

Title: Signs of the End Times

Passage: Mark 13:1-13

Introduction:

If you are a Christian, your life should look the same as if today is your last one. You live for God's glory no matter what time or season it is. You can see Your Maker any moment. So no special additional revelation is necessary about end times.

Passage: Mark 13:1-13

And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" 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."

And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?" And Jesus began to say to them, "See that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name, saying, I am he!' and they will lead many astray. And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. 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.

"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. And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. 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. 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. And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

EXPOSITION

Context of Passage:

Olivet Discourse

- passage is part of speech Jesus gives during last week of his ministry before the crucifixion,
- Given on the Mount of Olives

Mark 13:1

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

- while on the Mount of Olives, someone makes an observation.

Mark 13:2

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."

- shocking statement as the Temple was viewed then as a symbol of God, His might (took 46 years to build), and His presence.
- Meaning: Israel will be wiped off, which seemed inconceivable at the time.
- Why? Despite the beautiful magnificence of the Temple, the inside was not being used to honor God so judgment was coming.
- Fulfillment: AD 70 - Jerusalem was conquered and the Temple was leveled by the Romans.

Question

Mark 13:3-4

And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?"

- Perception: end times was viewed as the time when Israel would be fully restored.

Matthew 24:3

As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

The Messiah:

- Old Testament: people understood Messiah would be a new king that will establish a new kingdom that will be the center of the world.
- When Jesus arrived, people were initially excited but then got confused as things were not happening as they expected.
- Ex: John the Baptist even doubted and sent people to ask if He was the Messiah. Jesus answered pointing to Old Testament prophecy that pointed to fulfillment.

Luke 4:17-21

And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Isaiah 61:1-2 (but notice where Jesus stopped reading)

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

- last portion was not stated, which pointed to the "end times"

Answer

Passage: Different signs of end times

- Temple destroyed (AD 70)
- Natural disasters
- Increased persecution
- Deceiving teachers
- People led astray

Why Temple's Destruction (AD 70) Didn't Start "End Times":

- Jesus used metaphor of birth pains about the end of Church Age
 - so temple destructions was the beginning, not the end)
 - AD 70 is when the church would grow, not end.
- Jesus indicated that the Gospel would preach to all the nations
- Jesus spoke of abomination and desolation
- Jesus spoke of tribulation that hasn't happened yet since creation
- Jesus identified heavenly signs that would accompany the End Times, which hasn't occurred yet.

Sign: Many People Led Astray

Mark 13:5-6

And Jesus began to say to them, "See that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name, saying, I am he!" and they will lead many astray.

See

- Meaning = be aware / watch out!

Lead Many Astray

- How? Because people don't know God's Word or how to discern God's Word.
- Satan is a master of God's Word (see Temptation of Jesus where Satan quoted Scripture)
 - Proper rebuke is through a thorough knowledge of context and discernment of Scripture.
- If someone says something is new and never heard, beware! There is nothing new.
- Beware of context of any Scripture being used by another.

Sign: Disasters

Mark 13:7-8

And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. 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.

- disasters will occur at a level never seen before

Revelation 6:8

And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.

- 1/4 of human population will die out of earthquakes, famines, and pestilence

Sign: Persecution

Mark 13:9-13a

"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. And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. 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. 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. And you will be hated by all for my name's sake.

- persecution from different places (even from religious establishments or other perceived Christians where think have a haven or friends but really are sources of attacks)
- There are real places in the world where even the government places you in prison and sentences you to death (ex: Muslim countries)

Encouragement

Mark 13:13b

But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

- Beware of deception. Don't run after different teachings.

Stop worrying or be anxious

- The Bible mentions “do not fear” 365 times. Therefore, we should take heed!

Isaiah 43:1-5

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life.

Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you.

- Stop being fearful. What’s the worst that may happen? Upon death, you go to heaven!
 - Of course, don’t hasten your death but have wisdom

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Be ready to suffer for Christ

- Be ready to face the consequences in face of increasing persecution.

1 Peter 4:12-16

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.