

THE GOSPEL OF MARK



Mark 13:1-23-The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

13 As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!” 2 “Do you see all these great buildings?” replied Jesus. “Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.” 3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, 4 “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?” 5 Jesus said to them: “Watch out that no one deceives you. 6 Many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many. 7 When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 8 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains. 9 “You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. 10 And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. 11 Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit. 12 “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. 13 Everyone will hate you because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. 14 “When you see ‘the abomination that causes desolation’ standing where it does not belong—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 15 Let no one on the housetop go down or enter the house to take anything out. 16 Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. 17 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! 18 Pray that this will not take place in winter, 19 because those will be days of distress unequaled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now—and never to be equaled again. 20 “If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive. But for the sake of the elect, whom he has chosen, he has shortened them. 21 At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it. 22 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 23 So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time.

Mark 13:1-23.

- 1. Review 13:2. In your own words, state what Jesus told the disciples about the temple.**
- 2. How do the words *end times* make you feel? (Anxiety, frustration, excitement, curiosity, something else?)**
- 3. Take a moment to stop and pray. Tell God how you feel and ask God to be with you as you study God's teaching on this topic.**
- 4. Review 13:3-23. As you read, ask yourself these questions:**
 - a) Who is this message for?**
 - b) What part of this message is information, and what part is instruction?**
- 5. Review 13:6-13. List some of the “birth pains” that will mark the end times.**
- 6. Review 13:14. Use a study Bible to define “abomination that causes desolation.”**
<https://www.bibleref.com/Mark/13/Mark-13-14.html>
- 7. Review 13:20. What will God do for God's children?**

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴ “But in those days, following that distress, “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁶ “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. ²⁸ “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁰ Truly I tell you; this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

The Day and Hour Unknown

³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. ³⁵ “Therefore, keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

Mark 13:24-27

- **Jesus continues the Olivet Discourse. He told His disciples that after the tribulation, things would change dramatically. Some theologians believe Jesus was saying the forces of nature will shift and the cosmos will be transformed.**
- **Others believe He was using a metaphor for the political and religious authorities, who will fall from their positions of power when His return reveals His sovereign rule.**
- **Regardless of what view you hold; the underlying message remains the same. Creation will respond righteously to the extraordinary event when Christ the Creator, who came first in humility, comes again in glory.**

In Humility And In Glory

Triumphal Entry-Mark 11:1-11	Jesus's Return-Revelation 19:11-16
Jesus is riding a colt.	Jesus is riding a white horse.
Shouts of "Hosanna" and "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.	He is called "Faithful and True," "King of Kings," and "Lord of Lords."
People lay down palm branches in the road.	He is accompanied by an army of saints.
	His name is inscribed on his thigh.

- **After His disciples heard Jesus talk about the signs of the end of the age, the desecration of the temple, the trials believers would face, and even the shifts that would happen in their environment, their next question likely would have been, “When is this going to happen?” Before they could even ask it, Jesus addressed this question with an illustration.**
- **There are multiple instances in Scripture when Jesus used fig trees as an illustration. While the fig trees held different symbolism in other passages, here in 13:28, it was likely a simple and accessible example of how to mark the passage of time and the coming season. Jesus told them that when all the signs had taken place, the next age would arrive.**

Fill in the blanks below:

- 1. Review 13:30: “Truly I tell you; _____ will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.”**
- 2. Review 13:31. “Heaven and earth will pass away, but _____ will never pass away.”**
- 3. Review 13:32-37. Who doesn’t know “that day or that hour?” Who does?**

What was Jesus saying in 13:24-37?

- His statement was not a denial of his divinity, but an affirmation of his temporary humanity. If the disciples needed to know the timing of the end of the age, Jesus would have told them. If we need to know the timing of the end of the age, God would have told us. But a calendar would impede our faith, not increase it. It is probably true that every generation of believers have thought that they were living in the end times. And that is a good thing. If we *think* that we are living in the end times, then we will live like we *are*.
- In **Mark 13**, there are over a dozen imperatives that give us instructions on how to be prepared for the end times. They tell us how to live while we wait for the day of His glorious return.

For each verse below, what instructions did Jesus give?

13:11_____

13:23_____

13:35_____

13:37_____

Mark 14:1-11

The Plot to Kill Jesus

14 After two days it was the Passover and *the Feast* of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take Him by trickery and put *Him* to death. ² But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar of the people.”

The Anointing at Bethany

³ And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured *it* on His head. ⁴ But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, “Why was this fragrant oil wasted? ⁵ For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.” And they criticized her sharply.

⁶ But Jesus said, “Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. ⁷ For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. ⁸ She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. ⁹ Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.”

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

¹⁰ Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them. ¹¹ And when they heard *it*, they were glad and promised to give him money. So, he sought how he might conveniently betray Him.

Mark 14:1-11.

This reading opens up with important dates on the Jewish calendar that were quickly approaching.

Read Exodus 13:3-10 and Leviticus 23:4-8. Using the text answer the questions below.

- 1. When did the celebrations take place?**
- 2. How long did the celebrations last?**
- 3. What was being commemorated or celebrated?**
- 4. Where did the events take place, and who was expected to participate?**
- 5. In Mark 14:2, why might the religious authorities have feared an uproar if they didn't have Jesus arrested and assassinated in secret?**
- 6. Read Leviticus 13:45-46. What had to have been true about Simon for these festivities to be taking place?**