

## Mark Chapter 13

Verses 1-37: This is called the Olivet Discourse, having been delivered on the Mount of Olives.

This great sermon by Jesus is commonly known as the Olivet Discourse because Jesus delivered it on the Mt. of Olives just east of the temple across the Kidron Valley. Jesus' prediction of the coming destruction of the temple prompted a question from the disciples about the character of the end times. The remainder of the passage (verses 5-37), is His response to their question as He describes His second coming at the end of the present age.

**Mark 13:1 "And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings [are here]!"**

"What manner of stone and what buildings are here!" (See note on Matt. 24:1). This unidentified disciple was admiring the magnificence and beauty of the temple and the surrounding buildings and was encouraging a like response from Jesus. It is likely that he could not comprehend how such an awesome structure could be left "desolate" (Matt. 23:38).

The disciple refers to the huge stones of the magnificent temple begun in 20 B.C. under Herod the Great and completed some 84 years later.

**Mark 13:2 "And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down."**

"Jesus ... said": In response to the disciple's admiration, Jesus again predicted that the temple would be destroyed. About 40 years later in 70 A.D., the Romans ransacked Jerusalem, killed a million Jews, and demolished the temple.

"Not be left one stone": The only stones left undisturbed were huge foundation stones that were not actually a part of the temple edifice but formed footings for the retaining wall under the entire temple mount. These can be viewed today in the "Rabbi's Tunnel" which runs north and south along the western wall.

It is a portion of the western side of the retaining wall that today is called the Wailing Wall. More of that retaining wall, including the steps used to ascend and descend from the temple mount, has also been uncovered on the southern side.

This was the prediction of the destruction of the temple. This same destruction was spoken of (in chapter 21) of Luke. We know that Jesus' prediction did come true just a few years later, in fact, less than forty years later.

**Mark 13:3 "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately,"**

"The Mount of Olives" (see note on 11:1), is overlooking the old city of Jerusalem. We see here, Peter, James, and John, the three He usually took aside with Him, and in this case one more, Andrew. Andrew was believed to be the first of the disciples which was called. So many times, it seemed Jesus talked to this group separately from the people and separately from the other disciples.

"Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately": These 4 disciples were asking on behalf of all the 12.

It appears Jesus had every confidence in these and felt as if He could share things with these that perhaps, might not be well accepted by the others. When Jesus foretold of the destruction of the temple, it was to this select few.

**Mark 13:4 "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what [shall be] the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?"**

In verse 4, the question was different from the first question. They were saying when would the temple be destroyed? In the second question, they were looking for physical evidence to set the time by. We can probably see

by these questions that they associated the destruction of the temple with the end of the world, at least the end of their world.

The disciples were speculating that Jesus would imminently usher in the kingdom, so they asked a twofold question:

- (1) When would the temple be destroyed and the kingdom begin and
- (2) What event would herald the beginning of the kingdom?

"When shall these things be?" "When" implies immediacy. The disciples thought that Jesus was about to usher in the kingdom of God at any time (Luke 19:11), at least by the end of the Passover season. "These things" refers to the desolation and destruction of the temple (Matt. 23:38; 24:2).

"The sign": The disciples probably expected some miraculous occurrence, such as complete darkness, brilliant light, or an angel from heaven, to announce the coming millennial kingdom (see note on Matt. 24:3). All of those things will occur at that time (see notes on verses 24-27).

### **Mark 13:5 "And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any [man] deceive you:"**

"Take heed": This Greek word was often used as it is here with the idea of "keep your eyes open" or "beware".

This was a warning specifically to Peter, who would be afraid and deceived in just a few days to the extent that he would even deny Jesus. It also, was a warning for all of us, as well, not to be deceived. Never in the history of mankind has there been an age when it was easier to be deceived than right now. ***The only way not to be deceived is to know the whole truth.***

The Bible contains the only whole, real truth. We must check everything out to see what Jesus had to say about it. He is the Truth. We are also, told to try the spirits and see whether they be of God before we believe.

1 John 4:1-3 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." "Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:" "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that [spirit] of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."

You see, we must never doubt that the very Son of God (The Savior, The Anointed One), took on the flesh of man and dwelt among us. Jesus is God the Son. That is what we must believe. Do not let people convince you that Jesus was a man. Jesus was in the body of a man, but He, in fact, was God the Son inside that house (the body), that He dwelt in here on the earth.

### **Mark 13:6 "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am [Christ]; and shall deceive many."**

"I am Christ": Many false prophets will come forward claiming to be messiahs and deliverers, offering themselves as the solution to the world's problems. Some will even claim to be Christ Himself. The number of false christ's will increase as the end nears (Matt. 24:23-24).

When I was a child, there was a man going through the country claiming to be Jesus. Many people in our community went to see him. Even now, there are a number of people throughout the world proclaiming to be Jesus. Don't be deceived by these people.

When Jesus returns, you will see Him in the eastern sky. In the 24th chapter of Matthew, we read a similar statement.

### **Mark 13:7 "And when ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars, be ye not troubled: for [such things] must needs be; but the end [shall] not [be] yet."**

“The end”: The consummation of the present age (see note on Matt. 24:6).

In this statement, there is a looking down through all ages of time until the return of the Lord. There really will never be peace on the earth until the King of Peace, Jesus Christ, comes back to earth and sets up His Kingdom. There is a war raging somewhere on the globe now and has been ever since Jesus made this statement.

You may get it calmed down one place, but it breaks out in another. The Lord expects us to have peace in the midst of the storm. He warns us not to be overwhelmed with fear, even of war, but to go on spreading the gospel even in the midst of all the turmoil. There is such a threat of a nuclear war now that I believe it is the cause of many young people taking drugs and alcohol.

The use of drugs and alcohol is a running from the reality of the world around us. Most young people do not believe that they will have a future. The uncertainty of the conditions on the earth would be too much to bear, if we didn't know Jesus. The difference in those lost and the Christians basically, is Christians know there is a future. We have something to look forward to.

There is a knowing that all is well with a Christian. We do not count this earth as our home. Our home is in heaven. We are longing for the day when we go home to be with our Lord, and we have no fear of what man can do to us. At the worst, he can just hurry our going home.

**Mark 13:8 "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these [are] the beginnings of sorrows."**

“Beginnings of sorrows”: Also referred to as “birth pangs” in some versions of the bible meaning the Lord was referring to the pain a woman experience in childbirth. Birth pains signal the end of pregnancy, they are infrequent at first and gradually increase just before the child is born.

Likewise, the sign of (verses 6-8), will be infrequent, relatively speaking, in the beginning and will escalate to massive and tragic proportions just prior to Christ's second coming. (1 Thess. 5:3; see note on Matt. 24:8).

This terrible earthquake in Russia is similar to what this is speaking of. India, and parts of Africa, has had such devastating famine now that it is beyond our comprehension. All of (verse 8), indicates to me, that we are already in this time of sorrow. People's hearts are failing for the things that are coming upon the earth.

Luke 21:26 "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken."

These warnings from the Lord are to prepare us. He lets us know that times will be rough just before the Lord returns to earth. Men will cry peace, but there will be no peace. Calamities, wars, and natural disasters come to cause people to repent.

Christians should use the opportunity to try to win people to the Lord. We cannot stop the disaster, but we can help those devastated by the disaster find a better way.

**Mark 13:9 "But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them."**

“Councils”: The Greek work is literally “Sanhedrin's.”: These were local, Jewish courts attached to the synagogues which tried charges of heresy and normal infractions of the law.

The historian Josephus says that each city's court was composed of 7 judges (Antiquities, 4.8.14), and the Mishnah records that there were 23 judges in every city with more than 100 Jewish men (“Sanhedrin” 1.6). These “courts” were like smaller versions of the great Sanhedrin that convened in Jerusalem (see note on Matt. 26:59).

“Beaten”: These local courts usually administered 39 stripes so as not to violate (Deut. 25:2-3). The recipient of the punishment was stripped bare to the waist. He received 13 lashings to his chest and 26 to his back (see note on 2 Cor. 11:24).

“Synagogues”: The “synagogues” were the places for Jewish assembly and worship. When the “courts” convened, they typically met in the “synagogue.”

“Take heed: Throughout this chapter Jesus consistently stresses, not just coming events, but the proper response and life-style of His disciples. They ought always to live in the light of His coming.

This particular statement here, was directed to the disciples. Certainly, we know that all of these things did happen to them. This was to prepare them when these things happened. My own personal belief is that the true believers of Jesus Christ will suffer persecution in our time as well.

Even now, if you try to live a holy, blameless life before the Lord, the non-religious people will ridicule you and cause you trouble in the flesh. In our society today, few want to face persecution for the Lord and His Word. Compromise is everywhere. The flesh of man is at enmity with God. It is easier to just give in than to stand firm in God.

### **Mark 13:10 "And the gospel must first be published among all nations."**

“First be published among all nations”: Before the end (see note on verse 7), there will be a worldwide proclamation of the gospel. This may even refer to the occasion when an angel will supernaturally proclaim the gospel throughout the world before God pours out His judgment at the end of the Tribulation (Rev. 14:6-8; see note on Matt. 24:14).

“Published” here means simply “proclaimed” by whatever means.

By television and satellite this has been fulfilled. The good news of the Lord Jesus Christ has now been proclaimed throughout the world, so one more thing has happened that must happen before the return of the Lord.

### **Mark 13:11 "But when they shall lead [you], and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost."**

“Take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak”: Although the persecution will be terrifying, Christians are not to be anxious in anticipation of those events.

“For it is not ye that speak”: Rather than being fearful, believers can remain calm and depend on the Holy Spirit, who will give them the appropriate and effective words to say in defense of their faith in Christ (see note on Luke 12:11).

We see here, a continuation of verse 9. This was a prophetic word for the disciples and for us, also. I believe that this perhaps, is an expansion on preaching the gospel to all nations, as well. You see, the Lord has a message for this hour, as well as then. I believe the Lord would have His ministers bringing His Words that He puts into their hearts and mouths.

All of the planning in the world to prepare a message for a given group is not half as effective as allowing the Lord to speak through you. The Lord wants obedient ministers who are willing to be open vessels to be used by Him.

One of the hardest things for people of our day to do (whether they are ministers or just Christians), is to allow Jesus to be Lord of our lives, as well as our Savior. We see in the last sentence of (verse 11), it is not us speaking, it is the Holy Ghost within us speaking, if we make Jesus our Lord. Make Jesus Lord of your life today.

## Mark Chapter 13 Questions

1. What did the disciple bring to the Lord's attention as He left the temple?
2. What was the temple the permanent home of?
3. Who had built the temple?
4. What did Jesus say about the stones of the temple?
5. About how many years later was the temple destroyed?
6. Who went to the Mount of Olives this time with Jesus?
7. What did they ask Jesus when they got Him alone?
8. What does the Mount of Olives overlook?
9. Why possibly, did Jesus speak more openly to these four disciples than the others?
10. What were these disciples looking for to set the time by?
11. What was the first warning Jesus gave them?
12. How is the only way you and I can keep from being deceived?
13. In 1 John 4:1, we are told to do what to see if someone is of God?
14. What should we be very careful not to be convinced of?
15. Those who come in His name proclaim to be whom?
16. Where will we see Jesus when He returns to earth?
17. We are warned not to be troubled about \_\_\_\_\_ and rumors of \_\_\_\_\_.
18. When will there be peace upon the earth?
19. Where are we expected to have personal peace?
20. What does the author believe the abuse of drugs and alcohol is?
21. At the very worst, what can the enemy of a Christian do to them?
22. Describe what is taking place on the earth at the beginning of sorrows.
23. What does Luke 21:26 tell us about fear?
24. Name three things that come to cause people to repent.
25. Who was Jesus speaking specifically to in verse 9, when He said you will be brought before kings?
26. If you try to live holy before your Lord, who will ridicule you?

27. Where shall the gospel be preached before the end?
28. What two messages do we see in verse 11 about letting the Holy Ghost speak through you?
29. What is the most effective sermon?
30. What should we allow Jesus to be to us, besides our Savior?

## Mark Chapter 13 Continued

**Mark 13:12 "Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against [their] parents, and shall cause them to be put to death."**

This Scripture has come true in our life-time. In World War 2, many youngsters betrayed their own parents and caused them to be killed. They felt that they were being patriotic. Jesus knew all of this would happen, because of His foreknowledge.

Perhaps, not a physical killing but a killing of the spirit so many times happens, if you start to work for God. Close friends and family members forget that you even exist. More than that, they are openly hostile. They are opposed to your ministry more than the world is.

**Mark 13:13 "And ye shall be hated of all [men] for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."**

"Endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (see note on Matt. 24:13). This endurance does not produce salvation; it is Spirit-empowered perseverance and proof of the reality of salvation in the one who endures. Christ will eventually deliver such believers out of the present evil system into God's eternal kingdom (Matt. 10:22).

In a world that has gone crazy over the flesh and the lust thereof, the Christian is hated. I truly believe the reason they hate the Christian (someone who is Christ-like), is because of the guilt they feel when they are around you. They especially feel this guilt, if they have known the truth and walked away from it.

Notice the last part of the verse above. There will be hardship, because we see there is something to endure. When you become a Christian, your worldly problems are not over; you just are better able to cope with them, because you may call on the Lord for His help. You are not alone. God will give you strength.

Don't fall for the (heaven now here on earth), teaching, which would have you believe there are no hardships to face. We are overcomers. To be overcomers, there has to be something to overcome. Pray for strength, wisdom, and understanding to see you through. The fight is worth it, because eternal life with Jesus awaits those who overcome.

**Mark 13:14 "But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judea flee to the mountains:"**

"The abomination of desolation": This first referred to the desecration of the temple by Antiochus Epiphanies, the king of Syria, in the second century B.C., when he sacrificed a pig on the temple altar. That event was similar in character to what Jesus refers to here. I.e., the Antichrist's ultimate desecration when he sets up an image of himself in the temple during the tribulation (see notes on Dan. 9:27).

"Standing where it ought not": (Matthew 24:15), indicates the location as the "holy place." On the only other occasion where this phrase from Matthew appears in the New Testament, it clearly refers to the temple (Acts 21:28).

This specifically implies that the temple will be rebuilt in the future and that the daily sacrificial system will be reinstated. "Standing" indicates that the abomination of desolation will be continuous, actually lasting for 3-1/2 years (Dan. 12:11; Rev. 12:6).

"Let him that readeth understand": This indicates that Jesus was not issuing these warnings to the disciples or to others of their generation who would not experience this event, but to believers in the end time. Those who will read these truths will be prepared and "understand" the trials they are enduring.

"Flee to the mountains": The Greek word for "flee" is related to the English word "fugitive," A person who is on the run to escape danger. Jesus warns those who live in Judea to escape the holocaust by taking refuge in the mountains (see note on Matt. 24:16).

See (Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11).

This "abomination," something or someone detestable to God, probably refers to two things. One could be the desecration of the temple in the course of the fall of Jerusalem, A.D. 70. The other may well be the Man of Sin of the end time (2 Thess. 2:4). Biblical prophecy often has both near and a remote point of reference.

(Daniel chapter 9 verse 27), will give you some information about this abomination. My favorite Scripture on this is found in

Daniel 12:11-13 "And from the time [that] the daily [sacrifice] shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, [there shall be] a thousand two hundred and ninety days." "Blessed [is] he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days." "But go thou thy way till the end [be]: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days."

Many believe that all of this happened long ago when the temple fell into foreign hands, and terrible things were brought even into the holy place. I believe we have to look back to Daniel to truly understand what this is speaking of and when it is to occur. The beginning of chapter 12 of Daniel is speaking of, the time when the graves open, and mankind goes to be judged of God.

You really should carefully read chapter 12 of Daniel over and over. This 14th verse from Mark, it tells you to go back and study Daniel so that you will understand. In Daniel (12:4), sets the time. Daniel was told to shut up the words till the time of the end. I believe this was speaking of the 70th week of Daniel.

The 9th chapter of Daniel told us when the 70th week would be. I personally believe the 70th week is the seven years of the great tribulation upon the earth. This seven is a week of years. There will be a seven year peace treaty signed with Israel and the antichrist system. I believe this begins the seven years.

In the middle of the seven years (3 1/2 years after it was signed), the antichrist will set himself up in Jerusalem and pretend to be God. I believe the antichrist represents the abomination. There is an abominable temple sitting on the very spot of the old temple today, but it will come down. In Luke, we see the abomination spoken of as when enemy troops surround Jerusalem.

Perhaps all of these things will happen. In (12:11), of Daniel that we just read earlier, we find that whatever this is occurs at the middle of a seven year period (1290 days into the seven year period). The blessed will wait until the 1335th day. Anyone caught in Judaea at the time would be forced to flee to keep from bowing their knees to this false god.

**Mark 13:15 "And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter [therein], to take anything out of his house:"**

"Not go down": So urgent will be the need to flee that if a person happens to be on the roof of his house (see note on 2:4), when he hears the news, he is to run down the outside stairway and leave town without going inside his house to retrieve any belongings.

**Mark 13:16 "And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment."**

"Garment": The Greek word refers to the outer cloak. Jesus warns those working in the fields not to take the time to retrieve their cloaks that may be at home or some distance away at the entrance to the field.

This shows what great haste a person must take to get away from this evil. No worldly goods will be important at that time. The idea will be to get out of there as fast as you can.

**Mark 13:17 "But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!"**

"With child ... give suck": Jesus certainly felt compassion for those women who will be hindered from fleeing quickly because they carry children. But He may have been warning them about atrocities that could include unborn children being slashed in the wombs and tiny infants being crushed (Hos. 13:16).

**Mark 13:18 "And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter."**

"In the winter": This refers to the rainy season in Israel, when streams could become impassable and it would be difficult to glean food from barren fields.

**Mark 13:19 "For [in] those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be."**

"Affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation": This reveals that the tribulation Jesus was referring to is in the future and that it will be the greatest that has ever occurred. It will be of long duration and characterized by severe pressure and continual anguish. This is the Great Tribulation at the end of the age.

(Revelation 7:14), speaks of those who were brought out of great tribulation. I do not believe these problems above, are speaking of just normal times of trouble, but are speaking of a time of tremendous problems.

In (Revelation 12:14), we see "Time, times, and half a time" which I believe separate the seven years into the tribulation, and the wrath which is the last 3 1/2 years and are speaking of unspeakable agony. (2 Timothy chapter 3), speaks of the end times being perilous. The times he describes, I believe, immediately precedes the great tribulation. He describes our times exactly.

1 Thessalonians 5:3, "For when they shall say, Peace, and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child: and they shall not escape."

You can easily see from the Scripture above that anything that might slow you down in escaping could cause you extra pain. A mother or a mother-to-be would surely be slower in escaping. The winter would make it extra difficult as well. Sleeping in the open would be very cold. There is much more in the Old Testament about this very thing, than in the New Testament.

Ezekiel had much to say about this, but that is another study. We will move on now just by saying, I believe that this is speaking of the very near future. Prepare and be ready to meet your Lord. Any other solution to this problem is impossible.

**Mark 13:20 "And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days."**

"Shortened": Literally "mutilated" or "amputated." Jesus was referring to the determination of God to cut short or limit the period of time to only 3-1/2 years (Dan. 7:25; Rev. 12:14; see note on Matt. 24:22).

Whom hath He chosen? We must remember that Jesus is speaking here in Mark.

In 1 Peter 2:9-10 we see, "But ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:" "Which in time past [were] not a people, but [are] now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."

Let's take a look now at the word "elect". We know that (2 John), is written to the elect lady (read all of 2 John). In (Isaiah 45:4), Israel was called "mine elect". (Isaiah 65:9), indicates that the true elect are those who belong to Jesus (the believers in the Lord Jesus Christ).

Colossians 3:11-12 indicates that all who put on Jesus Christ are the elect (Jew and Gentile).

(Titus 1:1), leaves no doubt who the elect are. They are those of faith in Jesus Christ.

**Mark 13:21 "And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here [is] Christ; or, lo, [he is] there; believe [him] not:"**

"Lo, here is Christ": Satan will cause false christs to appear in an attempt to deceive the elect into leaving their places of refuge. False teachers will claim that Christ is in their midst or is back in Jerusalem or elsewhere in Judea.

In (verse 5:13 of Mark), the very first thing Jesus said was, "Take heed lest any man deceive you". He was still saying that here. In our society today, so many false doctrines have been brought in, that many of them are filtering into our churches. Oriental mind control is one thing that I have noticed. There is just a hair difference in having extreme faith and practicing mind over matter.

The main thing to remember when we are practicing faith is that we must have faith in the power of Jesus, not in our own power. Great faith should be practiced by everyone, but remember it is in the Name of Jesus and through the power of His shed blood. We are people, we will never be God. The power is His; we have been authorized to use His power by speaking His name. It is His power, not ours.

**Mark 13:22 "For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if [it were] possible, even the elect."**

"Signs and wonders": Satanic inspired pseudo-miracles employed to support their claims to be the true Christ (2 Thess. 2:9).

Jesus also warns of impostors (in Matthew 7:15; Deuteronomy 13 offers a similar warning).

Any philosophy or religion that brings Jesus down to the level of man is false. Any that brings man up to Godhood is false. He is God, and we are His servants and adopted children. He treats us as a child, but we are to serve Him. He is Creator; we are His creation. Do not be taken by signs and wonders. Even Pharaoh's magicians could do some of the wonders Moses did.

God calls the generation that bases their belief on signs evil. The Lord does wonderful miracles through His people, and it is real and from God, but do not base your faith on the signs. Those who follow Jesus will perform miracles in His name, but don't get your eyes on the gift or off the Giver.

As we said earlier in this lesson, try the spirits and see whether they be of God or not. Jesus is not hidden to the believer. You do not have to go off to some exotic place to find Him. When you are to see Him with your physical eye, He will appear in the eastern sky.

In the meantime, He dwells in your heart and in heaven now. False doctrines elevate man. The Truth elevates God. To know the Truth, we must study His Word (The Bible).

### **Mark Chapter 13 Continued Questions**

1. In verse 12, who shall put you to death?
2. In verse 13, who shall be saved?
3. Why will the world hate the Christian?
4. What is the meaning of endure?

5. Why should we not believe that heaven is here and now?
6. What awaits those who overcome?
7. When should those in Judaea flee to the mountains?
8. What book of the Old Testament did Mark say to study to know more about this?
9. In Dan. 12:12-13 how do we see the seven year tribulation divided?
10. Chapter 12 of Daniel takes place when, told in the beginning of the chapter?
11. What do we read about in the 9th chapter of Daniel which pertains to this in Mark?
12. What does the author believe represents the abomination?
13. What did Luke say about this abomination?
14. Verse 15, tells the person on the roof when this time comes to do what?
15. What is this showing?
16. In verse 17, there are three things that would make this time worse for you, what are they?
17. In Revelation 7:14, we read about those brought out of \_\_\_\_\_.
18. In 2 Timothy chapter 3, we read about what kind of "times"?
19. In 1 Thessalonians 5:3, we read that when they say peace and safety we can expect what?
20. If the Lord had not shortened these days \_\_\_\_\_.
21. Who did He shorten it for?
22. In 1 Peter 2:9, we find that the Christians are who?
23. Who is 2 John written to?
24. Who are the elect?
25. What are we to do when someone tells us to come go somewhere to see Jesus?
26. In verse 22, we are warned of two false things, what were they?
27. What was Jesus really saying to us throughout chapter 13 of Mark?
28. What false teaching is just a hair difference away from extreme faith?
29. What is the most important thing to remember when practicing faith?
30. The power is \_\_\_\_\_.
31. We have been authorized to use \_\_\_\_\_ power.

32. Any philosophy or religion that tries to bring Jesus down to the level of man is \_\_\_\_\_.

33. God is \_\_\_\_\_, and we are His \_\_\_\_\_.

34. When the Lord wants us to see Him with our physical eyes, where will He be?

## Mark Chapter 13 Second Continued

### **Mark 13:23 "But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things."**

"Take ye heed": Jesus issues a prophetic warning to be on guard. He has told the elect refugees of the future all that they need to know to avoid being misled and deceived by Satan's emissaries.

Prophecy in the biblical sense often involves "forthtelling," or setting forth God's verdict on a present situation. It can however, also involve "forthtelling," as here. Jesus' ministry included the fulfilling of the prophetic office in both senses.

Here again, the Lord Jesus was warning Peter and the other disciples to remember what He told them about what was going to happen before it happened, so that they would not run away. They would still believe that He was Messiah in the face of all these problems. He was not only telling the disciples, but all believers for all ages even unto our time.

### **Mark 13:24 "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,"**

"In those days, after that tribulation": "Those days" describes the events of (verses 6-23), and thus "that tribulation", refers to the Great Tribulation Jesus just spoke of. This also means that what He was about to describe (verses 24-27), will occur immediately at the end of the future tribulation period (Matt. 24:29).

Jesus was telling when this shall happen (in the last days after the tribulation). This I believe, happens during the wrath of God. There are a number of ways to look at this. In our Revelation teaching, we were pretty broad in our coverage.

There will also, be a lack of light coming from the Church after the Christians leave the earth: so the darkness will be physical and spiritual.

### **Mark 13:25 "And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken."**

"Stars of heaven shall fall": Heavenly bodies will careen at random through space (Rev. 6:13-14; 8:10-13; 16:8, 17-20).

"Powers that are in heaven": All the forces of energy that hold everything in space constant, and which Christ controls, He will allow to become random and chaotic (Isa. 13:6-16; 34:1-5; 2 Pet. 3:10-12).

The Creator of the world is angry. His wrath has come up in His face. There will be shaking in heaven and on earth.

In Hebrews 12:25-27 we read: "See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more [shall not] we [escape], if we turn away from him that [speaketh] from heaven:" "Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven." "And this [word], Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain."

### **Mark 13:26 "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory."**

"Son of man" (see note on 2:10).

"Coming in the clouds with great power and glory": Jesus will return to earth in the same manner in which He left it (Acts 1:9-11; Dan. 7:13-14; Rev. 1:7). The psalmist said that God uses "clouds" as His chariot (Psalm 104:3), and (Isa. 19:1), pictures the Lord riding on a cloud.

Although these “clouds” could be natural, they more likely describe the supernatural “glory cloud” that represented God’s presence in Old Testament Israel.

While Christ possesses “great power and glory,” His return will be accompanied with visible manifestations of that power and glory (Rev. 6:15-17, 11:15-19; 16:17-21; 19:11-16), He will redeem the elect, restore the devastated earth, and establish His rule on earth (see Daniel 7:13).

Every verse of this section is laden with Old Testament imagery. Jesus would have been intimately familiar with it. Naturally the Son of God would uphold, and express Himself in terms of the Word of God. Jesus held the Old Testament in very high esteem.

The “Son of man coming” here, will be King of kings and Lord of lords. He is coming for His elect. This will be the Lord in all His magnificence. As He went away in a cloud, He will return in a cloud. He will be clothed as it were in a cloud. There will be such brightness that it will light all of heaven, because He is the Light.

Many believe we will see the Cross, others believe we will see a golden sword, but I believe we will see the glorified Lord. The Lord’s great power is unsurpassed, because He will rule over everything in the earth, under the earth, and above the earth. There is no greater power.

**Mark 13:27 “And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.”**

“Angels”: A number of angels return with Christ (8:38; Matt. 16:27; see note).

“Gather ... his elect”: Angels are God’s gatherers, they gather unbelievers for judgment (Matt. 13:41, 49-50), and they gather the elect for glory. The “elect” will include the 144,000 Jewish witnesses, their converts (Rev. 7:9), and the converts of the angelic preachers. They will also include the Old Testament saints, gathered out of their graves and united with their redeemed spirits (Sam. 12:1-3).

“From the four winds”: A colloquial expression meaning “from everywhere,” and similar to the expression “from the four corners of the world.” None of the elect on earth or in heaven will miss entering the kingdom.

This is speaking of the angels who take orders from the Lord. The elect that will be gathered are the believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. There will be people of all nationalities. This is talking about those who are alive in Christ when the Lord returns, and those who are dead in Christ also.

**Mark 13:28 “Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near:”**

“A parable” (see note on 4:2). “Fig tree” (see note on 11:13).

We know that the fig tree symbolizes “Israel”. Israel sprouted again and became alive in 1948 (when they became a nation).

**Mark 13:29 “So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, [even] at the doors.”**

Just as the fig tree’s buds turning into leaves was a sign of the nearness of summer, the events Jesus described as birth pains (verse 6-23), are to be a clear indication of the return of Christ (see note on Matt. 24:32).

“These things”: The events of (verses 6-23).

“It is nigh”: (Luke 21:31 says) “The kingdom of God is near.” That is consistent with the questions the disciple initially asked Jesus (verse 4), which was about the signs that would herald the establishment of the kingdom.

When Israel became a nation, we were to realize that the return of the Lord was very close. It is nigh even at the doors.

**Mark 13:30 "Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done."**

"Verily I say unto you" (see note on 3:28).

"This generation": The generation of people living during the end times that witnesses the signs and events leading to the return of Christ (see note on Matt. 24:34).

"This generation:" Jesus perhaps means that the Jewish *genea* ("race," "people"), will survive until the Son of Man returns. Or perhaps "all these things" makes primary reference to the events connected with Jerusalem's fall at A.D. 70. In this case Jesus speaks of the disciples themselves, along with their contemporaries (see 8:12, 38; 9:19).

Now here is where the controversy comes in. How long is a generation? Is this speaking of forty years, or fifty, or seventy, or one hundred and twenty years? All of these numbers have been spoken of as a generation somewhere in the Bible. God's time and man's time are not the same, so we really cannot figure God out.

**Mark 13:31 "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away."**

"Heaven and earth shall pass away": The universe as we know it will be dramatically altered after the thousand-year reign of Christ (see notes on 2 Peter 3:10-13).

"My words shall not pass away": it is impossible for God's Word to be negated, destroyed, or altered in any way (Psalm 19:9; Matthew 5:18; Luke 16:17; John 10:35).

God makes a similar claim about His Word (in Isaiah 40:8).

**Mark 13:32 "But of that day and [that] hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father."**

"That day and that hour": The exact day and time of Christ's return (see note on Matt. 24:36).

"Knoweth no man": The time of Christ's return will not be revealed in advance to any man. At this time, it was known only to God the Father.

"Angels": While all the angelic beings enjoy intimacy with God, hover around His throne to do His bidding (Isa. 6:2-7), and continually behold Him (Matt. 18:10), they have no knowledge of the time of Christ's return.

"Neither the Son": When Jesus spoke these words to the disciples; even He had no knowledge of the date and time of His return. Although Jesus was fully God (John 1:1, 14), when He became a man, He voluntarily restricted the use of certain divine attributes (Phil. 2:6-8). He did not manifest them unless directed by the Father (John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38).

He demonstrated His omniscience on several occasions (John 2:25; 13:3), but He voluntarily restricted that omniscience to only those things God wanted Him to know during the days of His humanity (John 15:15).

Such was the case regarding the knowledge of the date and time of His return. After He was resurrected, Jesus resumed His full divine knowledge (Matt. 28:18; Acts 1:7).

Many of the general features about the end are clear, but not the chronological specifics.

We have connected this knowledge of the Father and not the Son about the time with the Jewish wedding. In the Jewish wedding, the Son (Jesus), goes away to build a home for His bride (the Christians).

When the Father approves of the house, the Son goes for the bride. The groom stands on a hill outside of town at midnight and blows a trumpet, and the bride comes out to meet Him. Doesn't this sound like the rapture of the Church?

**Mark 13:33 "Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is."**

"Take ye heed": Christ sounded a warning for believers to be on guard (see note on verse 5). Even believers do not have in themselves sufficient resources to be alert to spiritual dangers that can so easily surprise them.

See the other warnings (in verses 5, 9, and 23). Jesus is not trying to encourage idle curiosity about last things, but rather to stir up His followers in faithful living always.

The Lord will return again, no one knows for sure when, but we must be staying ready. Surely we will give an account to the Lord when He returns. I love the song "We'll Work Till Jesus Comes". That is exactly what we must do.

**Mark 13:34 "[For the Son of man is] as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch."**

"Porter": In Jesus' day, this individual guarded the outer gate of the house, so as to be ready to let the returning master in upon his arrival. All Christ's disciples are to be like doorkeepers, always remaining alert and vigilant for their Master's return.

The servants are the believers in the Lord Jesus Christ from all ages. The porter is like the ministers. The ministers must keep reminding the believers to watch and be ready, because we do not know when He is coming, only that He is coming when we least expect Him.

The Son of man of course, is Jesus; and this is speaking of when He went to heaven in the cloud and sat at the right hand of the Father. He left the disciples and all believers in Christ to do the work till He returns. All the world belongs to Jesus; the Father gave it to Him.

**Mark 13:35 "Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:"**

"At even ... or in the morning": The normal expressions designating the 4 three-hour watches of the night from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a. m. Their names identify the ends of the three-hour periods rather than the periods' beginnings.

These are the four watches of the night. It is so easy to get complacent and say, "He isn't coming". But that is a lie of the devil. The Church must not get careless. It must go on teaching the absolute truth. Jesus is coming back for a Church without spot or wrinkle.

To follow the instructions He left, we must know His instructions well. His instructions are in the Bible. Watch and be ready.

**Mark 13:36 "Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping."**

In Proverbs, we are warned about spiritual sleeping. This is getting satisfied with things the way they are and not looking for His return.

Titus 2:12-13 "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;" Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;"

We must stay alert living as pure a life as we can, staying ready.

**Mark 13:37 "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."**

The message, "Watch," extends even to the present hour.

Jesus in this sentence here, is explaining that it is not for just the disciples of that day, but for all believers of all time.

### **Mark Chapter 13 Second Continued Questions**

1. What was Jesus telling them to take heed of in verse 23?
2. Why was He warning Peter and the others?
3. In verse 24, what two things shall happen after the tribulation of those days?
4. What does the author believe the time is called when the sun and moon are darkened?
5. What two types of darkness could this be talking about?
6. What will happen to the stars of heaven?
7. The powers in heaven shall be \_\_\_\_\_.
8. What does Hebrews 12:25-26, tell us about this time?
9. Who is the shaker?
10. How will the Son of man come?
11. Who is this Son of man?
12. What are some signs people believe we will see in the sky?
13. What does the author believe we will see?
14. Where is the Lord's rule?
15. Who does the Lord send to gather His people?
16. Where will His angels gather them from?
17. Who are the elect of the Lord?
18. What are we to learn a parable of?
19. Who is this really speaking of?
20. When did they become a nation?
21. There are several different times that have been classified as a generation, forty years being the most prominent, name two others.
22. "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but \_\_\_\_\_ shall not pass away."
23. Who, besides man, does not know the day or hour of the return of the Lord?

24. What Jewish tradition reminds us of the rapture?
25. What are we warned to do, because we do not know the time?
26. In verse 34, who do the servants symbolize?
27. Who does the porter symbolize?
28. What four times are mentioned that He might come back?
29. Where can we find instructions on what we should do as we wait for His return?
30. In verse 36, what type of sleeping is this talking about?
31. In Titus 2:12, how should we live?
32. In verse 37, who is the warning to?