

Introduction

- A. Last Sunday began Mark 13 = Jesus Answers Questions about the End Times. (Show)
 - a. Longest sermon in Mark's gospel. Called the Olivet Discourse. (Show Illustration)¹
 - b. 2 days before crucified, totally tranquil & calm, Jesus laid out course of history.
 - c. What comfort it is for us! Jesus knows future & directs future. (Show Mark 13:23)²
 - d. We can have the same tranquility & calmness He had, for we know He's in control.
- B. In this sermon Jesus answers 2 questions: What will happen? When will it happen?
 - a. 1st question Jesus answers from two sides: false signs of the end & true signs.
 - b. Last wk. we saw 4 False Signs of the End Times, vv. 1-13. (Show)³
 - c. As see these events unfold, not be alarmed/carried away. Only beginning birth pains.
 - i. Every mother knows when birth pains start, there are more to come.
 - ii. And it could be a long time before the baby appears.
- C. As Jesus continued, He got to positive side of what will happen: True Signs of the End.

I. What Is The Key Sign, v. 14?

- A. Abomination Desolation (reader understand = decoding signal, Daniel 9:27;11:31;12:11)⁴
- B. Three Concepts Involved. (Show What Is It? Image)⁵
 - 1. **Abomination** = pagan idol worship & its abominable practices.
 - 2. **Standing where he ought not to be** = from Daniel refers to the Temple sanctuary.
 - 3. **Desolation = presence of idolatrous person/object so detestable, temple abandoned.**⁶

II. When Will This Sign Happen, vv. 14-23?

- A. Multiple Fulfillments
 - 1. Prophetic signs many times have more than one fulfillment.
 - 2. There is a near event that foreshadows a farther event with a time gap in-between.
- B. Three Fulfillments (Show)⁷
 - 1. **Past, 167B.C., Antioches IV Epiphanes**
 - a. Syrian ruler who conquered Jerusalem & forced Greek culture on the Jews.
 - b. Forbid circumcision/sacrifices. Sacrificed pig on altar. Set up brothel in Temple.
 - c. **On 15th day Chislew, 145thyr, erected desolating sacrilege on altar of burnt offering.**⁸
 - d. Statue of Zeus erected. Jews abandoned Temple until Maccabean revolt.
 - 2. **Short future, 66-70A.D., Jewish Zealots & Roman Army.**

¹ <https://heiscomingblog.files.wordpress.com/2015/09/3rd-version-header-graphic-for-bp-report3.png>. Accessed 9/22/17.

² <https://www.jarofquotes.com/quotes/85396.jpg>. Accessed 9/28/17.

³ www.bethelmarquette.org. Pastor's Corner, Sermons, Mark 13:1-13, September 24, 2017.

⁴ Grassmick, J. D. (1985). Mark. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*. Vol. 2, p. 169. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

⁵ <https://abeau11.files.wordpress.com/2015/04/abomination-of-desolation-what-is-it.jpg?w=350&h=200&crop=1>. 9/28/17.

⁶ Grassmick, op. cit., Vol. 2, p. 169.

⁷ Abomination of Desolation. <http://satan-evicted.com/images/sf02.gif>. Accessed 9/28/17.

⁸ 1 Maccabees 1:54. Hughes, R. K. (1989). *Mark: Jesus, servant and savior*. Vol. 2, p. 140. Westchester, IL: Crossway Books.

- a. Jews revolted against Rome in 66. Amidst turmoil Zealots took control Temple.
 - i. Let criminals into holy/holies. Murdered priests. Installed fake high priest.
 - ii. When Rome conquered Jerusalem, raised image of emperor over Temple.
 - iii. Abomination of 66 by Zealots led to complete desolation of 70 by Romans.
- b. Things Jesus said literally happened, vv. 14-23.
 - i. FLEE, v. 14. In 66 great numbers of people fled Jerusalem, many Christians.
 - a) The people of the church at Jerusalem...had been commanded to depart from the city before the war, and to inhabit a certain city of Perea. They called it Pella. And when those who believed in Christ had removed from Jerusalem...the Justice of God then visited...by destroying that generation of wicked persons root and branch from among men.⁹
 - b) Left the city like swimmers deserting a sinking ship.¹⁰
 - ii. HASTE, vv. 15-16 – Fled in haste w/o taking possessions.
 - iii. DIFFICULTY, vv. 17-18 – some halted by flooded Jordon, slaughtered at banks.¹¹
 - iv. Unparalleled distress, vv. 19-20.
 - a) The upper rooms were full of women and children that were dying by famine; and the lanes of the city were full of the dead bodies of the aged; the children also and the young men wandered about the marketplaces like shadows, all swelled with the famine, and fell down dead wheresoever their misery seized them.¹²
 - v. DECEPTION, vv. 21-22. False prophets predicted God's rescue right to end.¹³
 - vi. Jesus warning proved exactly true, v. 23.
3. Distant future, Antichrist, Coming Tribulation Period
 - a. Thumbnail sketch of Tribulation. Daniel = 7yrs left in Israel's prophetic history.
 - i. In end times, Antichrist covenant w/Jews. Temple rebuilt. Worship restarted.
 - ii. Midpoint, 3.5yrs, break covenant, desecrate Temple, proclaim self God.
 - iii. Terrible events called Great Tribulation begin. Severe persecution.
 - iv. Many be forced to flee. Many will be martyred, Revelation 6:9-11.
 - b. Several details in text indicate Jesus is referring to Great Tribulation yet to come.
 - i. Jesus called abomination of desolation "**HE.**" Clear reference future person.
 - ii. Verse 19 echoes Daniel 12:1 = end time prophecy.
 - iii. Such...as has not been...and never will be indicates another time to come.
 - iv. Those days, vv. 19, 24 = O.T. prophetic phrase for the end, see Joel 3:1.
 - v. He shortened the days = by Jesus return to defeat Antichrist, Rev. 19:11-21.

⁹ Stevenson, J. (1987). *A New Eusebius: Documents Illustrating the History of the Church to AD 337* (pp. 5–6). London: SPCK.

¹⁰ Josephus, F., & Whiston, W. (1987). *The works of Josephus*. Wars II, xx 1. Peabody: Hendrickson.

¹¹ Ibid., Wars IV, vii 5 (434-35).

¹² Ibid., Wars V, xii 3 (513).

¹³ Keener, C. S. (1993). *The IVP Bible background commentary: New Testament*. Mk. 13:21-23. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

III. Is This Sign Near?

A. Answer

1. It could be near. It's not clear that it is near.
2. How's that for speaking out of both sides of my mouth. Maybe. Maybe not.

B. Two Events Must Happen

- ① Israel must be regathered & living in their own land. True since 1949 (U.N.).
 - a. ½ million in Palestine in 1949. Today 6.5 million Jews in Nation of Israel.¹⁴
- ② Temple must be rebuilt & worship reestablished. (Show 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)¹⁵
 - b. Jesus said when you see him standing where he does not belong = Temple.
 - c. Temple must be rebuilt and worship reestablished.
3. Problem, isn't there? Dome of the Rock sits on Temple site in Jerusalem. (Show)¹⁶
 - a. This Muslim sacred site sits right on the Temple mount.
 - b. Attempt build another Jewish Temple would enrage Islam worldwide.
 - c. Israel does not seem prepared to do that – YET. Someday they will.

IV. Will We Be Here?

B. View of Rapture

1. Rapture = catching up of the church taken to heaven. 2nd Coming = Jesus to earth.
2. Two phases of Jesus' coming again. Jesus is clearly describing His 2nd Coming.
 - a. Cosmic disturbances signify God's wrath poured out during Tribulation, vv. 24-25.
 - b. Jesus will return to earth, v. 26. Will gather believers to enter His kingdom, v. 27.

C. Will Christians Go Thru the Tribulation or Be Raptured Before It?

1. No verse proves the timing of the Rapture. We cannot be dogmatic here.
2. But some verses suggest the Tribulation is not God's purpose for His church today.
 - a. (Show 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10)¹⁷ Rev. 6:17 says God's wrath has come in Trib.
 - b. But this says when Jesus comes in Rapture, believers delivered from coming wrath.
 - c. I can't be dogmatic. But this seems to promise rescue from coming Tribulation.
3. But there is another question. If you're not a Christian, will you be here for Tribulation?
 - a. Yes you will. We can debate whether Christians will be Raptured or not.
 - b. But if you are not a Christian, you will not be taken in the Rapture.
 - c. If you are alive then, you will be left behind to suffer God's wrath.
 - d. Listen to what you will experience. (Show 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12)¹⁸
 - e. This is the fate of those left behind when Jesus comes for His church.

¹⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Israel. Accessed 9/29/17.

¹⁵ http://images.slideplayer.com/39/11083393/slides/slide_2.jpg. Accessed 9/29/17.

¹⁶ Dome of the Rock. https://pixabay.com/p-331375/?no_redirect. Accessed 9/28/17.

¹⁷ http://images.slideplayer.com/27/9051784/slides/slide_25.jpg. Accessed 9/28/17.

¹⁸ <https://www.slideshare.net/mail2jimmy123/last-days-apostasy-presentation>. Slide 9. Accessed 9/28/17.