

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 03 Sep ..... Mark 01 ..... Introduced
- 2) 10 Sep ..... Mark 02 ..... Proclaimed
- 3) 17 Sep ..... Mark 03-04 ..... Questioned
- 4) 24 Sep ..... Mark 05-06 ..... Satisfies
- 5) 01 Oct ..... Mark 07 ..... Includes
- 6) 08 Oct ..... Mark 08 ..... Followed
- 7) 15 Oct ..... Mark 09 ..... Strengthens
- 8) 22 Oct ..... Mark 10 ..... Serves
- 9) 29 Oct ..... Mark 11-12 ..... Clears
- 10) 05 Nov ..... **Mark 13** ..... **Returning**
- 11) 12 Nov ..... Mark 14 ..... Willing
- 12) 19 Nov ..... Mark 15 ..... Sacrificed
- 13) 26 Nov ..... Mark 16 ..... Alive

**INTRODUCTION**

- We are to watch out for deception; watch out for the end times; watch for angels; and watch for the Son
- Mark 13 parallels Matthew 24 and Luke 21 by highlighting signs of the end times. Taken together with passages in Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Zechariah, 2 Thessalonians, and Revelation they paint an interesting picture of the last days and the return of Christ.
- The only thing missing is a clear and undisputed timeline of what happens when and where. Therefore, we cannot be too dogmatic about these things, especially since God told Daniel & John not to reveal certain parts of their visions (**Dan 8:26; Rev 10:4**), but we can glean some useful information from what we do have.

Passage	Comments
Mark 13:1-2	<p><b>Herod's Temple</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herod completed the temple in 64 AD and Rome destroyed it in 70 AD. Some of the solid blocks were 37x12x18 feet (about the size of our S/S class room)</li> </ul>
13:3-5	<p><b>The Last Signs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v5. "Let no one deceive you" (this is our responsibility)</li> <li>• How do we prevent being deceived by others?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Know the truth so you can spot a counterfeit</li> <li>♦ Devote yourself to prayer (<b>Col 4:2</b>); Pray without ceasing (<b>1Thes 5:17</b>); and watch &amp; pray (<b>Mark 13:33</b>)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
13:6-8	<p><b>End Time Signs Include...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v6. Many will come in my name. <b>Who would these be?</b></li> <li>• vv7-8. We are not to be afraid or too concerned over hearing about wars &amp; rumors of war, nation against nation (Middle East today, N. Korea, Russia, &amp; China possibly later)</li> <li>• Kingdom against kingdom (e.g., Muslims vs everyone)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ How can one not be fearful when terrorists fly planes into buildings? Can we bring hope into a fearful world?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Earthquakes and Famines                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ "...this is just the beginning" (expect increasing droughts, floods, hurricanes, tsunamis, global economic gloom, nuclear proliferation, rising 3<sup>rd</sup> world powers, etc.)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Eschatological Consideration.</b> It is difficult and speculative determining whether these end-time passages refer to events that occur in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century or the last century or both.</p>

**Persecution Each Month** (<https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/>):

- ♦ 255 Christians are killed for their faith each month on average
- ♦ 104 are abducted
- ♦ 180 Christian women are raped, sexually harassed, forced into marriage
- ♦ 160 Christians are imprisoned without trial
- ♦ 66 churches are attacked

**Recent Trends in USA.** Florists, bakers, photographers, and other business owners being fined and made to attend sensitivity or diversity training for their Christian faith. There is the squelching of the faith in public schools. Free speech and freedom of creative expression are just fine in the classroom and all subjects, except one: Jesus.

- Note. In March 2019, President Trump had to sign an executive order to entice universities to allow conservative free speech on their campuses or risk losing federal funding.

Passage	Comments
13:9-13	<p><b>Warnings of Impending Doom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v9. Christian persecution began in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century &amp; has continued throughout history.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ This seems to be Satan's favorite scheme</li> <li>♦ What are other satanic schemes to squelch the Gospel? Target <input type="checkbox"/> Leaders   <input type="checkbox"/> Families   <input type="checkbox"/> nominal Christians?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v10. Result of 1<sup>st</sup> Century Persecution: Worldwide Gospel proclamation with culmination in the last century</li> <li>• v11. The promise of the Spirit to provide the right words, was it just for the Apostles or for all believers for all time?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Consider this.</b> When Peter &amp; John were later arrested Peter, who was filled with the Spirit, gave a defense that was "amazing," &amp; could not be spoken against, and he had indisputable proof of a miracle .....<b>Acts 4:1-20</b></li> <li>♦ <b>AND</b>, this promise seemed to be of short duration, for the Apostles, except for John, would meet a martyr's death.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v12. Brother betrays brother. Many martyrs over the years have met their demise after being betrayed by family. Would you surrender your family members to the executioner? As one of my brothers would say, "it depends on which brother"</li> <li>• v13. Those who endure to the end will be saved. A better way to say it is, those who are saved will endure. God completes that which He started.....<b>Phil 1:6</b></li> </ul>
13:14-23	<p><b>The Abomination of Desolation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v14. This best refers to the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. A secondary meaning could be when the Antichrist stands in the newly completed temple during the middle of the 7-year tribulation. In both cases – Run, Forest, Run.</li> <li>• v22. False Messiahs and prophets will perform signs and wonders to deceive even the elect. The False Prophet in <b>Rev 13:11-14</b> calls fire down from heaven and deceives people with signs and wonders. <b>Why are people gullible for glitter?</b></li> </ul>
13:24-31	<p><b>After the Tribulation – The Return of Christ</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv24-25. Astronomical events occur (sun &amp; moon darkened, stars falling). Recent hype fixated on "four blood moons" (see <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blood_moon_prophecy">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blood_moon_prophecy</a>)</li> <li>• vv26-27. The elected are collected. This passage could allude to a post-tribulation rapture (depending on one's assumptions). From a Pre-Tribulation rapture perspective, the elect being gathered at the end of the tribulation are those saints who got saved after the rapture and went through the tribulation, and will enter into the Millennial alive.</li> <li>• vv28-31. Parable of the Fig Tree. "...this generation (lit. race) will not pass away" alludes to the Jewish nation"                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ The only thing outlasting heaven &amp; earth is God's word</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
13:32-37	<p><b>Take Heed – Keep on the Alert – For You Do Not Know</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Now, how do we stay alert? What do we need to do?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pray for wisdom? <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for escape routes? <input type="checkbox"/> Hide?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pray for persecuted saints? <input type="checkbox"/> Be bold in our witness?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Be faithful in all things? <input type="checkbox"/> Run scared? <input type="checkbox"/> Skip church?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS**

- Jesus said it best in vs 37 – "What I say unto you, I say unto everyone – Watch (KJV) – Stay Awake (ESV) – Be Alert (NASB).

**NEXT WEEK: Mark 14.** The longest chapter (72 verses). Topics include the last supper, anointing of Jesus with expensive oil, Judas' betrayals, Peter's denial

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(See Matthew 25:21)

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HOLD UP...WE ALSO FORGOT TO CARRY A ONE ON PAGE THREE