

Title: The Return of Christ

Passage: Mark 13:24-27

Introduction:

What future event are you looking forward to the most?

- As Christians, we are looking forward to the coming return of Christ.
- Why? Jesus will establish a forever kingdom of righteousness.

Context of Passage:

Jesus teaching about signs of end times

- Antichrist (specific person who will rise to persecute Christians)

Mark 13:19-20

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. 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.

- Christians will be present when the Antichrist will reveal himself.

Man of Lawlessness/Antichrist

- Man of Lawlessness must reveal himself before the Tribulation

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5

Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

- people were wondering if the end times were already happening. They were sad if end came already
- Response: The man of lawlessness must come first before end comes

Matthew 24:11-12

And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.

- there is another moment in the future that will come (one who will lead many astray)
- This will then trigger a lot of persecution of Christian.
 - Why? People will need to choose: submit to Antichrist or submit to God

EXPOSITION

Passage: Mark 13:24-27

But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man

coming in clouds with great power and glory. 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.

Overview

I. Sequence of Events (v.24)

II. Signs preceding Jesus' return (v.25)

III. Return of Christ (v.26)

IV. Rescue of His elect (v.27)

V. Application

I. Sequence of Events

Mark 13:24

But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,

Tribulation

Revelations 6

- seals opened in Revelation 6 matches passage with Mark 13/Luke 21

Revelation 6:9-11

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

- context? some type of Tribulation ("those who had been slain for the word of God")

II. Signs Preceding Christ's Return

Mark 13:25

and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Revelation 6:12-17

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, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. 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, 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, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

- signs happening leading to Christ's return

- See also prophecies in Isaiah, Joel, and Ezekiel

Isaiah 13:9-11

Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it. 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. 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.

Joel 2:1-2

Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations.

Ezekiel 30:3-4

For the day is near, the day of the LORD is near; it will be a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations. A sword shall come upon Egypt, and anguish shall be in Cush, when the slain fall in Egypt, and her wealth is carried away, and her foundations are torn down.

Luke 21:25-28

“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

III. Rescue of His Elect

Mark 13:27

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.

- what happens to Christians

Revelation 7:1-4

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

- 144,000 = Jewish Messianic believers (those who fear God and fear Christ) in the future (not the present)

Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

"Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

- God brings His people to Himself.
- But after the Tribulation and before the Day of the Lord (when God's wrath is poured out in judgment)

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

- this points to Revelation 7:9

Revelation 7:9

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

Rapture

- Word not actually in Bible or used in any English translation
- "Caught up" (translated from Greek to Latin) - related to a Greek word (seized suddenly) and pulled from that to get to word "rapture"
- Perception that one will be taken up anytime before Tribulation can lead to temptation to be disengaged with the present world, merely waiting to be taken up.
- Contrast: Christians will be taken away but after the Tribulation
- See Revelation chapters 8-11; 15-16 (12, 14 = explanatory chapters of certain events)

III. The Return of Christ

Mark 13:26

And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.

Revelation 19:11-16

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

V. Application Points

If a Christian

Be watchful and be thoughtful

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2, 4

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night....But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.

- Don't be gullible (be watchful)
- Don't be cavalier (be thoughtful)

Ephesians 6:18b

To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

1 John 4:1

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Be ready to suffer for your faith.

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.

- do not be surprised for suffering for the name of Christ
- Here is not our final destination or home, never can achieve heaven on earth.

Remember Christ is coming back to save you from the presence of sin.

- There is always hope. Jesus will come with complete redemption of His loved ones.

- Take heart and do not lose hope.

Revelation 21:1

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

Revelation 21:3-4

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

If not a Christian

Bad News; Good News

Bad News: Jesus is coming back and will be coming for your blood in judgment

- If you haven't bowed to Christ, you are an enemy of God.
- God is love but He is also perfectly holy and just.
- No one can get away with sin and escape judgment
- God sees you and sees through you.

Revelation 19:12-13, 15

His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God....From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

Isaiah 63:3

"I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood splattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel.

- blood of sinners will be poured out in judgment that will result in eternal torment in hell

Good news: Jesus paid for the sins for the ones who believe in Him

- Jesus took the full wrath of God, allowed His blood to be splattered so that ours would not.
- When you trust in Jesus, you have Jesus' righteousness.
- Come to Jesus!

Good news: Jesus wants to give you the power to live for Him.

- It's not about living better. God will give You the Holy Spirit to live for Him.

Revelation 22:7

And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.

Revelation 22:17

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.