

Mark 13:14–37 (NKJV)

The Tribulation, 2nd coming

¹⁴ “So when you see the ‘*abomination of desolation*,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not” (let the reader understand), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁵ Let him who is on the housetop not go down into the house, nor enter to take anything out of his house. ¹⁶ And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. ¹⁷ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ¹⁸ And pray that your flight may not be in winter. ¹⁹ For *in* those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be. ²⁰ And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days. ²¹ “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here *is* the Christ!’ or, ‘Look, *He is* there!’ do not believe it. ²² For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²³ But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand.

²⁴ “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.

²⁸ “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that

summer is near. ²⁹ So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near—at the doors! ³⁰ Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

³² “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. ³⁴ *It is* like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. ³⁵ Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—³⁶ lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. ³⁷ And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!”

- 1. Our setting is late Wednesday**
- 2. Jesus just cleansed the temple and preached, healed...**
- 3. Now He takes the disciples to the Mt. of Olives**

We previously looked at the end times (vs 1-13)

Take heed – Beware
Take heart – Be in faith
Take hope – Be at Rest

- 4. During the last days**
 - a. There will be Wars**
 - b. Earthquakes**

- c. Famines**
- d. Pestilence**
- e. Deception**
- f. Persecution**
 - i. Occurring like birth pains, more often, more intense**

ii. THE RAPTURE WILL SUDDENLY OCCUR

- 1. Take heed in vs. 5**
- 2. Watch in vs. 9**

- I. The sudden surprise**
- II. The second coming**
- III. The sequel of Israel**
- IV. The servants watching**

I. The sudden surprise (14-23)

- 1. After the rapture, comes the 7 years of tribulation
- 2. Many confuse the rapture with the 2nd coming
 - a. The tribulation begins with 3.5 years of peace
 - b. Followed by 3.5 years of judgment
 - c. A new world leader will take over
 - i. The Bible describes him as the Anti-christ (1 John 2:18)
 - ii. The man of sin (2nd Thes 2:3)
 - iii. A demon-possessed world leader

- d. This leader will usher in a time of peace that has never happened in history
- e. He'll be popular, eloquent, intelligent and likeable
 - i. The Leadership of a Washington or a Lincoln
 - ii. The Eloquence of a Franklin Roosevelt
 - iii. The Charm of a Theodore Roosevelt
 - iv. The Charisma of a John F. Kennedy
 - v. The Popularity of a Dwight Eisenhower
 - vi. The Political Savvy of a Lyndon Johnson
 - vii. The Intellect of a Thomas Jefferson
 - 1. The world stage is set for the appearance of such a man... (Carr)
- f. He will usher in unprecedented global peace
 - i. He'll make a peace treaty with Israel
 - ii. Israel has been in conflict with other nations since its inception
 - iii. Peace is a foreign concept for Israel
- g. He'll will pave the way to have the Jewish Temple rebuilt
 - i. Since 70 ad, they have not had a temple to worship in
 - ii. Today, there is a mosque where the temple should be
 - iii. Any attempt to build the temple today would mean death and destruction, chaos.

- h. Somehow, he'll build the temple and restore the Jewish sacrifices
 - i. He'll gain the love and respect of many
- i. In the middle of that 7 years, he will set up a statue and declare himself god and say, 'worship me'
- j. This is known as the abomination of desolation
- k. What he'll do in the temple will be worse than what Antiochus Epiphanies did, 167 B.C.
- l. This Greek king desecrated the temple in Jerusalem by offering swine's flesh & blood on the great altar and forced the priest to drink the blood and set up a statue of Zeus
 - i. This upcoming event will be worse than that
 - ii. **Daniel 9:27, 11:31, 12:11**
- m. **This sudden surprise will wake up the Jews to realize the truth**
- n. Vs. 14 says flee in a hurry - run for your life
 - i. Unprecedented destruction will happen

- ii. As many as 2/3 of the Jews will be killed at that time (**Zech. 13:8**)
- iii. It is estimated that 1/2 of the world's population will be killed during this time
- o. Vs. 21 "Don't be deceived by the false prophets with their signs and wonders"
- p. Jesus' 2nd coming will not be in secret, so don't be deceived
 - i. **Vs. 23 take heed, I have told you all things beforehand**

II. The second coming (24-27)

1. During that last 3.5 year period, chaos and destruction
2. Revelations 6-19 describes the tribulation period
3. 7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls
 - a. The sun will be darkened
 - b. The moon will not give its light
 - c. The stars in heaven will fall
 - d. Powers in heaven will be shaken
 - e. Men's hearts will fail them for fear
 - f. **Rev. 6:16** They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!"
4. At the end of this time, Jesus returns in the 2nd coming

5. **Rev. 1:7** Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.
6. So the curious question people will have is, when will this happen?
7. Jesus answers it with the parable of the fig tree (vs. 28)

III. The sequel of Israel (28-31)

1. When you see the fig tree putting forth leaves, know it is near
2. In the books of Jeremiah, Isaiah, and Hosea, the fig tree is the national symbol of Israel
3. In 70 ad, Israel was no longer a nation until 1948
4. For nearly 2000 years, Israel was scattered among the nations
 - a. May 14,1948 Israel became a nation
 - b. **Is 66:8** Who has ever heard of such things? Who has ever seen things like this? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children
 - c. This fulfils prophecy and indicates the last days
 - i. **It fulfills prophecy**
 1. No other book has so many predictions about the future, most of which have already come to pass

2. This is one of many defining differences between The Bible and other religious books

ii. It indicates the last day

1. This generation will not pass
 - a. A generation could be up to 100 years
5. **2 Peter 3:3** knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." ...
9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

IV. The servants watching (32-37)

1. Despite the signs of the times, Jesus is saying here that no one knows the day or the hour
2. In a moment, suddenly, the rapture will happen first,
 - a. then the 7 years of tribulation
 - b. then the 2nd coming
3. No one knows the day or the hour
4. Don't be deceived by any predictions

a. **Vs. 33, watch, take heed, pray**

- i. **4 x (watch)**
- ii. **2 x (take heed)**
- iii. **2 x (pray)**

b. **To watch**

i. **Be vigilant with your life**

ii. **to keep awake, to be attentive, to be ready**

- 5. We have been entrusted as stewards and have a responsibility
- 6. Vs. 34 *It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch*
- 7. **Jesus is the owner, we are His servants entrusted over His house**
- 8. **Think of what Jesus has left you:**
 - a. **His house:** The church belongs to Jesus, but He entrusts it to each one of us
 - i. **As a believer, you have a vital part to play in responsibility to the house of God**
 - ii. **Jesus has a role for every believer, no one is excluded**
 - b. **His authority:** We are to live and serve in the authority of Jesus, and responsibility is always coupled with authority (Guzik)
 - i. **We have authority over the works of darkness**

ii. We're to use this authority in prayer and communicating with the lost

9. Live in such a way that the Lord will return at any moment
 - a. That means live soberly
 - b. Live in a way where your conscience is clear before God and man
 - i. If you have done anything or doing anything against God's will, repent
 - ii. If you need to make any relationship right, do it
 - iii. If you need to obey God in any area, do it

10. Don't be idle in the house of God
 - a. Whatever you find to do, do it with all your might
 - b. We want to be faithful to the very end
 - c. Our life is symbolized in scripture as one who runs a race and wins
 - i. Winning a race means completing that race till the end
 - ii. If someone runs most of the race and stops before the end, all their hard work and training has gone to waste
 - iii. Let's run with endurance till the end and finish our race

11. **1 Cor 15:51** Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

12. **What kind of love is this?**
 - a. **A warning for the believers, I understand**

 - b. **A Warning those you hate you?**
 - i. **Agape Love**