

IV. The Coming Judgments of Jesus (13:1–37)<sup>1</sup>

A. The Coming Destruction of the Temple (and Jerusalem) (13:1–23)

1. Jesus Foretells Destruction of the Temple (13:1–2)

**13** And as he came out of *the temple*, one of his disciples said to him, *“Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!”*

<sup>2</sup> And Jesus said to him, *“Do you see these great buildings? **There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.**”*

2. Four Disciples Ask a Two-fold Question (13:3–4)

<sup>3</sup> And as he sat on the **Mount of Olives** opposite the temple, **Peter and James and John and Andrew** asked him privately, <sup>4</sup> *“Tell us, **when will these things be**, and **what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?**”*

3. Jesus Answers Their Question:

a. Beware False Messianic Claims (13:5-6)

<sup>5</sup> And Jesus began to say to them, *“**See that no one leads you astray.***

<sup>6</sup> Many will come ***in my name***, saying, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray.

b. Do Not be Alarmed at the Birth Pains (13:7-8)

<sup>7</sup> And when you hear of ***wars and rumors of wars***, do not be alarmed. ***This must take place, but the end is not yet.*** <sup>8</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be ***earthquakes*** in various places; there will be ***famines***. These are but the beginning of the ***birth pains***<sup>2</sup>.

c. Mission and persecution (13:9-13)

<sup>9</sup> *“**But be on your guard.*** For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. [<sup>10</sup> And ***the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations.***] <sup>11</sup> And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but **the Holy Spirit**. <sup>12</sup> And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. <sup>13</sup> And you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But **the one who endures to the end will be saved.**

d. The Sign: The Abomination of Desolation (13:14-20)

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<sup>1</sup> My outline for Mk 13 is heavily dependent on **Robert H. Stein’s** book, *Jesus, the Temple and the Coming Son of Man*. InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> “In the Old Testament the “**birth pangs**” metaphor is frequently used to describe the tribulation preceding the destruction of a city, and the city most frequently referred to is Jerusalem (**Jer 4:31; 6:24; 22:23; 30:6; Is 26:17; Mic 4:9-10**).” (bold mine) **Stein, Robert H.** *Jesus, the Temple and the Coming Son of Man* (p. 80). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

14 “But when you see **the abomination of desolation**<sup>3</sup> standing where he ought not to be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>15</sup> Let the one who is on the housetop not go down, nor enter his house, to take anything out, <sup>16</sup> and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. <sup>17</sup> And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! <sup>18</sup> Pray that it may not happen in winter. <sup>19</sup> For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be. <sup>20</sup> And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of **the elect**, whom he chose, he shortened the days.

#### e. Further Warning of False Messianic Claims (13:21-23)

<sup>21</sup> And then if anyone says to you, ‘**Look, here is the Christ!**’ or ‘**Look, there he is!**’ do not believe it. <sup>22</sup> For **false christs and false prophets** will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, **the elect**. <sup>23</sup> But **be on guard**; I have told you all things beforehand.

#### B. The Coming of the Son of Man (13:24–27)

<sup>24</sup> “But *in those days*, after that tribulation, **the sun will be darkened**, and **the moon** will not give its light, <sup>25</sup> and **the stars** will be falling from heaven, and **the powers in the heavens** will be shaken. <sup>26</sup> And then **they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory**. <sup>27</sup> And then he will send out the angels and gather **his elect** from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

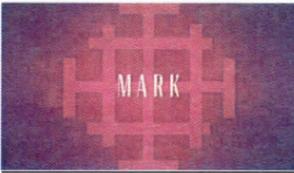
#### A'. The Fig Tree Lesson (Destruction of Temple/Jerusalem) (13:28–31)

<sup>28</sup> “From **the fig tree learn its lesson**: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> *So also*, when you see **these things** taking place, you know that he/it is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup> Truly, I say to you, **this generation** will not pass away until all these things take place. <sup>31</sup> **Heaven and earth will pass away**, but **my words will not pass away**.

#### B'. The Doorkeeper Lesson (The Son of Man) (13:32–37)

<sup>32</sup> “(But concerning) *that day* or that hour, **no one knows**, not even the angels in heaven, **nor the Son**, but **only the Father**. <sup>33</sup> **Be on guard, keep awake**. For you do not know *when the time will come*. <sup>34</sup> It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the **doorkeeper** to stay awake. <sup>35</sup> Therefore **stay awake**—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— <sup>36</sup> lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. <sup>37</sup> And what I say to you I say to all: **Stay awake**.”

<sup>3</sup> “The readers no doubt knew of a similar **abomination of desolation** from the incident recorded in [Daniel 9:27](#); [11:31](#); [12:11](#) and [1 Maccabees 1:54, 59](#). This event and the subsequent cleansing of the temple in 165 B.C. were celebrated yearly, usually in December, by Jews in the eight-day festival called Hanukkah or “The Feast of Lights” (cf. [Jn 10:22-23](#).)” (bold mine) Ibid. (p. 75).



Sunday, February 20, 2022

When Jesus Comes Back

Mark 13:24–27, 32–37

## What Do You Believe about Judgment Day?

- Judgment Day (The Terminator)
- Judgment Day will be mocked...

### 2 Peter 3:2–4

<sup>2</sup> that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, <sup>3</sup> knowing this first of all, that **scoffers** will come in the last days with scoffing, *following their own sinful desires*. <sup>4</sup> They will say, “**Where is the promise of his coming?** For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” ... [Flood]

The return of Jesus is the earth-shattering hinge point of human history. (What about the cross?!) 

- 1) Why the Return of Jesus Matters (13:24–27)
- 2) The Charge to Stay Awake! (13:32–37, aka – The Lesson of the Doorkeeper)

### Why the Return of Jesus Matters (13:24–27)

I. The Terrifying Day of the LORD's Judgment (13:24–25)  
 (13:24-25) <sup>24</sup> “**But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup> and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.**”

#### A. Understanding the “Cosmic Imagery”: God shows up in history in a dramatic way for judgment/rescue

“Whereas **cosmic imagery** in prophecy refers to a coming theophanic event in which God would act in history, what exactly that theophany would involve is not indicated by the imagery itself. **The content of the theophany is clarified by the context** in which it is found.” <sup>1</sup> (Emphases mine)

#### Isaiah 13:10–11 (v.1 The Judgment of Babylon)

<sup>10</sup> For *the stars of the heavens* and their constellations will not give their light; *the sun* will be dark at its rising, and *the moon* will not shed its light. <sup>11</sup> I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless.

#### Judgment on the Whole Earth – Isaiah 24:23

<sup>1</sup> Stein, Robert H.. *Jesus, the Temple and the Coming Son of Man* (p. 112). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

Pharaoh and Egypt – Ezekiel 32:7–8

The Day of the LORD – Joel 2:10, 31; 3:15; Acts 2:20, 22–24, Jesus)

## 1. God Rules the Earth, not Men

B. **The Fall of Jerusalem in AD 70:** God showed up in history in a dramatic way for judgment (v. 24)

C. **The Day of the LORD:** (13:24–25) ...the powers will be shaken... **End of Time**

(Sun, moon, etc. – **Son of Man** below; Cf. Matt. 24:29–31)

### Revelation 6:12–17

<sup>12</sup> When he opened the **sixth seal**, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and **the sun** became black as sackcloth, **the full moon** became like blood, <sup>13</sup> and **the stars** of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. <sup>14</sup> The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. <sup>15</sup> Then **the kings of the earth** and **the great ones** and **the generals** and **the rich** and **the powerful**, and **everyone, slave and free**, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, <sup>16</sup> calling to the mountains and rocks, *“Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb,”* <sup>17</sup> *for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”* (Cf. Revelation 7:1ff. Angels seals...)

## II. The Son of Man will be Seen... (13:26)

(13:26a) <sup>26</sup> And then **they will see the Son of Man...**

A. Contrast with the Destruction of the Temple... (Floods in Brazil)

B. Heavenly Throne Room (Glory Cloud, Ex.)

### Daniel 7:13–14 (11–12, defeat of “beasts”)

<sup>13</sup> “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came **one like a son of man**, and he came to the **Ancient of Days** and was presented before him. <sup>14</sup> And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

### Daniel 7:15–18 (Interpretation)

...<sup>17</sup> ‘These **four great beasts** are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. <sup>18</sup> But **the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom** and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.’

(13:26b) ...**coming in clouds with great power and glory.**

C. Temple Replacement (Glory Cloud, Ex./ 70 AD)

D. Literal not Figurative (Cf. Mk. 8:38; 14:62; Acts 1:11)

## III. The Son of Man's Elect (13:27)

(13:27) <sup>27</sup> And then **he will send out the angels** and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.



- A. "His Elect" Jesus is Equal with God!  
(The Day of the LORD/Son of Man)  
(Seated in Heaven's Throne Room) ...and v. 31...

**A'. The Fig Tree Lesson (Destruction of Temple/Jerusalem) (13:28-31)**

<sup>28</sup> "From **the fig tree** learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> **So also**, when you see **these things** taking place, you know that he/it is near, **at the very gates**. <sup>30</sup> Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. <sup>31</sup> **Heaven and earth will pass away**, but **my words will not pass away**."

The return of Jesus is the earth-shattering hinge point of human history.

- B. The Day of the Son of Man...Judgment & Ingathering!

**2. Are you ready?**

**Charge to Stay Awake! (13:32-37)**

- I. Keep Your Eyes Open (v. 33 Cf. 5, 9, 23)

II. Watch Out for Trouble (v. 33)

III. Stay Alert (vs. 34, 35, 36)

**(13:32-37)** <sup>32</sup> "(But concerning) **that day** or **that hour**, **no one knows**, not even the angels in heaven, **nor the Son**, but **only the Father**. <sup>33</sup> **Be on guard, keep awake**. For you do not know **when the time will come**. <sup>34</sup> It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and **puts his servants in charge, each with his work**, and commands the **doorkeeper** to **stay awake**. <sup>35</sup> Therefore **stay awake**—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the **evening**, or at **midnight**, or **when the rooster crows**, or **in the morning**— <sup>36</sup> **lest he come suddenly and find you asleep**. <sup>37</sup> And what I say to you I say to all: **Stay awake**."

- 3. Are you asleep? (Doorkeeper, Be a Christian, 1 Thessalonians 5:2-9)**

→Noah, **Matt. 24:37-39**, Wicked Servants, **51**; 10 Virgins, **25:1-13**)

- 4. How do we "stay awake" waiting for that day?**

→Invest your life for **God's pleasure** (The Talents, **Matt. 25:14-30**)

→Care for **Christ's body** (Sheep & Goats, **Matt. 25:31-46**)

- Family service (Includes physical care but has spiritual end)
- Evangelism

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## Meditate on Mark 11–16 for Coming Sermons

(We will cover the rest of Mark 14:1–11 Sunday, February 27)

- I. Read **Mark 14:1–11** several times. How is this story organized? What is the relationship between the different episodes?
  - II. How does this text teach us something about Jesus and/or his mission? Is there a pattern for the Christian life exemplified here? What are we being warned against? What are we being instructed to do?
  - III. Sum up the main point in **Mark 14:1–11** in one short sentence.
  - IV. How does this text change/strengthen how you think, act or feel as a Christian?
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### Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Do you think much about the day of Jesus' return? Why is that?
2. What is the relationship between Jesus first coming and his second? How does his second coming force us to consider the cross?
3. How does Jerusalem's destruction in AD 70 teach us about God's justice? How is God's mercy in view? What are we being warned about?
4. How can we better live with this day in view? Are you ready? What is the evidence that you are ready?
5. Are you trusting Jesus to rescue you? Are you living to please Jesus? Are you taking care of the body of Christ? What future are you spending your time investing in? Who can you pray about these questions with?