 29AD...
temple tour

see YouTube link for video ...
the spine of prophecy

context: political scene – geography – the temple
the spine of prophecy

1st discourse: public place / public prophecy (Luke 21)

the court of women

earlier in the day
in public
wider group of disciples
the spine of prophecy

2nd discourse: private place / private prophecy (Matt 24/Mark 13)

the Mount of Olives

later in the day
in private
Jesus’ closest disciples
And while some were talking about the temple, that it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts, He said, “As for these things which you are looking at, the days will come in which none of these will be left, one stone upon another which will not be torn down.”

They questioned Him, saying, “Teacher, when therefore will these things happen? And what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?”

And He said, “See to it that you are not misled, for many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not go after them. When you hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end does not follow immediately.”

Then He continued by saying to them, “Nations will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines, and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name’s sake. It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony. So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute. But you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death, and you will be hated by all because of My name. Yet not even a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives. But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near. Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled. Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land and wrath to this people; and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity among the sea and the waves, men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.  And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. And He said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another which will not be torn down.”

When He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and will mislead many. You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but this is not the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will rise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get his coat. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, neither will there be such after that time, until the coming of the Son of Man. And when you see these things happening, you will know that it is near, the end of the world is at hand. As you come out into the field, do not go back into the house to take anything; nor go back to the city to take your cloak. Where the body is, there also the eagles will be gathered together. As He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down.”

As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew were questioning Him privately, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?”

And Jesus began to say to them, “See to it that no one misleads you. Many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He!’ and will mislead many. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be frightened; those things must take place; but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will also be famines. These things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. But be on your guard; for they will deliver you to the courts, and you will be dragged before kings and governors for My sake, as a testimony to them. The gospel must first be preached to all the nations. When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. The one who is on the housetop must not go down, or go in to get anything out of his house; and the one who is in the field must not turn back to get his coat. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! But pray that it may not happen in the winter. For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will. Unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ;’ or ‘There He is,’ do not believe him. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you in advance. So if they say to you, ‘Behold, He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out, or ‘Behold, He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe them. For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. how should we arrange the prophecy? 2nd (private) prophecy Matthew 24 Mark 13

As He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down.”

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And Jesus began to say to them, “See to it that no one misleads you. Many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He!’ and will mislead many. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be frightened; those things must take place; but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will also be famines. These things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. But be on your guard; for they will deliver you to the courts, and you will be dragged before kings and governors for My sake, as a testimony to them. The gospel must first be preached to all the nations. When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. The one who is on the housetop must not go down, or go in to get anything out of his house; and the one who is in the field must not turn back to get his coat. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! But pray that it may not happen in the winter. For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will. Unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom He chose, He shortened the days. And then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ’; or, ‘Behold, He is there’; do not believe him; for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance. But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from thefarthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven.
4 laws of the spine

- **Law #1**
  'identical events'
  Where there is a clear, definite and irrefutable similarity between events described in Luke 21, Matthew 24 and Mark 13 in both content and phrasing, they should be aligned and assumed to describe the same activity.

- **Law #2**
  'Matthew & Mark together'
  Matthew and Mark describe the same prophetic discourse from the Mount of Olives. The events portrayed are identical and have been aligned accordingly.

- **Law #3**
  'Luke first'
  If the passage does not fit with Law 1, then as the prophecy in Luke was uttered first, passages/events from Luke are given priority and pre-eminence in the schedule.

- **Law #4**
  'Luke’s parenthesis'
  In Luke 21.12 Jesus uses the phrase ‘before all these things’. The events up to 21.24 therefore relate to a time before the end-time events described.
And while some were talking about the temple, that it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts, He said, “As for these things which you are looking at, the days will come in which there will not be left one stone upon another which will not be torn down.” They questioned Him, saying, “Teacher, when therefore will these things happen? And what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?”

And He said, “See to it that you are not misled; for many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He!’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not go after them. When you hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end does not follow immediately.” Then He continued by saying to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines.

And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven: But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name’s sake. It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony. So make up your minds not to get ahead beforehand to defend yourselves; for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute. But you shall be delivered even by your parents and brothers and relatives and friends and even your own selves. And they will put some of you to death, and your bodies will be thrown into the streets, and your names will not be spoken in heaven. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. Whoever is on the house top must not go down to get his cloak. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! But pray that it may not happen in the winter. For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of creation which God created until now, and never will. But in those days, after that tribulation, the elect those days will be cut short. Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There He is,’ do not believe him for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you in advance. So if they say to you, ‘Behold, He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out, or, ‘Behold, He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe them. For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

But immediately after the tribulation of those days the SUN WILL BE DARKENED, and the MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, and the STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man COMING IN CLOUDS with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with a great TRUMPET and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. Then they will see the Son of Man COMING IN CLOUDS with power and great glory. And then He will send forth the angels, and He will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of heaven to the farthest end of earth. And the Son of Man will sit on the throne of His glory, and before Him will be gathered all the nations; and He will separate the nations one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. Then He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left hand. Then He will also say to those on the right hand, ‘Come, blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’ Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you did not give food; I was thirsty and you did not give drink; I was a stranger and you did not take me in; I was naked and you did not clothe me; I was sick and you did not visit me; I was in prison and you did not come to me.’ Then they will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and do not know it?’ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Truly I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ Then He will also say to those on the right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave food, thirsty and you gave drink, a stranger and you took me in, naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to me.’ Then they will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and do not know it?’ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Truly I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ Then He will say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you did not give food; I was thirsty and you did not give drink; I was a stranger and you did not take me in; I was naked and you did not clothe me; I was sick and you did not visit me; I was in prison and you did not come to me.’ Then they will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and do not know it?’ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Truly I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’

2nd (private) prophecy
Matthew 24 Mark 13

As He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down.”

And Jesus said to those who were listening, “When you see those things happening, you will know that the time is near. But when you see Jerusalem encircled by armies, then you will know that her destruction is near. If you see the city being encircled, you will know that it is going to be gone. When you see the destruction of the temple, you will know that the passion of the Son of Man is at hand. For just as a lightning sign is given in the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. And then they will answer Him, saying, ‘When did we see You?’ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Truly I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ Then He will also say to those on the right hand, ‘Come, blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’ Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you did not give food; I was thirsty and you did not give drink; I was a stranger and you did not take me in; I was naked and you did not clothe me; I was sick and you did not visit me; I was in prison and you did not come to me.’ Then they will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and do not know it?’ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Truly I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ Then He will say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you did not give food; I was thirsty and you did not give drink; I was a stranger and you did not take me in; I was naked and you did not clothe me; I was sick and you did not visit me; I was in prison and you did not come to me.’ Then they will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and do not know it?’ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Truly I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’

New American Standard Bible (NASB)
the spine of prophecy – prophetic pattern

1st prophecy

Luke 21

8-11a

11b

(12-24 foretells the destruction of Jerusalem AD70)

25-26

27

2nd prophecy

Matt 24

4-8 5-8

9-14 9-13

15-20 14-18

21-28 19-23

29 24-25

30-31 26-27

Mark 13

T2

T4

a simple, sequential approach
Jesus said to him, ‘Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down‘

Matt 24
the disciples’ questions

‘when therefore will these things happen?’
‘what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?’

‘what will be the sign of Your coming?’
‘what will be the sign of the end of the age?’
‘what will be the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?’

‘these things’ = temple destroyed
the ‘beginning of sorrows’

- false christs & deception
- wars
- ethnic conflict
- famine
- earthquakes
- disease

‘labour pains’

- temple destroyed
- disciples’ questions
- sorrows
- phobetron
- tribulation
- Jesus returns

Mod 3
the gathering storm
the phobetron

‘fearful sights’
‘objects or instruments of terror’

used of terrifying hallucinations experienced by those suffering fever
the tribulation

tribulation #1

- persecution
- hated by all nations
- offence
- Christian betrayal / hatred ('many')
- false prophets / deception
- increased lawlessness
- 'agape' of many grows cold
- this Gospel of the Kingdom proclaimed worldwide
  - family betrayal
  - universal hatred of Christian / Jew

abomination of desolation

T2

('great')

tribulation #3

'such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will'

'unless those days had been cut short no life would have been saved. But for the sake of the elect whom He chose, they will.'

- false christs / false prophets
- supernatural power
- mass deception

sun, moon & stars

T4

- great signs in sun, moon & stars
- national dismay / perplexity
- seas & waves roaring
- powers of heavens shaken

Mod 5

Antichrist & tribulation
Luke’s ‘Israel parenthesis’

‘for there will be...

great distress upon the land and wrath to this people and

they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles

until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled’

Luke 21
‘times of the gentiles’

**always** in relation to Jerusalem, Temple Mount & its Jewish citizens...

**PAST**
besieged & captured at least 30 times

1948  Jordan
Britain
Ottoman
Omar
Rome
Greece
Persia
Babylon
Assyria

when Jesus prophesied

700 BC

**PRESENT**
under Israeli sovereignty since 1967 but Temple Mount is controlled and administered by Jordan

**FUTURE**
‘until the times of the gentiles fulfilled’

therefore Jerusalem is still ‘trampled underfoot’
Jesus returns

thesethings = signs in sun, moon & stars

national dismay
roaring seas

SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory
Building the prophetic foundation

1st  the spine of prophecy

2nd  Book of Revelation

3rd  other Biblical prophetic sources
tribulation
- the spine of prophecy – generic timeline

sorrows
phobetron
tribulation
T1
T2 abomination of desolation
T3
T4 Sun, Moon & stars

return of Christ
the journey ahead...

for believers?

for the unsaved?

- Sorrows
- Phobetron
- Tribulation
- Christ’s return

Mod 1: the spine of prophecy
Mod 2: key to Revelation
Mod 3: the gathering storm
Mod 4: chosen people, promised land
Mod 5: War on the saints
Mod 6: geography & judgment
Mod 7: Thy Kingdom come (I)
Mod 8: Thy Kingdom come (II)
Mod 9: End-Time Survivor
summary

the spine...

- Jesus’ overview of end time prophecy
- a robust framework for other prophetic sources
- gets much worse – then gets much better
- Jesus’ return won’t be a ‘surprise’
- clearly signposted

In the world you have trouble, but take courage; I have overcome the world

John 16.33