

# WHEN SHALL THESE THINGS BE

## MARK 13:1-13

Text:

Introduction:

This passage is known as The Olivet Discourse. This sermon was preached by the Lord and is also recorded in Matthew 24-25 and in Luke 21.

In this message the Lord speaks about the end of time and the events that will be at the end of the world.

In order to fully understand this passage we need to keep a few truths in mind.

- First, this passage never mentions the church or the Rapture. Why? It doesn't mention these things because this passage was not written to the church, it was written to the nation of Israel.
- Second, this prophecy covers a tremendous expanse of time. Over 3,000 years of human history are in view here. These verses contain prophecies that have been partially fulfilled and that will be completely fulfilled in the future.

- Third, as with any prophetic passage of Scripture, we need to move cautiously and with the knowledge that no one has all the answers. Thus, we must approach these great verses with a humble heart, knowing that none of us knows it all.

With those thoughts in mind, let's listen in on this conversation between Jesus and His disciples, as He teaches them about the events that will characterize the end of time.

## 1. A PORTRAIT

### A. There Will Be False Messiahs (vs. 6)

#### **Mark 13:6**

<sup>6</sup>For many shall come in my name, saying, I am *Christ*; and shall deceive many.

Jesus said that many false Christ's would come along and draw many away into deception.

There were some even living during the time of Christ. Many more have followed down through the years.

#### **Acts 5:36-37**

<sup>36</sup>For before these days rose up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to nought. <sup>37</sup>After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people

after him: he also perished; and all, *even* as many as obeyed him, were dispersed.

As the end of time approaches, there will be more and more people who will step forward claiming to be the savior of the world. Beware that you are not deceived by their slick words and evil deception. The appearance of such people is merely a sign that the end is approaching.

## B. There Will Be Wars (vs. 7)

### **Mark 13:7**

<sup>7</sup> And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for *such things* must needs be; but the end *shall* not *be* yet.

Our world has been marked by war since the beginning of time.

We are seeing that prove true in our day. Wars ravage our planet, even as man claims to be climbing ever higher on the ladder of intelligence, compassion and peace.

When the United States invaded Iraq, many believed it was the end of time. All those who believed that were wrong!

Jesus said, "these things must needs be." That is, God is using the terrible tragedy of war to shape the world for

the coming of His Son. God uses the wrath of men for His Own glory! Do not be dismayed by warfare, it is merely God moving His pieces into place for the end game.

### C. Constant Upheaval In the World (vs. 8)

#### **Mark 13:8**

<sup>8</sup>For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these *are* the beginnings of sorrows.

Jesus tells us that as long as the world stands, there will be strife among the nations.

### D. An Increase In Earthquake (vs. 8)

#### **Mark 13:8**

<sup>8</sup>For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these *are* the beginnings of sorrows.

This world is no stranger to earthquakes. Scientists tell us that more than 13 million people have died in earthquakes over the past 4,000 years. We saw with our own eyes what an earthquake can do when a powerful quake occurred under the Pacific Ocean in December of 2003. That earthquake spawned a tsunami that killed 300,000 people!

Earthquakes are increasing in their frequency and their intensity. They will continue to do so as the end of time approaches. But, we should not be disturbed by such activity. Jesus said it would be this way!

### E. Famines (vs. 8)

#### **Mark 13:8**

<sup>8</sup>For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these *are* the beginnings of sorrows.

Every 3.6 seconds someone dies of starvation. Every year 15 million children die of starvation and of hunger related illness. 4 million people starve to death every year. 1.3 billion People live on less than \$1.00 of income per day. Another 3 billion survive on less than \$3.00 per day.

### F. Trouble of Every Kind (vs. 8)

#### **Mark 13:8**

<sup>8</sup>For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these *are* the beginnings of sorrows.

In Matthew's record of this message he tells us that these troubles include "pestilence." There will be an upsurge in disease and plagues as the end times approach.

Many years ago Europe was afflicted with “black death”. Entire villages were destroyed.

We may think something like that cannot happen today. Just stop to think of the AIDS epidemic. It is estimated that 70% of the people in Africa are HIV positive. Think of the SARS and Bird Flu scares.

### G. Hardship (vs. 9-10)

#### **Mark 13:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them. <sup>10</sup> And the gospel must first be published among all nations.

1. Religious rulers
2. Political rulers

This prophecy was fulfilled in the Book of Acts

- Acts 4 – Peter and John face the Sanhedrin and give an account of the healing of the lame man at the Temple.
- Acts 7 – Stephen is tried by the Sanhedrin and is condemned to die.

- Acts 9:22-25 – The Jews want to kill Paul for His preaching.
- Acts 12 – James and Peter are arrested by King Herod. They are imprisoned and scheduled to be executed. James is beheaded, but Peter is delivered by a divine miracle.
- Acts 14:19 – Paul is stoned and left for dead at Lystra.
- Acts 16:19-24 – Paul and Silas are imprisoned in Philippi.
- Acts 18:12-17 – Paul is persecuted in Macedonia.
- Acts 19 – Paul is arrested and tried in Ephesus.
- Acts 21 – Paul is arrested and held for trial in Jerusalem.
- Acts 24 – Paul is tried before Felix.
- Acts 26 – Paul is tried before Festus and King Agrippa.
- Acts 27-28 – Paul is kept under arrest and sent by ship to stand trial before Caesar. Paul remains a prisoner in Rome until he is executed by the Romans.

## H. Hatred (vs. 12-13)

### **Mark 13:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against *their* parents, and shall cause them to be put to death. <sup>13</sup> And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Jesus tells them that “they will be hated...for my name’s sake”. The reason the world hates the believer is because the world hates Jesus. This world is energized and controlled by Satan.

## **2. A PROMISE (VS. 11)**

### **Mark 13:11**

<sup>11</sup> But when they shall lead *you*, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

When the disciples find themselves under this kind of persecution, they can expect help from God. The Lord will give them exactly what they need when they stand at the seat of power and give an account for their preaching. God’s promise is that the Spirit Himself will fill the disciples and give them the very words they need to defend the faith they have preached. God promises direct, divine help to aid those persecuted for their faith.



Close:

What are we to do with a message like this?

First, I would encourage anyone here who has never received Jesus as Savior to come to Him and be saved today.

I understand that a message on the persecution of the saints does not make many people want to become one.

However, believing the Gospel and even dying for Jesus is far better than living in peace and dying without Him.

All those who die for Him will go to Heaven, while all those who die without Him will go to Hell.

Second, I would call all true believers to examine their hearts.

Are you committed to Jesus, even to the point of death? Or do you shy away from even a simple confrontation at school or work?

Are you willing to go to prison if need be?

Are you willing to suffer for the Lord's sake? Are you will to go to your death for Jesus if that is His will for your life?

We also should pray for those in the world who are being persecuted for Christ sake.

Pray for those who are paying for their faith with the blood. Pray for them and then pray for us that we will have the same resolve should we be called on to walk the path of persecution.