



THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Seeing Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God



Part 32

"The Signs of the End of the Age"

2-20-22

Introduction

Throughout the last week of His earthly life, Jesus had displayed the power and authority of God which anticipated a reordering of how God would relate to man because of the work that He was soon to accomplish. In the most dramatic manner, He had both pictured (the cursing of the fig tree) and predicted the coming destruction of the temple.

Main Point: In His teaching on the Mt. of Olives, Jesus gave the disciples insight into the coming Day of the LORD while also preparing them for the _____ that they and others who would come after them would face before His return.

The Olivet Discourse

Important Considerations:

1. Jesus' teaching concerned the _____-times, specifically "the Day of the LORD" or "tribulation" period which would precede His return.

⇒ The phrasing of the disciples' question suggests that they are asking about the end-times (eschatology).

"when will these things...be accomplished" (Mark 13:4) *"when then will you do the consummation...of these things"* (Dan. 12:6 LXX)

Jewish Eschatological Expectations

The ancient Jews taught that the coming of Messiah would be preceded by a time of great suffering which was represented in Scripture by the imagery of "birth pains" (Jer. 30:6-7). This time of trouble was associated with prophecies regarding "the Day of the LORD," a term that referred to both a particular day upon which God would judge the world (Joel 2:31) and an extended period of time in which God would pour out wrath and judgment (Amos 5:18). These, however, would eventually give way to a time in which He would provide salvation and blessing for His people (Joel 3:18).

2. Jesus' teaching alluded to the oracle that the prophet _____ received concerning the time of the end (Dan. 9:24-27).

⇒ The seventy "weeks" in the prophecy refer to a period of time (490 years) in which God would accomplish His purposes for the people of Israel and the city of Jerusalem.

* *After a period of 483 years (62 weeks + 7 weeks), the rebuilt temple and city will be destroyed (Dan. 9:24)*

* *Before their destruction, Messiah ("the anointed one) will come and will be "cut off" (Dan. 9:26a)*

* *During the 70th week, an antagonist arises ("the prince...to come") and destroys the city and sanctuary (Dan. 9:26b)*

* *Ecological disaster ("flood") and war accompany these events (Dan. 9:26c)*

* *Half way through this 7 year period, the Antagonist will put an end to the sacrifices of the temple and will make it desolate by setting up an utter abomination (Dan. 9:27)*

3. Jesus' teaching had _____ for His followers at that time and for all believers of the Church Age because seasons of tribulation and persecution will occur before the specific fulfillment of Daniel's 70th week.

⇒ During the Church Age, believers experience both the blessings of relationship to Messiah and the persecutions associated with being His people in a world that is hostile towards Him.

Rev. 1:9—*I, John, your brother and fellow participant in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.*

Jesus' Teaching on the Mount of Olives—Mark 1:1-23 (Part 1)

• In response to the disciples' questions, Jesus gave them instructions regarding the beginning of the period of tribulation which was to come. (13:1-13)

Observations:

1. Jesus' first warned the disciples of coming dangers:

* False _____ →

* _____ Turmoil →

* Ecological _____ →

Exhortation: *"See to it that no one leads you _____!"*

2. Jesus then warned them of coming _____.

Religious:

Political:

Personal:

⇒ This persecution will serve a greater _____ and the Lord Himself will be present with His people as they go through it.

"do not be anxious beforehand"

"to bear witness"

3. Jesus promised deliverance to those who would _____ persecution faithfully.

"Disciples who endure their persecution faithfully to the end of that persecution will experience deliverance from it while they are alive. Disciples who endure their persecution faithfully to the end of their lives will experience deliverance from it by death. Disciples living just before Jesus returns who endure their persecution faithfully to the end of the present age will experience deliverance at Jesus' second coming."
—Thomas Constable, *Mark*

Exhortation: *"Be on your _____!"*

Key Point: Jesus' instructions to His followers were given so that they might endure faithfully as His _____ even in the midst of danger and persecution.

- **Having warned of coming dangers, Jesus then gave specific instructions regarding the end-time Antagonist (*Antichrist*) and the "great tribulation" which was to precede His coming. (13:14-23)**

Observations:

1. Jesus' quoted directly from the prophet Daniel while also _____ his prophecy.

Dan. 11:31— *Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate.*

⇒ This prophecy refers to the forces of the end-time Antagonist and the desecration of the temple. Jesus' words explain that it is the "abomination" is the man himself (*"sanding where he out not to be"*). This reference to the "abomination" also indicates that this event will take place in the middle of the final "seven" from Daniel's prophecy (Dan. 12:11).

2. The purpose of Jesus' instruction is to tell the people to _____ Jerusalem when these things transpire.

3. Jesus then described the _____ of this time period.

Mark 13:19-20—¹⁹ *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.* ²⁰ *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.*

⇒ This period of time is often referred to as the "Great Tribulation." Because of the calamity of this time period, the Lord determined that these days must be "cut short."

"...Jesus was teaching that God in the past had already shortened the Great Tribulation. He did so in the sense that in the past He determined to cut it off at a specific time rather than let it continue indefinitely." —Renald Showers, *Maranatha*

4. Jesus concluded this portion of the discourse by _____ His warning about false Messiahs.

Key Point: Jesus' teaching on the Great Tribulation _____ the prophecies of Scripture while also giving new insight into the things to come so that His followers might have confidence for all that lay ahead.

Mark 13:23— *But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.*

Seeing Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God

- **Mark wants His to assure His audience to heed Jesus' warnings and exhortations so that they might faithfully endure the seasons of persecution and trial (both before and during the Tribulation).**

Concluding Thought

- _____ in Christ allows us to trust Him through seasons of persecution and trial.

Rev. 2:10-11—¹⁰ *Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.* ¹¹ *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.'*

Heb. 12:3— *Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.*



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Main Point: In His teaching on the Mt. of Olives, Jesus gave the disciples insight into the coming Day of the Lord while also preparing them for the trials that they and others who would come after them would face before His return.

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Important Considerations:

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* *Half way through this 7 year period, the Antagonist will put an end to the sacrifices of the temple and will make it desolate by setting up an utter abomination (Dan. 9:27)*

3. Jesus' teaching had application for His followers at that time and for all believers of the Church Age because seasons of tribulation and persecution will occur before the specific fulfillment of Daniel's 70th week.

⇒ During the Church Age, believers experience both the blessings of relationship to Messiah and the persecutions associated with being His people in a world that is hostile towards Him.

Rev. 1:9—*I, John, your brother and fellow participant in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.*

Jesus' Teaching on the Mount of Olives—Mark 1:1-23 (Part 1)

• In response to the disciples' questions, Jesus gave them instructions regarding the beginning of the period of tribulation which was to come. (13:1-13)

Observations:

1. Jesus' first warned the disciples of coming dangers:

* False Messiahs →

* Political Turmoil →

* Ecological Disasters →

Exhortation: *"See to it that no one leads you astray!"*

2. Jesus then warned them of coming persecution.

Religious:

Political:

Personal:

⇒ This persecution will serve a greater **purpose** and the Lord Himself will be present with His people as they go through it.
“do not be anxious beforehand” “to bear witness”

3. Jesus promised deliverance to those who would **endure** persecution faithfully.

“Disciples who endure their persecution faithfully to the end of that persecution will experience deliverance from it while they are alive. Disciples who endure their persecution faithfully to the end of their lives will experience deliverance from it by death. Disciples living just before Jesus returns who endure their persecution faithfully to the end of the present age will experience deliverance at Jesus’ second coming.” —Thomas Constable, *Mark*

Exhortation: “Be on your guard!”

Key Point: Jesus’ instructions to His followers were given so that they might endure faithfully as His **witnesses** even in the midst of danger and persecution.

- **Having warned of coming dangers, Jesus then gave specific instructions regarding the end-time Antagonist (*Antichrist*) and the “great tribulation” which was to precede His coming. (13:14-23)**

Observations:

1. Jesus’ quoted directly from the prophet Daniel while also **interpreting** his prophecy.

Dan. 11:31— Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate.

⇒ This prophecy refers to the forces of the end-time Antagonist and the desecration of the temple. Jesus’ words explain that it is the “abomination” is the man himself (“sanding where he out not to be”). This reference to the “abomination” also indicates that this event will take place in the middle of the final “seven” from Daniel’s prophecy (Dan. 12:11).

2. The purpose of Jesus’ instruction is to tell the people to **flee** Jerusalem when these things transpire.

3. Jesus then described the **severity** of this time period.

Mark 13:19-20—¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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.

⇒ This period of time is often referred to as the “Great Tribulation.” Because of the calamity of this time period, the Lord determined that these days must be “cut short.”

“...Jesus was teaching that God in the past had already shortened the Great Tribulation. He did so in the sense that in the past He determined to cut it off at a specific time rather than let it continue indefinitely.” —Renald Showers, *Maranatha*

4. Jesus concluded this portion of the discourse by **repeating** His warning about false Messiahs.

Key Point: Jesus’ teaching on the Great Tribulation **affirmed** the prophecies of Scripture while also giving new insight into the things to come so that His followers might have confidence for all that lay ahead.

Mark 13:23—But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.

Seeing Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God

- **Mark wants His to assure His audience to heed Jesus’ warnings and exhortations so that they might faithfully endure the seasons of persecution and trial (both before and during the Tribulation).**

Concluding Thought

- **Confidence in Christ allows us to trust Him through seasons of persecution and trial.**

Rev. 2:10-11—¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.’

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