

Mark 13:1-13 (Matt 24:1-25,46 & Luke 21:5-36)

Then as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings *are here!*"

² And Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not *one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down.*"

³ Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately, ⁴ "Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?"

⁵ And Jesus, answering them, began to say: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁶ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and will deceive many. ⁷ But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for *such things* must happen, but the end is not yet. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These *are* the beginnings of sorrows.

⁹ "But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them. ¹⁰ And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations.

¹¹ But when they arrest *you* and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. ¹² Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. ¹³ And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved

➤ **This passage is known as the Olivet discourse**

a. Jesus teaches 4 disciples on the last days

I. Take heed – Beware

II. Take heart – Be in faith

III. Take hope – Be at Rest

1. A disciple points out the beauty of the buildings of the temple

2. Why is this disciple pointing out the Temple to Jesus?

a. It may be because of how magnificent it was

- i. The temple complex covered about thirty-five acres. (our current campus 3.3 acres)
- ii. The sanctuary stood one hundred and fifty feet high, as did the temple wall.
- iii. The columns that held up the portico were so massive that three large men could barely
- iv. encompass them by touching fingertip to fingertip.
- v. Josephus tells us that some of the stones that made up the temple were sixty feet long, eleven feet high, and eight feet deep, with each stone weighing more than a million pounds.
- vi. Other historians ... temple looked like a mountain of marble decorated with gold.
- vii. The temple [was] stunning and must have looked strong enough to stand for a thousand years or more. (**Sproul**)
- viii. The temple was the center of the Jewish religious system
- ix. All the ceremonies and sacrifices happened there
- x. Legal issues and commerce happened there

b. I think this disciple may have mentioned the Temple because he didn't have a good grasp of who Jesus is, and felt the need to point things out to Him

- i. Master, the Pharisees are offended with you...
- ii. We don't have enough food...
- iii. Master, we are perishing...

- iv. Lord, allow me to break it down for you

- v. The situation with my job is...

- vi. The situation with my health is...

- vii. Our finances are like this...

- viii. Like when children explain the movie or the theme park ride to their parents
 - 1. Parents patiently listen, but they already know

- ix. One of the signs of maturity is learning to trust God and know He's in control
 - 1. That allows us to enjoy the moment
 - 2. Trusting that God knows the situation fully and has the solution
 - 3. We are a work in progress

- x. The good news is:
 - 1. Just as the Temple stones were chiseled miles away from the temple and were carried and placed together perfectly
 - 2. We, being living stones are being formed here on earth as one day, we'll be carried home and fit perfectly
 - 3. We are a work in progress

3. **Vs. 4** "Tell us," they said, "when will these things be?"
 - a. In their minds, destruction of the temple and end times were one and the same
 - b. The Temple being destroyed was just the beginning
 - i. In 70 AD Judgment arrived in Jerusalem under Titus
 1. Not one stone was left on the other
 2. No one ever dreamed this destruction would happen

I. Take Heed - beware

1. **Take heed that no one deceives you...**
2. **Many will declare they are the Christ and deceive many**
 - a. Many uninformed souls follow false teachers and are led astray
 - b. These false teachers cater to peoples hopes and dreams
 - i. Some dream of social justice
 - ii. Others dream of political justice
 - iii. Others long for wealth, health, prosperity
 - iv. Ignorance is what the enemy uses to destroy these followers
3. Historically, about every 100 years, someone would claim supernatural powers and have many followers
4. **Jim Jones** (1931–1978), founder of Peoples Temple, which started off as an offshoot of a mainstream protestant sect before becoming a personality cult as time went on. He claimed

to be the reincarnation of Jesus and organized a mass murder suicide at Jonestown, Guyana on November 18, 1978. He shot himself after the murders were done.(**Wikipedia**)

5. **Jose Luis De Jesus Miranda** (1946–2013) [Died of stroke] ...leader and organizer of Growing in Grace based in Miami, Florida, who claims that the resurrected Christ "integrated himself within me" in 2007 [Had millions of followers. Had people tattoo 666 on their bodies]

6. Today, they are increasing at an alarming rate
 - a. **2 Tim 4:3** For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.

 - b. Deception is subtle and easy to fall into**
 - i. One of the enemies biggest weapons

 - c. Religious people can be easy to deceive because they have a desire for the spiritual life and hungry for more
 - i. Just as Eve desired to be like God, she was easily deceived**

 - d. **Gen 3:4** Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate
 - i. Spiritual hunger without knowledge is dangerous**

7. How can we spot error?

8. Most cults teach a works based religion vs. salvation by faith alone

a. **Do something to earn something**

b. **Eph 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God

c. **Know the truth**

i. There is only ONE GOD maker of heaven and earth

1. Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior

2. He died on the Cross to save us from our sins

3. He rose on the 3rd day

4. One day He'll return to take us home

ii. God's Word is our final authority and it's for everyone

1. No group has exclusive insight to revelation

2. **2 Peter 1:20** knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation

d. **Remain in close fellowship with other believers**

i. **Hebrews 10:25** Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.

II. Take Heart

1. Wars and rumors of wars

a. Jesus told us not to be troubled

i. War usually means trouble and uncertainty, economic problems

ii. It's difficult not to be troubled as we can see live pictures of people dying daily around the globe

iii. **One might think that with all the advancement, technology, education, war should decrease**

1. The number of wars are increasing and becoming more threatening globally

2. Famines, pestilence, earthquakes

- a. **Famine** is the result of a population explosion. It took from the time of Adam until 1857 for the population to reach one billion. Since then, we add a billion people every twenty years. We now have over 7 billion people. Famines are hitting more heavily in 3rd world
- b. **Pestilence**: Ebola (West Nile Virus) , MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome), H1N1 (swine flu), bird flu, measles, cancer, HIV...
- c. **Earthquakes** have and will continue to increase in time
 - i. We are not to be troubled or afraid during these last days

d. These are the beginnings of sorrows; end is near

3. Why shouldn't we worry?

a. God said, I will be with you

4. **Is 41:10** Fear not, for I *am* with you; Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand
5. **Is 43:2** When you pass through the waters, I *will be* with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you
6. It's not a promise of never getting hurt, but that God is with us and never leaves us
 - a. like birth pains, these things will increase in frequency and intensity as the Tribulation period draws nearer (Courson)

- b. These things must happen and must increase
 - i. Take heart because like birth pains, it means that delivery is soon

III. Take Hope

1. When believers are being persecuted

a. Laws around the globe are becoming more hostile toward believers

b. You will be hated by all nations for my names sake

- i. In most countries, becoming a Christian is grounds for death
- ii. Others are persecuted and killed for sharing the gospel
- iii. Reuters reports that in 2013, the number of Christian martyrs doubled

c. As persecution increases, many will be betrayed, killed during this time

- i. Do not predetermine what you will say if you are ever arrested for Christ
- ii. This will serve as an opportunity to witness for Jesus

2. This persecution will divide families against each other, love growing cold

a. Love of many who are not genuine will grow cold

- i. That's what pressure does
 - 1. It reveals the truth from the lie
 - 2. They add pressure to test concrete slabs

b. He who endures to the end will be saved

- i. Not he who holds on barely to dear life
- ii. He who knows His redeemer and allows the ocean of grace to carry him

c. Genuine believers will experience two things

- i. Persecution like never before**
- ii. A glorious demonstration of outpouring**

3. I personally believe that the pressure and persecution will cause the church to fall on her knees and seek God

a. Many regions are experiencing unprecedented revival as they are seeking God out of persecution

b. Nothing gets the truth out like pressure on a person's life

4. Gospel is preached to all the world

a. Then the end will come

5. Somewhere during this period, the rapture will occur

6. No one knows the day or the hour

7. Are we ready?

a. Take heed

b. Take heart

c. Take hope