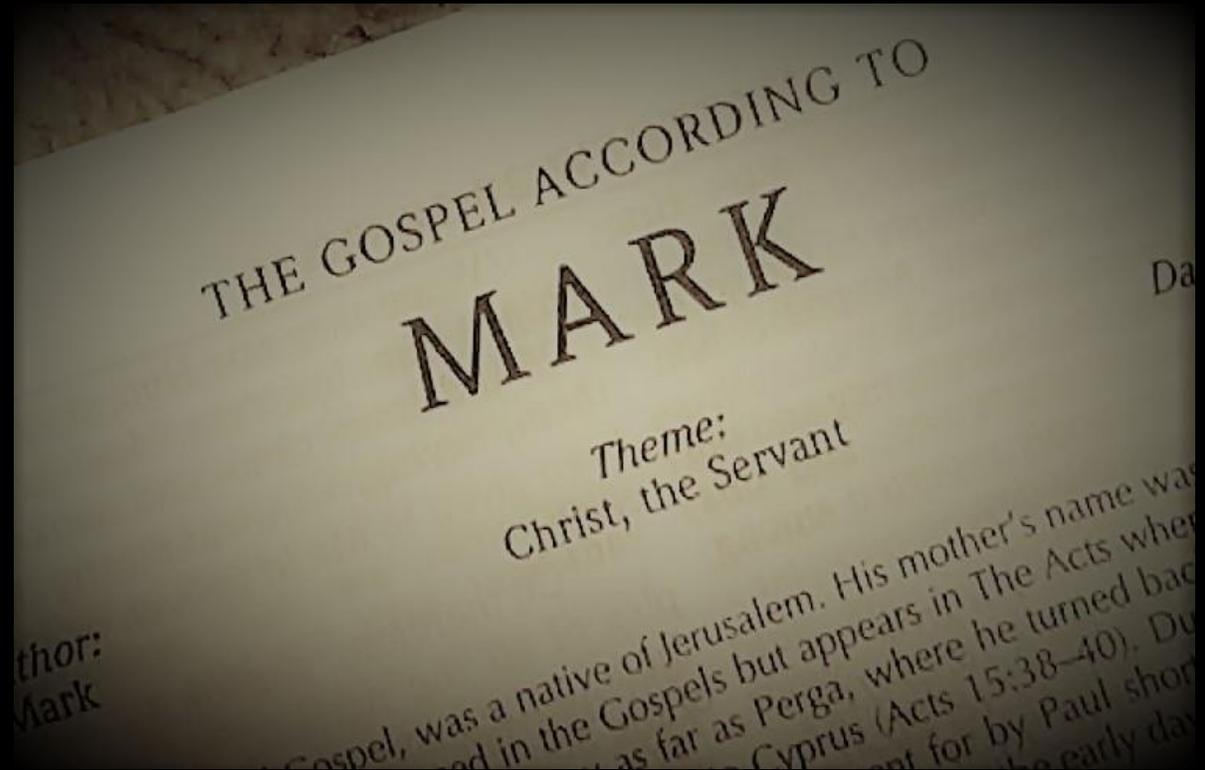


Verse by Verse

Mark 13



Mark 13 Introduction

Mark 13 Introduction

- The **Gospel of Mark** focuses more on Christ's words than on his words, so it does not include much teaching.
- The exception is Christ's **Olivet Discourse** here in this chapter.
- Jesus begins with the destruction of the temple and continues into related prophecy about the end times.
- The biggest lesson is that he wants us to watch and be ready.

Mark 13 Key Verse

Mark 13 Key Verse

- Mark 13:33 (ESV)

Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.

Mark 12 Outline

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1. Destruction of the Temple 13:1-2
2. Signs of the End of the Age 13:3-13
3. Abomination of Desolation 13:14-23
4. Coming of the Son of Man 13:24-27
5. A Lesson from the Fig Tree 13:28-31
6. Be on Guard, Keep Awake 13:32-36

1. Destruction of the Temple 13:1-2

1. Destruction of the Temple 13:1-2

- This magnificent temple was mainly covered in white marble, in some places plated with gold.
- It was 172 feet long, wide and high. (ESV Study Bible) ¹
- The stones were precisely carved and the largest weighed up to 100 tons.
- Here is a photo of a model (better than the ones I took of the same model).

1. The Temple Destroyed 24:1-2



Second Temple Model – Photo by Berthold Werner ²

1. Destruction of the Temple 13:1-2

- Christ's prediction was fulfilled literally when the Roman army burned the temple area.
- They then dismantled it stone by stone to remove the melted gold.
- Today there is no part of any building left on top of the Temple Mount that dates back to Christ's day.
- In fact all the structures are Muslim and the entire area is a Muslim holy site.

2. Signs of the End of the Age 13:3-13

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- Evidently, the disciples linked the destruction of the temple to the end of the age.
- This is even clearer in **Matthew 24**, so you can go back and review that teaching if you want.
- **Luke 21** is another parallel passage.
- The signs Jesus gives are mainly not signs. His point is that he does not want his disciples – or us – to be deceived.

2. Signs of the End of the Age 13:3-13

Although these signs began in the first century, those living in the twenty-first century are no strangers to any of them. Impostors claiming to represent Christ are everywhere, deceiving the gullible. Ethnic clashes, the internal breakdown of law and order, cross-border wars, ...

*– Victor Abajide Cole,
Africa International University, Kenya*



2. Signs of the End of the Age 13:3-13

*... massive displacements of people as refugees, devastating earthquakes and the like are rife. Alarming as these catastrophes are, children of the kingdom are enjoined 'not to be alarmed' because these events do not signal the end of the age.*³

*– Victor Abajide Cole,
Africa International University, Kenya*



2. Signs of the End of the Age 13:3-13

- The events related to the destruction of the temple and the fall of Jerusalem foreshadow later events of the end times.
- What the disciples could not grasp at that time was the length of the interval imposed by the present church age.
- The connection is more *theological* than *chronological*.

2. Signs of the End of the Age 13:3-13

- Much prophecy, especially in the Old Testament, but also in the New, works this same way.
- A far future event is connected to a nearer event, the one helping to illustrate the other.
- A simple example with an explanation is given to us by [John the Apostle](#).

2. Signs of the End of the Age 13:3-13

- 1 John 2:18-19 (ESV)

¹⁸ Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

2. Signs of the End of the Age 13:3-13

- We can think of this as a dual – or even multiple – fulfillment of the prophecy pertaining to Antichrist.
- The final fulfillment is the main one, but the earlier examples help illustrate the last one and set the stage.
- We will see another example that is easy enough to explain in the next section.

3. Abomination of Desolation 13:14-23

3. Abomination of Desolation 13:14-23



This is the man of sin (2 Thess 2:4), the Antichrist, who at this midpoint in the Tribulation breaks the covenant he made with the Jewish people (Dan 9:27) and demands that they and the world worship him. Those who resist will be persecuted, and many will be martyred; that is the reason for the urgency of the instructions in verses 16-22. ⁴

*– Charles Ryrie (1925 – 2016),
Dallas Theological Seminary*

3. Abomination of Desolation 13:14-23

- Daniel 9:27 (NIV)

He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

3. Abomination of Desolation 13:14-23

- An early foreshadowing of Daniel's prophecy occurred in 167BC. with the Syrian ruler Antiochus Epiphanes.
- He desecrated the temple by erecting altar to Zeus and sacrificing a pig on it.

3. Abomination of Desolation 13:14-23

- Early in the war with the Romans, in AD67-68, the Jewish zealots also profaned the temple by their shedding of blood.
- Further, they installed a usurper as high priest.
- The ultimate fulfillment, however, is still to come.

3. Abomination of Desolation 13:14-23

- 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (ESV)

³ Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

4. Coming of the Son of Man 13:24-27

4. Coming of the Son of Man 13:24-27

- There is a sharp contrast between earlier events and the actual coming of the Son of Man.
- No one is going to miss it when Jesus returns at the end of the time of the Great Tribulation.
- This worst ever tribulation of all time (13:19) will be followed by the glorious **Second Coming of Christ**.

4. Coming of the Son of Man 13:24-27

- The gathering spoken of here has been looked at in a number of ways.
- It makes the most sense if we compare it to the repeated promises to regather and restore the nation of Israel.
- These prophecies start early in the Old Testament, before the nation even enters the land for the first time.
- Notice that this one from **Deuteronomy** has yet to be completely fulfilled to this day.

4. Coming of the Son of Man 13:24-27

- Deuteronomy 30:3-6 (ESV)

³ then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. ⁴ If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there he will take you. ⁵ And the LORD your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it. And he will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers. ⁶ And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

5. A Lesson from the Fig Tree 13:28-31

5. A Lesson from the Fig Tree 13:28-31

- Some teachers in the past saw the fig tree here as the newly reestablished nation of Israel.
- I don't really see it that way.
- In **Luke 21:29**, for example, Jesus says, "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees."

5. A Lesson from the Fig Tree 13:28-31

- His point is that we see budding trees as a sure sign of summer – and summer always comes.
- In the same way, the generation that sees the horrors of the Tribulation will see all fulfilled – including Christ's return.
- The main sign is Antichrist's desecration of the temple, which again, will happen in the middle of a seven-year timeframe.

6. Be on Guard, Keep Awake 13:32-36

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The reference to all four watches, including the second and third watches when people avoided travel, underlines the fact that Jesus' return may happen when it is least expected, and emphasizes that Jesus' followers are always "on duty": they must always, constantly, be alert, prepared for Jesus' sudden, unexpected return.⁵

*– Eckhard Schnabel,
Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary*

6. Be on Guard, Keep Awake 13:32-36

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (ESV)

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep ...

6. Be on Guard, Keep Awake 13:32-36

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (ESV)

¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

6. Be on Guard, Keep Awake 13:32-36

- Titus 2:11-14 (ESV)

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

6. Be on Guard, Keep Awake 13:32-36

- 2 Peter 3:10-13 (ESV)

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness ...

6. Be on Guard, Keep Awake 13:32-36

- 2 Peter 3:10-13 (ESV)

¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

6. Be on Guard, Keep Awake 13:32-36

- Revelation 22:20-21 (ESV)

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

Mark 13 What We Just Read

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Mark 13 Key Points

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- The disciples evidently connected the destruction of the temple with the end of the age.
- This connection, we now know, is more theological than chronological.
- They could not foresee the church age that began with them and which we are still in today.
- Jesus certainly wants us to be watchful but not overanxious or overzealous in the seeking of signs.

Mark 13 Key Points

- Wars, famines, earthquakes and false Christs are only the beginning of birth pangs.
- These will continue – and continually get worse – right up to the very end.
- There will, however, be an ultimate false Christ, or Antichrist, who will desecrate the temple, signaling the time of the end.
- His main command for us throughout this age is to watch and be ready because he may come for us at any time.

Mark 13 Key Verse

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- Mark 13:33 (ESV)

Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.

Mark 13 A Prayer

Mark 13 A Prayer

- Heavenly Father,
- Jesus has clearly told us to watch and be ready for his return.
- Your word repeatedly reminds us that he is coming soon. We do not want to neglect that major biblical point.
- Help us to watch and be ready. Help us to be zealous for good works while we wait. Help us to be faithful to worship you, live for you and encourage one another till Jesus comes.
- In Christ,
- Amen.

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