

Jesus' Second Coming

Mark 13:24-37

May 25, 2014

Introduction

I'm excited to get back to the Gospel of Mark after a break when we looked at the Christian Character. I'm excited to get back to the study of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the rest of the Summer, we will focus on the Gospel of Mark and finish it up, Lord willing. I am also thinking about our next series after Mark. I am praying and studying, asking the Lord to show me what He wants us to learn.

Since we have been gone from Mark for a while and there are some of you that are new, I would like to take the time to review what we have learned in Mark.

Jesus is on the Mount of Olives with His disciples. This is on either Tuesday or Wednesday. On Thursday, He will spend His Last Supper with the disciples in the Upper Room. They will then go to the Garden where He will be arrested. He will be on trial during the night, and taken to Pilate on Friday morning. He will be crucified and buried on Friday, all before sundown. On Sunday, He will have risen victoriously and show Himself to His disciples. For our study, He is alone with the disciples on Mount of Olives, answering their question about when the Kingdom is to come.

Remember, Jesus has cursed the Temple by throwing out the moneychangers from the Temple. He has cursed the religion of Judaism for being dead (even though they look alive—this is illustrated in His curing of the fig tree. The tree was full of leaves, but no fruit.). When they leave Jerusalem, the disciples comment to Jesus that the Temple is beautiful, large, and everlasting. Jesus then tells them that the Temple will be destroyed.

This did not set well with the disciples because with Jesus as Messiah, they expect Him to take over the Kingdom. If the Temple is destroyed, then how can there be a Kingdom? They know that the OT talks about the coming, everlasting Kingdom where the Messiah will reign forever, but they are confused with what Jesus is doing. So they ask Him this question: When is the Kingdom coming? When will this happen?

Jesus gives the disciples (and us) the history of the future. He tells us that things will get worse—nations warring with other nations, earthquakes, famine, disasters. He explains to them that these are normal and has been since the Fall. However, everything will be consummated toward the end, and He prepares them for this end. He gives them the signs that the end will happen. He talks about the Great Tribulation starting with the Abomination of Desolation (when the Antichrist is revealed). He warns that when that day happens, those who are alive should run to the mountains for safety. He also warns the people not to believe reports of false Christs appearing in the desert.

Who are these people that Jesus is warning? Disciples? All believers from resurrection to Second Coming? No, He is warning the believers who are alive during the Great Tribulation. He is warning those who have believed in Jesus through the testimonies of the 144,000 Jews, the 2 witnesses in Jerusalem, and the angel flying around proclaiming the everlasting gospel. Jesus tells us that there are signs that the end is near, that His Coming is at hand.

This is our study for today, His Glorious Appearing!

I. The Second Coming (24-27)

Mark 13:24-27 *But in those days, following that distress, 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; 25 the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'* **26** *At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. 27 And He will send His angels and gather His elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.*

- Following that distress
 - Great Tribulation—lasts 3 ½ years
- Heavenly bodies losing their light
 - Jesus uses OT language to describe the events that precede the Second Coming
 - Disciples would have understood this (and so should we)
 - In OT, Jesus' Second Coming is called the Day of the Lord

Isaiah 24:23 *The moon will be abashed, the sun ashamed; for the LORD Almighty will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before its elders, gloriously.*

Joel 2:30-32 *I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. 31 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. 32 And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the survivors whom the LORD calls.*

Amos 5:18-20 *Woe to you who long for the day of the LORD! Why do you long for the day of the LORD? That day will be darkness, not light. 19 It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him. 20 Will not the day of the LORD be darkness, not light—pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?*

Zephaniah 1:14-15, 18 *The great day of the LORD is near—near and coming quickly. Listen! The cry on the day of the LORD will be bitter, the shouting of the warrior there. 15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness, 18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath. In the fire of His jealousy the whole world will be consumed, for He will make a sudden end of all who live in the earth.*

Revelation 6:12-14 *I watched as He opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, 13 and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. 14 The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.*

- Day of the Lord is the Day of Judgment against the wicked
 - No hiding for those who are against Him
- Glorious Appearing
 - In clouds

Revelation 1:7 *Look, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of Him. So shall it be! Amen.*

- Physical clouds?

- Not necessarily—It is physical manifestation of His glory

Exodus 13:21 *By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night.*

Note: The cloud by day and fire by night is the Lord leading His people. These clouds are veiled. His Shekinah Glory is not fully revealed. However when Jesus comes back again, His glory will be fully revealed (in great power and great glory).

- Visible to everyone on earth
 - Everything is dark, and then suddenly blazing light from our Lord
- He will gather His elect
 - Angels
 - They separate the wheat from the tares

Matthew 13:41 *The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will weed out of His kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.*

- They gather the saved from all directions

II. Nearness of His Coming (28-31)

Mark 13:28-31 *Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. 29 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. 30 I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.*

- Illustration
 - Fig tree
 - When it brings forth leaves
 - Buds in early spring
 - Summer is very near
- His Coming is at hand, very close
 - Jesus uses the fig tree illustration in comparison to His Coming
 - When the events I've told you about in (6-23), My Coming is very near
- This generation
 - Who?
 - Believers who are alive during the Great Tribulation, right before His Coming
 - Proof

Mark 13:14 *When you see 'the abomination that causes desolation' Standing where it does not belong—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*

- Who are the readers that Jesus' words are intended for?
 - Disciples?

- Unbelievers?
- All Christians from resurrection to Second Coming?
- Jews only?
- No, Tribulation believers who are living in the last days

Luke 21:27-28 *At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.*

- Validity of His words
 - Trust Me for what I tell you
 - My words cannot be dropped, destroyed, or altered
 - When time passes, keep on believing My word that I will come again

2 Peter 3:1-4 *Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. 2 I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles. 3 First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' He promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."*

III. Watch for His Coming (32-37)

Mark 13:32-37 *No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. 34 It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. 35 Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. 36 If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'*

- Only Father knows
 - Nobody knows the day or hour of Jesus' coming
 - Angels do not know
 - Men do not know (if they predict the date, then it is false prophecy and to be avoided: Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh Day Adventist, Millerites, Harold Camping)
 - Jesus in His humanity did not know
 - As a Man, Jesus set aside His right to know (**Phil 2:6-8**)
 - He trusted fully what His Father would reveal to Him (and His Father did not reveal to Him anything about the date)
 - He was content with not knowing
 - Contrast His attitude with the disciples—they wanted to know
 - After the resurrection, Jesus grasped back His rights
 - He knows what His Father knows

Note: If Jesus did not know the day and hour when He was to come after the resurrection, then how did He unveil the future to John on the island of Patmos? He even shows John His coming!

- It is none of our business to determine when He is coming

Acts 1:6-7 *So when they met together, they asked Him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority."*

- Watch for His coming
 - Illustration
 - Watch
 - Idea of joyful watching
 - The end is near—salvation is coming!
 - What is the reason for believers today to watch for His Coming?
 - His Coming should motivate us for holy living

Romans 13:11-14 *And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*

- His Coming should help us to endure mistreatment

James 5:7-8 *Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.*

Note: The context of this verse is about how to deal with those who are rich and oppresses us. What is to be our attitude? James tells us to be patient and endure it. It is going to be over for a short time!

- His Coming should lead us to holiness

1 Peter 4:7 *The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear-minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.*