

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 11TH–12TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

INESCAPABLE (MARK 13:14–23) “THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION”

As Jesus continues to tell the disciples how future events will unfold, He mentions “the abomination of desolation” which seems to refer to events that have and will take place.

- Daniel 11 (swine blood in the temple), the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. (Roman flags as objects of worship), and finally the Antichrist.

WHAT IS AN ABOMINATION?

Biblically speaking, when something holy is replaced with something offensive to God (idolatry, certain sexual acts, injustice, etc.), it is labeled an abomination.

- On the surface, vs. 14–18 seem to be a warning about Rome’s invasion. But vs. 19–23 seem to point to Revelation 6–16.

THE FALL OF JERUSALEM IN 70 A.D. (VS. 14–18)

Jesus is giving the 12 a warning that Rome will come into Jerusalem to destroy it and that the people should “flee to the mountains” and not “get anything out of [their] house.”

- Jesus is teaching them that **dealing with societal or family crises takes precedence over personal comforts.**

SHIFTING TO THE END TIMES (VS. 19–23)

It is clear that Jesus transitions to *The Great Tribulation* (the last seven years before Jesus returns found in Revelation 6–19) because He says this kind of suffering “hasn’t been from the beginning...and never will be again.”

- Jesus says, “He cut those days short for the sake of the elect, whom He chose.”

WILL CHRISTIANS SUFFER IN THE END TIMES?

Does the “days cut short” mean we are raptured out or that the Great Tribulation will be short (seven years)?

- There are three views on Jesus’ return: pre-, mid-, or post-tribulation. **The point of end times scripture is not to cause fear or predict Jesus’ return but to prepare us.**

MUCH TIME HAS BEEN WASTED ON THIS ARGUMENT

Elect means God’s chosen people. The question is, **how are we chosen?**

- In the OT, the elect were the Jews, but foreigners could join God’s people through faith. Similarly, the Church is God’s elect, but everyone (John 3:16) is invited into His family **by pledging their faith to Jesus.**

FALSE MESSIAHS AND FALSE PROPHETS

Jesus warned that people would say, “Here is the Messiah! See, there!” Do not believe it.

- There will be false predictions, idols, fake saviors, self-help gimmicks, quick-fix drugs, etc. that will claim to know the future or save. **We must guard ourselves from deception by knowing biblical truth.**

“I HAVE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING IN ADVANCE”

There will even be people, and one person in particular, who will perform “signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, the elect.”

- This is a reference to the Antichrist and his sidekick (Revelation 13). Jesus says **we “must watch” for deception. We do this through the Word, prayer, listening, and obedience.**

THE COMING KING (MARK 13:24–31)

THE EARTH AND THE COSMOS MOVE

Vs. 24–25 are a precursor to Revelation 16 and the cosmic phenomena and disturbances that will commence before Jesus returns.

- The second coming of Christ will be different from His first. It will be a global event where He will come “in the clouds [atmosphere] with great power,” and everyone will see it.

THE ANGELS TO GATHER HIS ELECT

V. 27 correlates with Rev. 7 which tells about angels “standing at the four corners of the earth.” There is also a fifth angel mentioned in Revelation 7 that seals God’s people from judgment.

- Jesus implies that these angels will gather saved people on earth, and those already passed, to celebrate Christ’s return.

REMEMBER THE FIG TREE (CH. 11)

Jesus wanted to make big universal truths personal truths. He reminded them that when one sees a fig tree starting to bloom the “summer is near.”

- This is another reminder that **hard times will come, but the “fruit” of dedication to Jesus will be rewarded.**

“RECOGNIZE THAT HE IS NEAR...”

In light of the fall of Jerusalem, **Jesus is near to those who seek Him in hard times.** In light of the end times, as hardships increase, **we must be aware His return is closer.**

- **“I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in...and eat with [them]”** (Revelation 3:20).

ANOTHER DUAL MEANING (V. 30A)

When Jesus says, “this generation will...not pass away until all these things take place,” He is referring to the Jews who will witness the events of 70 A.D. He could also be referring to all people after the crucifixion or, more specifically, Christians who will experience the end times.

“...BUT MY WORDS WILL NEVER PASS AWAY.”

Jesus wanted to be clear that the words He was saying about the future were absolute. The red letters of the Bible are absolute, but so is every word of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16).

- **The Word is not always easy, but it works, liberates us, and tells us how to live a fulfilling and purposeful life.**

BE ALERT! (MARK 13:32–37)

WAIT, JESUS DOESN’T KNOW WHEN?

On earth, Jesus was fully God and fully human. In His humanity, He set aside the privilege of knowing when His return would come. He did this for a reason.

- Jesus makes it clear He did not know the exact time. This teaches us to **not worry about when, but to just be prepared.**

“I SAY TO EVERYONE: BE ALERT!”

Jesus tells the disciples four times to “Be alert!” and uses an analogy to show how the “servants” are to be on guard all hours of the day because they “don’t know when the Master of the house is coming.”

- We are also warned to not be found “sleeping” when the Master returns.

TO BE ASLEEP

To be spiritually asleep does not necessarily mean one is living in blatant sin. Most of the time we become distracted by the obligations of everyday living or the escapism from it.

- **Without intentional Christianity, we will not only drown in distraction but will eventually drift into destructive sin.**

TO BE ALERT

To be alert is to take our eternity seriously by **making time to pray, read the Bible, be in church community, and contribute back to society and the Kingdom.**

- **To be proactive with our faith ensures we will be ready for Christ’s return and all of the turbulence before it.**

HARDSHIP IS INEVITABLE

- Whether Christians will have to endure the Great Tribulation or not, we will still have to deal with hardships in life (John 16:33).
- If we are not grounded in Christ and the truth of His Word, we will not be ready or equipped for the difficult things that inevitably come our way.

MANY ARE ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL

- Though blatant sin is prevalent, most of us gradually slide into **distraction and escapism that will eventually lead to destructive sin.**
- Do we know we are too valuable to waste our lives or subject ourselves to degrading sin? **Are we taking steps to not “fall asleep” and slide into chaos?**

WE MUST BE AWAKE AND ALERT

- In order to not fall asleep, **we must intentionally make growing in our faith a priority.** This comes by making time to **pray, read, slow down and listen, obey, be in church community, and contribute back** to our community and the Kingdom of God.

ONE DAY HE WILL RETURN

- **At the end of our lives, we will be given what we have ultimately pursued (God or self).** Though uncomfortable to talk about, **one day everyone will have to give an account for how they have lived** (Matthew 12; Hebrews 9).
- **Jesus invites anyone who “opens the door”** (Revelation 3:20) **to be saved and awakened.**