Event Mat 24 Mark 13 Luke 21 Luke 17

Explanation: Luke is the most helpful in determining the chronological sequence, since he "searched all of this out very carefully and put it in consecutive order," and was writing in AD 61-62 after a lot of this had already happened, whereas Matthew was written before AD 50 when most of "these things" were still future. This is an attempt to arrange all this in the order that it actually happened, but it is not perfect. It is apparent that none of the four accounts are in a strict historical sequence. Luke appears to be the more chronologically accurate, especially in Lk 21:12-19 where he explicitly states that this section belongs "before all the things" that he had just mentioned in Lk 21:8-11. Otherwise, Luke's account (ch. 21) seems to flow mostly in sync with the actual historical fulfillment. The same cannot be said for Matthew and Mark, which both have several scrambled sections which either flash-back or flash-forward.

1. Overview of the whole Transition Period (AD 30-66)

Overview of the whole transition period from Pentecost to the Parousia.

Notice the statement in Lk 21:12 about "before all these thing." Luke is helping clear the confusion a little bit by pointing out that the persecution on the saints would come first before the wrath was poured out upon their persecutors. Some of the events mentioned in this section (Lk 21:12-19) were already past when Luke wrote in AD 61-62, while others were ongoing or still future.

Probable references to the Neronic Persecution:

Matt 10:21-22 Matt 10:28-31 Lk 21:16-19

Rapture?

Matt. 10:22 - "saved" Lk 21:19 - "gain your lives" <u>Matt. 10:16</u> "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves.

<u>Matt. 10:17</u> "But beware of men, for they will hand you over to the <u>courts</u> and scourge you in their <u>synagogues</u>;

Matt. 10:18 and you will even be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.

Matt. 10:19 "But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for it will be given you in that hour what you are to say.

<u>Matt. 10:20</u> "For it is not you who speak, but it is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

Matt. 10:21 "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.

Matt. 10:22 "You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

Matt. 10:23 ¶ "But whenever they persecute you in one city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you will not exhaust all the [refuge] cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes....

Matt. 10:26 "Therefore do not four them, for there is nothing."

<u>Matt. 10:26</u> "Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.

<u>Matt. 10:27</u> "What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops.

<u>Matt. 10:28</u> "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

<u>Matt. 10:29</u> "Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

Matt. 10:30 "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Matt. 10:31 "So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.

Luke 21:12 "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.

Luke 21:13 " It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony.

Luke 21:14 " So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves;

Luke 21:15 for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute.

Luke 21:16 "But you will be betrayed even by parents and

brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death,

Luke 21:17 and you will be

hated by all because of My name.

Luke 21:18 "Yet not a hair of your head will perish.
Luke 21:19 "By your endurance you will gain your

lives.

Color Code:

Blue - Similar Language
Pink - Tribulation references
Green - Timing statements
Red - Rescue, Salvation,
Gathering, and Rapture
Yellow - special or cryptic
statements about the
Parousia and Destruction of
Jerusalem

Event	Mat 24	Mark 13	Luke 21	Luke 17
2. Mid-Transition Period (AD 40-62) These are events which happened throughout the transition period, mainly during AD 40-60.	Matt. 24:4 And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. Matt. 24:5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many. Matt. 24:6 "You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. Matt. 24:7 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.	Mark 13:5 And Jesus began to say to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. Mark 13:6 "Many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He!' and will mislead many. Mark 13:7 "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. Mark 13:8 "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.	Luke 21:8 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. Luke 21:9 "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." Luke 21:10 Then He continued by saying to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, Luke 21:11 and there will be great earthquakes, and in	Luke 17
	Matt. 24:8 " But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.		various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs from	

heaven.

Event Mat 24 Mark 13 Luke 21 Luke 17

| Matt. 24:9 | "Then they will | Mark 13:9 | "But be on your | deliver you to tribulation and quard; for they will deliver you

3. Late Transition Period (mainly AD 62-66)

Matt 24:9-14 (and its parallel in Mk 13:12-13) may be the most direct and clearest allusions to the Neronic persecution as a part of the Tribulation (AD 63-64).

The General Persecution and the falling away (apostasy) intensified during the latter part of the Transition Period, just as the apostles were finishing the great commission and the **Neronic persecution** was just about to break out.

Paul was arrested (AD 58), James was killed (AD 62), John sent into exile (AD 62), Neronic persecution (AD 64), when Paul and Peter were killed. Matt. 24:9 ¶ " Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.

Matt. 24:10 "At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.

Matt. 24:11 "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.

Matt. 24:12 "Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.

Matt. 24:13 " But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

Matt. 24:14 "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will

Mark 13:9 ¶ "But be on your guard; for they will deliver you to the courts, and you will be flogged in the synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them.

Mark 13:10 "The gospel must first be preached to all the nations.

Mark 13:11 " 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. Mark 13:12 "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child: and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. Mark 13:13 " You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be

saved

Mark 13 **Event** Mat 24 Luke 21 Luke 17

4. Late Transition Period (mainly AD 62-66)

Some of the saints (the elect) would evidently survive the Neronic persecution and remain alive until the Parousia, at which time they would be "saved". This salvation is not forgiveness of sins. It is the rapture which rescued them out of the tribulation and "saved" them from the wrath that was about to come, and gathered them to be with Christ.

Notice how obvious the Parousia would be. It would not be hidden out in the "wilderness" or "inner rooms" but out in the open for all to see (like lightning in the sky). The disciples knew what to look for, and would have recognized the time of His visitation. They would not be left around still waiting for it or wondering about it later.

Matt. 24:22 "Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. Matt. 24:23 " Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him. Matt. 24:24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Matt. 24:25 "Behold, I have told you in advance. Matt. 24:26 "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. Matt. 24:27 " For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west. so will the parousia of the Son

Mark 13:20 "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. Mark 13:21 "And then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ'; or, 'Behold, He is there'; do not believe him:

Mark 13:22 for false Christs and false prophets will arise. and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, if possible, the elect. Mark 13:23 "But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance.

Luke 17:20 Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; Luke 17:21 nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst." Luke 17:22 And He said to the disciples, "The days will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. Luke 17:23 " They will say to you, 'Look there! Look here!' Do not go away, and do not run after them. Luke 17:24 " For just like the lightning, when it flashes out

of one part of the sky, shines to the other part ... so will the Son of Man be in His day.

of Man be.

Mark 13 **Event** Mat 24 Luke 21 Luke 17

5. Right After the Neronic Persecution, at the beginning of the Parousia, when the elect were gathered (raptured), in mid-to-late AD 66

Which "tribulation" does Jesus have in mind? Some think it refers only to "those days" of wrath upon the Jews that are mentioned in verses 15-21 (sect. 6 below). However, that would not harmonize with Paul's sequence of events (Trib-Parousia-Rescue-Wrath) found in his two Thess. letters. Therefore, it seems better to view this tribulation as a reference to the persecution on the church, including the Neronic persecution that was previously mentioned in both vv. 9-14 and 22-27 (sections 3 and 4 above). The angelic armies signaling Christ's parousia were seen in the clouds above Palestine right after the Neronic Persecution. This was when Jesus sent His angels to gather the elect out of harm's way (the rapture)? Luke refers to it as their "redemption." This gathering of the elect very effectively "cut short" the tribulation.

Matt. 24:29 "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. Matt. 24:30 "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 on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. Matt. 24:31 "And He will send trumpet and they will gather

forth His angels with a great together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Mark 13:24 ¶ "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light, Mark 13:25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. Mark 13:26 "Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN CLOUDS with great power and glory. Mark 13:27 "And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven.

Luke 21:25 ¶ "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves.

Luke 21:26 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. Luke 21:27 "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Luke 21:28 "But when these things begin to take place. straighten up and lift up your heads, because **your** redemption is drawing near."

FURTHER NOTE: If we limit the tribulation mentioned here to the Jewish war, then it means that Jesus did not come until after the Jewish war was over. Yet, that cannot be true, since the whole purpose of His coming was to orchestrate their destruction at the hands of the Romans. Furthermore, Josephus tells us that the angelic armies signaling His presence were seen before the war began, not after the war was over. This means that the tribulation here must include the persecution upon the church, which reached its pinnacle in the Neronic persecution.

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6. The End Has Come Wrath Begins (AD 66-73)

When **Gessius Florus** (the Roman governor of Judea) brought three cohorts of soldiers to Jerusalem to seize the temple gold (Spring 66), in order to force the Jews to bring coins with Caesar's image into the Temple, then **Eleazar b. Ananias** blew the shofar and took control of the temple with his soldiers. Then he continued to control the temple until near the end of the war when John of Gischala overpowered him.

The references to "tribulation" in Matt 24:21 and Mk 13:19 are pointing to the "days of vengeance, great distress, and wrath" upon the Jews which Luke's parallel account mentions (Lk 21:22-23). This was tribulation upon the Jews. NOT upon the church. That means that Jesus used the term "tribulation" in regard to both times of trouble: the tribulation on the church, as well as the wrath upon the Jews. Lk 21:24 also refers to the aftermath of the destruction by the Romans.

Matt. 24:15 ¶ "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),

Matt. 24:16 then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.

Matt. 24:17 " Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house.

Matt. 24:18 "Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak.

Matt. 24:19 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

Matt. 24:20 "But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.

Matt. 24:21 "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.

Mark 13:14 ¶ "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.

Mark 13:15 "The one who is on the housetop must not go down, or go in to get anything out of his house:

Mark 13:16 and the one who is in the field must not turn back to get his coat.

Mark 13:17 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

Mark 13:18 "But pray that it may not happen in the winter.

Mark 13:19 "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.

Luke 21:20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near.

Luke 21:21 "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;

Luke 21:22 because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled.

Luke 21:23 "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;

Luke 21:24 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 17:31 "On that day, the one who is on the housetop and whose goods are in the house must not go down to take them out; and likewise the one who is in the field must not turn back.

<u>Luke 17:32</u> " Remember Lot's wife.

Luke 17:33 "Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

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7. Exhortations to Be Alert and Stay Faithful

Just before the **Parousia** and the **Rapture**, He told them to stay alert and not miss it, and warned them about the effect of the Parousia upon the wicked and unbelievers. Notice the word Parousia (an extended visitation in reward and judgment) is used twice here in this section. Notice the red highlighted references to the righteous being allowed to escape the wrath and get out of harm's way before the wrath descended upon the wicked.

Noah entering the ark and Lot escaping Sodom seem to be typological or allegorical allusions to the rapture which rescued the righteous out of harm's way to escape the wrath and enter into an ark of safety where they would be allowed to stand before the Son of Man in the unseen realm while the wrath was being poured out upon the wicked on earth.

The Romans started in the north and worked their way down to the south, pushing everything toward Jerusalem, where they would be bottled

Matt. 24:32 ¶ "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near;

Matt. 24:33 so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door.

Matt. 24:34 "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

Matt. 24:35 " Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. Matt. 24:36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not ...the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. Matt. 24:37 "For the parousia of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. Matt. 24:38 "For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, Matt. 24:39 and they did not understand until the flood

understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the parousia of the Son of Man be.

Matt. 24:40 "Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one ... left.

Matt. 24:41 "Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will

Mark 13:28 ¶ "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.

Mark 13:29 "Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door.

Mark 13:30 "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

Mark 13:31 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

Mark 13:32 " But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

Mark 13:33 ¶ "Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come.

Mark 13:34 " It is like a man away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert.

(continued next page)

Luke 21:29 ¶ Then He told them a parable: "Behold the fig tree and all the trees; Luke 21:30 as soon as they put forth leaves, you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near.

Luke 21:31 "So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near.

Luke 21:32 "... this generation will not pass away until all things take place.
Luke 21:33 " Heaven and

earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

Luke 21:34 ¶ "Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you

suddenly like a trap;
Luke 21:35 for it will come
upon all those who dwell on
the face of all the earth.
Luke 21:36 "But keep on the

alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Luke 17:26 " And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: Luke 17:27 they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark and the flood came and destroved them all. Luke 17:28 " It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were

Luke 17:29 but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.

building;

<u>Luke 17:30</u> "It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed....

Luke 17:34 "I tell you, on that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other will be left.

Luke 17:35 "There will be two women grinding at the same place; one will be taken and the other will be left.

Luke 17:36 ["Two men will be in the field; one will be left."]

<u>Luke 17:37</u> And answering they said to Him, "Where,

Event	Mat 24	Mark 13	Luke 21	Luke 17
up for the siege. As they	be <mark>taken</mark> and one will be <mark>left</mark> .			Lord?" And He said to them, "
worked their way down, they	[Matt. 24:28 " Wherever the			Where the body is, there also
took away some as captives,	corpse is, there the vultures			the vultures will be gathered."
and left others to work the	will gather.]			
land as slaves to the Roman	Matt. 24:42 "Therefore be on	Mark 13:35 "Therefore, be on		
overlords. The slave traders	the alert, for you do not know	the alert — for you do not		
came along with the Romans,	which day your Lord is coming	know when the master of the		
and were like <mark>vultures</mark> taking	Matt. 24:43 "But be sure of	house is <mark>coming</mark> , whether in		
the spoils of war. Notice how	this, that if the head of the	the <mark>evening</mark> , at <mark>midnight</mark> , or		
Matthew (24:28) did not know	house had known at what time	when the <mark>rooster crows</mark> , or in		
where this reference to the	the thief was coming, he	the morning —		
vultures belonged, but Luke	would have been on the alert	Mark 13:36 in case he should		
correctly attached it to the	and would not have allowed	come suddenly and find you		
section about "one taken and	his house to be broken into.	asleep.		
one left." This shows it was	Matt. 24:44 "For this reason	Mark 13:37 "What I say to you		
the wicked who were taken	you also must be ready; for	I say to all, ' Be on the alert!'"		
away into slavery (Lk 17:34-	the Son of Man is coming at			
37).	an hour when you do not think			
	He will.			