

MARK: OUR PREACHING MANUAL

FIFTH DIVISION

V. 10:1-13:37 *WHEN WILL THE MESSIAH ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM?*

FIFTH SECTION: *THE END*

Mark 13:3-37

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V. 10:1-13:37 WHEN WILL THE MESSIAH ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM?

FROM ... UNTIL	RIGHT ORDER	HARVEST TIME	NOW AND THEN	UNKNOWN HOUR
<p>10:1 The Crowds</p> <p>They gathered to him and Jesus taught as his custom was</p>	<p>10:32-34 To Jerusalem</p> <p>Jesus taught the 12:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Death 2. Resurrection 	<p>11:12-14 The fig tree</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leaves 2. Fruitless 3. Cursed 	<p>12:13-17 Tribute?</p> <p>Do we pay Caesar?</p> <p>Whose image is on the coin?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To Caesar 2. To God 	<p>13:3-13 The Signs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When 2. What sign? <p>Watch out!</p>
<p>10:2-12 The Pharisees</p> <p>Divorce?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moses? 2. In the creation? 	<p>10:35-40 2 disciples request to be seated either side of him in his kingdom</p> <p>Baptism and cup</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suffering 2. Glory 	<p>11:15-19 The temple cleansing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "House of prayer" or 2. "Den of thieves"? <p>Jesus cleansed the temple</p>	<p>12:18-27 Marriage?</p> <p>Whose will she be in the resurrection (future)?</p> <p>Ignorance of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Scriptures 2. God's power and life 	<p>13:14-23 The Great Tribulation</p> <p>When you see ...</p>
<p>10:13-16 The Children</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus blessed them 2. Receive the kingdom as a child 	<p>10:41-45 The 10</p> <p>They were angered by the request of the 2 disciples</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Servant-great 2. Slave-first 	<p>11:20-26 The dried up fig tree</p> <p>From the roots!</p> <p>Our roots:</p> <p>Prayer mixed with</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Faith and 2. Forgiveness 	<p>12:28-34 Commandments?</p> <p>The greatest command:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Love God 2. Love neighbor <p>Present wisdom brought scribe near future kingdom</p>	<p>13:24-27 The Coming</p> <p>In those days after ... men will see ...</p>
<p>10:17-22 A Rich Man</p> <p>Why call Jesus good?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All the commandments 2. Give all and follow me <p>The rich man</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Goes away 2. Sad 	<p>10:46-52 Blind Bartimaeus</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The popular Jesus cared for 2. The despised Bartimaeus who rose and followed 	<p>11:27-33 The temple challenge</p> <p>Authority:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Human or 2. Heavenly <p>Who had it?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The priests, or 2. John and Jesus? 	<p>12:35-40 Jesus taught in the temple</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Messiah 2. Lord <p>The Scribes' present actions and future condemnation</p>	<p>13:28-31 The Fig Tree</p> <p>When you see leaves come out, summer is near</p>
<p>10:23-31 The Disciples</p> <p>How hard for the rich!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forsake all 2. Rewarded in this life and coming age <p>The correct order</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First to be last 2. Last to be first 	<p>11:1-11 Jesus' Triumphal Entry</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He rode humbly on a donkey 2. They exalted him in praises 	<p>12:1-12 The vineyard</p> <p>The owner sent for the fruit</p> <p>The tenants rejected the servants and son of the owner</p> <p>The vineyard would go from the evil tenants to others</p>	<p>12:41-13:2 Jesus observed the people and the present temple buildings and stones</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A widow gave all 2. The rich gave little <p>No stones to be left of the temple in the future</p>	<p>13:32-37 The day and the hour</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be on guard! 2. Be alert! <p>Watch!</p>

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V. 10:1-13:37 *WHEN WILL THE MESSIAH ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM?*

FIFTH SECTION: *THE END*

Mark 13:3-37

Corresponding PowerPoint® presentation:
181_Mark_PREACHERS_The_End_5th_division_5th_section_presentation

Watch Out, Don't Worry, Understand, Beware, Learn, Know, Watch And Pray!

The outline:

Collision course

When and what?

- I. The beginning of birth pains 13:3-13
 - Frightening and comforting
 - If it started like this, where would it all end?
- II. The unequalled days of distress 13:14-24
 - Super intense
 - Abomination
 - Disaster in 70AD
 - Pray
 - In the clouds
 - Be alert
- III. The Son of Man comes in the clouds 13:24-27
 - Gurus here and there, and everywhere
 - Cosmic travel
- IV. The summer of the fig tree 13:28-31
 - The life of the temple
 - The temple generation
- V. The day and hour unknown 13:32-37
 - The Father's reserve
 - Watch!
 - Always at work

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Review

Questions to aid in the study of Mark 13:3-37

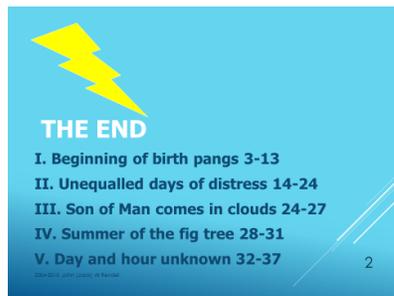


Collision course

Things were coming to a head in Jerusalem. Opposition from the leaders to Jesus was at a pitch. They had religious group after group try to catch him in his words. He in turn pointed out the ignorance and hypocrisies of these men. There would be no turning back. Jesus and those in power were on a collision course.

At the beginning of chapter 13 Jesus informed his disciples of the coming disasters on Jerusalem and its temple. As they gazed on those magnificent buildings Jesus told them not one stone would be left on top of another!

To the disciples Jesus' words sounded apocalyptic. This brought questions from them about the end of the world.



.When and what?

As Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple with four of his disciples, Peter, James, John and Andrew they asked him two questions. One question was a “when” question and the other was a “what” question.

"Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished (13:4 ESV)?" Jesus' response was unusual in a sense. Jesus told them what would happen but not exactly when it would happen. If you were planning to meet with someone for a business meeting or for an outing of some kind you would fix both the event and the date and time. Jesus did tell them about the events that would take place but he said, for example, that the day and hour of the return of the Son of Man only the Father knew.

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However what Jesus told his disciples about the end was in the tradition of the Old Testament prophets. They foretold many things to come, even many things about the Messiah, but they did not put exact dates and hours to those events. Jesus did do something else. He simply told his followers to *be alert* and to *watch*. So, to try to work out when things will happen exactly is a dangerous hobby!

The first two sections of Jesus' answer were the longest.

I. The Beginning Of Birth Pains 13:3-13



Frightening and comforting

The first section, verses 3 to 13, were warnings and instructions about the times leading up to the end.

- 1) Jesus warned about deception in verses 5 and 6.
- 2) He told them of wars, earthquakes and famines to come in verses 7 and 8.
- 3) He warned them of the persecution to fall on them as His witnesses. They would be given words by the Holy Spirit as explained in verses 9 to 11.
- 4) He spelled out the details of rejection within families and by all men, as well as the perseverance of those saved, in verses 12 and 13.

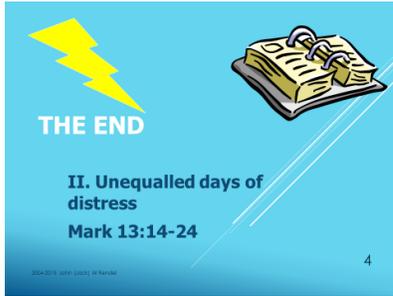
Jesus had some very frightening things to share with his disciples. He bit the bullet and told them but his words were comforting as well. “... *do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit (13:11b ESV).*”

If it started like this, where would it all end?

It was upsetting enough to hear the temple would be torn down. Now Jesus added other catastrophes both personal and worldwide. Wars, famines, earthquakes, persecution, trials, family rejection and ostracism. Where would it all end?

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II. The unequalled days of distress 13:14-24



Super intense

The second section verses 14 to 23 tell us that there is coming a period of unparalleled distress. Jesus put it this way, “... *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 (13:19 ESV).*”

There will be days of distress but there is a time at which it all intensifies to a degree never before seen, nor ever again to be seen. If what proceeds this period is the beginning of birth pains then this is the actual birth! The pains of birth!

Abomination

Jesus introduced this unusual period with a sign. Jesus calls it the abomination that causes desolation.

In verse 14 he began the second section with the words, “When you see...” But were those four men to see that sign in their own life time? Probably not. Why? A few words later – Mark interjects, “(let the reader understand [13:14 ESV]).” These events could take place long after the apostles passed from the scene.

The abomination that causes desolation is mentioned 3 times in Daniel’s prophecy in 9:27; 11:31; and 12:11. The passage refers to a powerful person who stops the daily temple sacrifice and sets up an abomination there.

Disaster in 70AD

In 70AD the Romans desecrated and destroyed the temple, and those were days of distress. But were those days of distress the days referred to here? Were those days in 70 AD of the intensity mentioned here? Probably not. Besides these days of unparalleled distress would be followed by the coming of the Son of man in the clouds with power and glory.

This passage implies that there will be a temple. Reference is made to people living in Judea. When they see the abomination that causes desolation let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains!

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Pray

We find another command that the Lord gave right here, that of praying that it would not happen in winter (13:18). Because of the desolation and the suffering that there would be at that time the people were to flee to the mountains and those who lived at the time to pray that it did not occur in winter. We can imagine that because of the cold the ones that fled would suffer even more.

In the clouds

Later the Lord told them not to believe those who say, *“Look, here is the Christ!” or ‘Look, there he is (13:21 ESV)!’* Why? Because many would come in his name lying about their identity. We should remember what the angels said to the disciples that day that they looked up into the clouds when Jesus went away from them to heaven. They said that Jesus would return in the same way in which he went from them. David Gooding shared a telling observation with us on one occasion. If someone tells you that they have found Jesus, in the person of their guru, who lives in Boston, or in Los Angeles, or in Seoul, or in London, or in Calcutta, you can know with a certainty that he is not the true Christ, because the true Christ will come in the clouds.

Be alert

There is one more thing. The Lord insisted that his followers pay attention and they be alert, because he had notified them of these things before they happen. It is clear that amongst very good and consecrated believers we are not all in agreement about the signs and times of the end. I don't think we have to be in agreement about every detail. It is impossible to know who is a hundred percent right, until those things happen. The Lord gave us many details so that we can know *what is going to happen*, but as far as *when*, we have to be alert! So, as far as future events go, Jesus has given us many details. As for the timing, he said, “Be alert!”

We should ask two questions:

1. Do I know the details of future events?
2. Am I alert, looking, praying and waiting?

III. The Son of man comes in the clouds 24-27



Gurus here and there, and everywhere

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There will be signs in the heavens. And as we said before, if a guru that lives in Boston, USA, says that he is the Christ, we know that that claim does not agree with what Jesus told us, for he is coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

Cosmic travel

There is something else. The angels will collect his chosen from the four winds, from the four corners of the earth to the extremes of the heavens. No one will have to travel anywhere to meet the Christ. God will take charge of the trips at that time! It is apparent he will need neither cars, nor trains, nor airplanes.

IV. The summer of the fig tree 13:28-31



The life of the temple

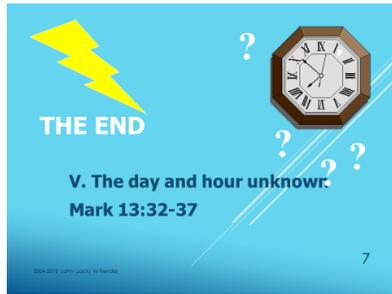
Then Jesus told them a parable. It is a story that represents a reality. It is the description of a fig tree in summer. The leaves come out and it is the sign that the summer is near. I believe that the fig tree represents Israel, and that the summer is the time of the end of which Jesus is speaking. The leaves would represent the life of the temple, but as in the time of Jesus, a "life" without fruit. Not much later Jesus cursed a fig tree that represented Israel and its temple life at that time (chapter 11:12ff). Jesus used the same figure for Israel and its temple for a future time. And since Israel has returned to its land after almost 2000 years, what remains to be established is the "religious life" of the temple, because the temple has not yet been built.

The temple generation

At the same time one does get the impression that when the temple has been built and the life of temple has begun, that everything will happen in that generation that lives at the time. Jesus put a great emphasis in the truthfulness, reality, and power of his words, saying that heaven and earth will pass away, but his words would never pass away.

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V. The day and hour unknown 13:32-37



The Father's reserve

Then Jesus made reference to the time, to the day and hour, of his coming. Nobody knows but the Father. It was at the beginning of the 1990's that while boarding the subway in one of the largest cities of the world, a man spoke to me having seen the Bible that I was carrying. We were going to a meeting on Sunday to preach. That man surprised me when he told me that Jesus would return to earth on the 23rd of November of that year. We showed him this passage in Mark 13, and we explained to him that nobody knew the hour or day of Jesus' return. His answer was that if we were "in the spirit" we could know, just as the apostle John was "in the spirit" when he received his vision of the Revelation of Jesus Christ on the island of Patmos. We insisted that the words of Jesus were very clear. His idea of being "in the spirit" did not give us the right to believe that we could know something, if Jesus had said that we could not know it. Besides we told him that the revelation to John was something very special being an apostle, and being one through whom God revealed the Scriptures.

Watch!

Jesus made a comparison with the owner of a house. The owner left his servants in charge assigning to them different tasks and he said to the door man to be alert. Jesus was going to leave his followers in charge of his spiritual house, and so to each generation of his servants. So he told them to watch. Jesus insisted that his exhortation was not just for those present but for every follower. We must watch! We will not be prepared for his return if we don't watch. If we watch we don't need to know when Jesus will return because we will be prepared for him whenever he comes.

Always at work

Let's return to the question, "When will he do his work?" We see that he is always doing his work, since the creation, until he comes for a second time. He never left his creation alone. He will never leave us alone. HE IS ALWAYS DOING HIS WORK!



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Review

- I. The beginning of birth pangs 3-13 Stress and distress build.
- II. Unequalled days of distress 14-24 Then there will be a time of agony.
- III. The son of man comes in the clouds 24-27 Jesus will cut it all short with his return.
- IV. The summer of the fig tree 28-31 The events in Israel and temple life leading up to his return.
- V. The day and hour unknown 32-37 We just do not know! So notice, watch and pray!

Questions to aid in the study of Mark 13:3-37

1. The disciples asked Jesus two questions about the future, *when* and *what*. Which of the two questions did he answer? What did he leave unanswered?
2. What actual commands did Jesus give his disciples in this talk? Please list them.
3. What did he warn them about?
4. How did he comfort their hearts?
5. How were Jesus followers to prepare themselves for the time of the end?
6. What is the Lord doing constantly?