

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 12TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

## TRIBULATION (MARK 13:14-23) "THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION"

Jesus begins this section by using a past event to prepare them for a future event.

- Everyone knew the temple was desecrated in 168 B.C. by Antiochus IV when he sacrificed a pig on the altar of burnt offering.
- Something equally outrageous and cataclysmic was going to happen again.

## "LET THE READER UNDERSTAND"

Mark, the writer, interjects that we should understand what is being written.

- Could this be the Roman emperor Caligula's attempt to put statues of himself in the temple in 40 A.D.? Or when Titus ordered the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D.?
- Most likely it is a message to readers in the future about an Antichrist who will release a severe tribulation on the people of God.

## URGENCY

Jesus warns that in the days of the tribulation, people will need to respond with urgency.

- Examples like using outside steps or leaving a coat, while recognizing the extra difficulties for pregnant women, reveal that priorities will change and obstacles will be faced during the time of tribulation.
- **Do we appreciate the time we have?**

## UNPARALLELED

History is full of "the worst" events. Jesus says that "those days" will truly be the worst days that have ever been.

- Those days will be humanly unsurvivable. The ones who become Christ followers will be protected until the end.
- **The destruction may be unparalleled, but salvation will still be available because of God's mercy.**

## WATCH

We have seen Jesus be reluctant to show signs and wonders because people will follow the show and not the Savior.

- He warns us that false prophets will exploit every means to gain a following and that many will believe and be led astray.
- **What is distracting or diverting us from obedience to Christ? Are we so focused on the signs that we do not serve Christ?**

## RETURN (MARK 13:24-27) "AFTER THAT TRIBULATION"

Jesus says that after the worst days of humanity and the greatest efforts of false prophets and the Antichrist, God will do what only God can do.

- The sun, moon, stars, and Heaven all belong to God and He will show His signs and His Son.
- **The tribulation will usher in the real Hope of all time.**

## "GREAT POWER AND GLORY"

A few days after sharing these words, Jesus would be crucified, entombed, resurrected, and would ascend into Heaven.

- After the tribulation, He will come like never before. Every Believer from all parts of creation will converge at a single point: the Son of Man, Jesus.
- **Jesus is coming.**

## WHEN?

When we read this three-verse preview of the second coming of Christ, we naturally want to know when and where. Or maybe we become fearful of what will happen.

- **Do not miss the point. We do not celebrate the tribulation, but we do have the assurance THAT He will come to claim His own. His coming is a promise, and the gathering of Believers to Him is our hope.**

## TIMING (MARK 13:28-37) THE FIG TREE LESSON

Jesus returns to predicting the fall of Jerusalem and uses the fig tree to reveal that everything is about to start.

- He even goes so far as to say that the current generation (within 40 years) would see the beginning of it. They did.
- **Summer began 2,000 years ago, and we are closer to the return of Christ than ever before. What are we looking for?**

## "CONCERNING THAT DAY"

"That day" refers to the second coming of Christ. Even after a full list of things to look for, we are told that no one, not even the Son, knows when He is coming.

- **Side note:** Jesus, as a man, lived an authentic life in full submission to the Father's will. He could be hungry, experience thirst, grow tired, and be killed. He surrendered the free exercise of His divine nature to live a life of submission to His Father and dependence on the Holy Spirit.

## "WATCH! BE ALERT!"

Five times Jesus warns His disciples to watch and be alert.

- He focuses on the doorkeeper, who has one job: to be alert and ready at any time of the day.
- How are we doing? Do we feel ready? What can we do?

## PRAY

- This should be the easy one.
- Prayer should be the easiest thing we do, but we spend most of our lives not even thinking about God, much less praying.
- Until we make praying an essential part of our day, we cannot really expect to be ready for anything. Will we commit to praying? Why not?

## LOOK

- While we are praying, we should look.
- **As we talk and listen to Jesus, we can see what He is doing around us.**
- **We know He is coming again, but if we only see "end times" signs, we may miss the opportunities of today. Is the hope of His return giving us peace to face what we see today and in the future?**

## LIVE

- Until He returns, we need to live.
- **We can live in fear or faith.**
- **If God is able to strengthen His people during the tribulation (the worst persecution of all), He will strengthen us today. Being alert is the way we live—watching for ways to glorify Him in sharing the gospel and service to others. The message of Mark 13 is obedience. Now, how are we going to live?**