

The Gospel According To MARK
Chapter 13:1-13
“JESUS PREDICTS THE FUTURE!”

This chapter is known as the “Olivet Discourse.” In this chapter Jesus will explain the future of: (1) the Jewish **Temple** (v1-2); (2) **Global** events leading up to and into “The Great Tribulation” (v3-13); (3) **Israel**, the antichrist, the Great Tribulation, and His Second Coming (v14-27); (4) When will this be, “learn the parable of the **fig tree**” (v28-31); (5) “WATCH” and be READY for the “**rapture of the church**” (v32-37).

I) The Temple will be Destroyed (v1-2)

Jesus referring to the Temple said, “*that not one stone shall be left upon another.*” How could this happen? The temple was one of the most impressive structures in the world, made of massive blocks of stone bedecked with gold ornamentation. Some of the stones in the temple complex measured 40x12x12 ft. and weighing several tons. The temple buildings were made of gleaming white marble, and the whole eastern wall of the large main structure was covered with gold plates that reflected the morning sun, making a spectacle that was visible for miles. The Roman General Titus and his army fulfilled this prophecy in 70 A.D. squelching a Jewish revolt, killing some 1,100,000 Jews. The Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, who witnessed the event, chronicles the horrible scene in his book the *Jewish War*. We are told that a multitude of Jews ran into the Temple for safety, but a Roman soldier hurled a flaming torch into the Temple creating a fiery furnace, cremating the Jews, also melting much of the gold amongst the stones in the walls. Titus then built large wooden scaffolds around the walls of the temple buildings, piled them high with wood and other flammable items, and set them ablaze. The heat from the fires was so intense that the stones crumbled. The rubble was then sifted to retrieve the melted gold, and the remaining ruins were thrown down into the Kidron Valley, thus fulfilling the prophecy of Jesus.

II) Two Questions Regarding the Last days (v3)

(1) *When will these things be?* (The Temple destroyed.) This information is given to us in **Luke 21:20-24**, let’s read. (2) *What will be the sign of your coming?* This is unveiled in Matthew 24:4-31 (global events, Israel, the great tribulation, and Christ’s second coming).

III) Jesus gives us Seven Signs of The End Times- (v4-14)

#1 - **DECEPTION (Spiritual) (v5-6) - Many false Christs deceiving many** - The word *deceive* is to *lead away from the truth, to lead into error*. Notice our Lord says that they will come in His name, **Jesus** means “Jehovah is salvation,” **Christ** is “anointed one” or “Messiah.” Throughout history many have called themselves the “anointed one” or “Messiah,” or refer to themselves as the “the way of salvation.” Observe the major religions of the world ranked by number of adherents (estimates): Christianity 33% (includes cults), Islam 22%, Hinduism 15%, Buddhism 6%, other religions 10%, Nonreligious 14%. Within Christianity we are warned about deception by Paul in 2 Cor 11:3-4 - *But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted — you may well put up with it!*

#2 - DESTRUCTION (Wars) (v7-8a) – Nation (ethnos) against nation (ethnos), kingdom against kingdom –Ethnos speaks of ethnic group against ethnic group, we have become well acquainted with the term “ethnic cleansing.” Kingdom speaks of an empire. Currently our world is on the precipice of destruction, surviving two World Wars, and poised for a third. Even the prophet Zechariah foretells the use of nuclear weapons (Zechariah 14:12). The neutron bomb melts (dissolves) its victims – just as God warned 2500 years ago – “*Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, And their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths*”. This was unimaginable in Zechariah’s day.

#3 - Disasters (Earthquakes) (v8b) – The average rate of big earthquakes -- those larger than magnitude 7 -- has been 10 per year since 1979, the study reports. That rate rose to 12.5 per year starting in 1992, and then jumped to 16.7 per year starting in 2010 -- a 65 percent increase compared to the rate since 1979. This increase accelerated in the first three months of 2014 to more than double the average since 1979, the researchers report. *By BECKY OSKINLIVESCIENCE.COM*
July 1, 2014, 10:10 AM

#4 - DEVASTATION (Famine) (v8c) – An estimated 840 million people went hungry in 2002 according to a U.N. report and is expected to climb another 100 million by the year 2015.

#5 - DISEASE “troubles” (v8d) (Mt. 24:7 – “Pestilences”) - Deadly diseases (which the Bible calls “pestilences”) would be common. Emerging diseases such as AIDS, Ebola, Hanta virus, Dengue, West Nile, SARS, bird flu, etc., underscore this fact. The estimated total number of people living in the US with an incurable STD is over 65 million. Every year, there are approximately 15 million new cases of STDs, a few of which are curable.

> News article reads - Natural Hazards | Pestilence & Disease Types of Disease

Only six diseases are responsible for nearly 90% of infection-related deaths among people under 44 years of age. These are: **AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis, Measles, Diarrhoeal Diseases, Respiratory Illness**

AIDS - 42 million people are infected with HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). Sub-Saharan Africa is the worst hit area, with an estimated 29.4 million people known to be carrying the virus. The HIV pandemic also affects eastern Europe and Asia. India has nearly 4 million people living with HIV and 1.2 million AIDS orphans. On average, the time between infection by the HIV virus and the development of AIDS is ten years. AIDS is characterised by the failure of the immune system, making those affected more likely to develop infections such as pneumonia, tuberculosis and cancers. These infections are the cause of death for 90% of those who contract AIDS.

Malaria - Malaria is the second largest killer disease (after tuberculosis). Half a billion people suffer periodic attacks of Malaria and the disease kills an estimated 2 million people each year. More than 40% of the worlds population lives in high-risk areas, 90% of the malaria cases reported are in sub-Saharan Africa. Malaria is more prevalent in remote rural areas without clean drinking water or adequate health facilities.

Tuberculosis - Tuberculosis claims 3 million people a year. Approximately one third of the worlds population is infected. Ten million new active cases are reported each year. On average, one person dies from tuberculosis every 15 seconds. An added danger is the apparent alliance between TB bacillus (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) and HIV. HIV renders a TB carrier 30 times more likely to develop active TB. The World Health Organisation predicts that by 2020 nearly one billion people will be newly infected with TB.

Measles - There are 30 million cases of measles a year, nearly one million children die of measles a year.

(v8e) All these are the beginning of sorrows – Sorrows in the Greek is *oodin - the pain of childbirth, travail-pain, birth-pang*. Jesus says that these global events will increase in severity and greater rapidity like a woman giving birth.

#6 - DIVISION (Social, Political, Religious) (v9)

(v9) – Jesus says that Christians will be persecuted, some 4 to 6 million were martyred in the first 300 years of the church, yet in the last century an estimated 170 million people have been killed through Communism and the Nazis regime. Stalin killed some 60 million people during his communist reign, and lest we forget Mao’s slaughter of millions in his communist revolution. Today we see a tremendous slaughter of Christians, Jews and non-converts by Muslims throughout the world, since its inception Islam has killed over 270 million people.

(v10) To endure is to persevere through it all, and the word saved is *soozoo* – which is to save, to keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction. Jesus said in Matthew 24 **“Lawlessness will abound and the love of many will grow cold” – Paul writes in 2 Timothy 3:1-5 we read, *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!***

> Christians must endure and be assured, listen to Romans 8:37-39 comes to light, *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

#7 – DECLARATION (Gospel proclaimed to the whole world) (v10) – According to the *United Bible Society* portions or all of the Bible have been translated into over 2,300 languages and dialects covering over 90% of the world’s population. Truly every nation of the world has heard the message of Christmas and Easter, that is the Christian faith, this means **“THE END IS NOW! ARE YOU SAVED?”**

(v11-13) This verse suggests professing believers will fall away and even turn against “one another” in shocking acts of spiritual treachery. Those who fall away in such a manner give evidence that they were not true believers. (ref. - 2 Thess. 2:3; Rev. 3:14-22)

(The Scriptures warn us again and again of many *false prophets* coming to deceive – ref. – 2 Peter Ch. 2; 2 Tim. 4:1-4; 1 Tim. 1:-3; 2 Corin. Ch. 11. Listen to Paul’s warning, 2 Cor 11:13-15 - *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.*

Let’s “endure” and “spread the gospel” – Matthew 13:18-30.

Remember the ACTS formula for survival: Acts 2:38-47

#1 - Get SAVED! (v38-41)

#2 – Study the WORD OF GOD! (v42a)

#3 – Be in FELLOWSHIP and BREAK BREAD! (v42b)

#4 – Be a man or woman of PRAYER! (v42c)

#5 – BLESS ONE ANOTHER! (v44-45)

#6 – EVERYONE PRAISE GOD ALWAYS! (v46-47a)

#7 – Be a SOUL-WINNER! (v47b)