

Mark 13:1-13 *Bad News Headlines.* As the Master-builder was leaving the Temple, one of His students remarked about its architecture: *Look Teacher, these stones are huge,¹⁰ and what magnificent buildings!*

Jesus was not all that impressed with the building's "greatness;" He remarked that not one stone will be left on another—every one will be thrown down.

The two pair of brothers were bothered—James & John, Peter & Andrew asked Him later in the Mount of Olives—*What's all this about? When? What's a sign it's about to happen?*

Then Yeshua let it all out—

*Watch out for deceivers. Many will come, claiming My authority, and even claiming they are Messiah. Many will be fooled. Now listen up... When you hear about war and rumors of war, do not be alarmed. Such things happen, and must happen, but the end is **still** to come. Nations will rise against each other. Earthquakes and famine will be commonplace, but these are but beginnings of birth pains.*

You must be on your guard. You'll be flogged in synagogue by local councils, given up by people you thought you could trust. Because of Me, on the behalf of Me, you will answer to governors and kings—you will be My witnesses to them.

But, the gospel must first be preached to everyone, not just the frozen chosen. When you're arrested and brought to trial, don't worry about what to say. Holy Spirit will provide your words, for it is He who will be speaking, not you.

MARK 13:1-13

As he was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!"

2"Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

3As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, 4"Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?"

5Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. 6Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. 7When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 8Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.

9"You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. 10And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. 11Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

12"Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. 13All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

¹⁰According to Josephus (*Antiquities*, 15.11.3), they were white, and some of them were 37 feet long, 12 feet high and 18 feet wide. Assuming they were limestone, each of the largest stones weighed approximately 599.4 tons.

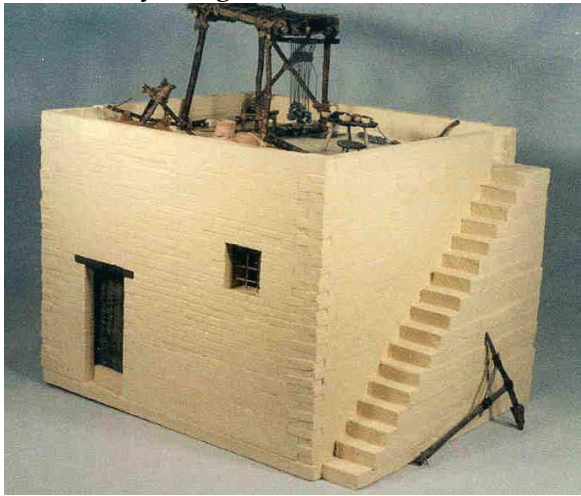
Finally, be ready for betrayal—brother versus brother, even father versus child. Children will rebel, even to the point of putting their parents to death. Bottom-line: All people will hate you because of Me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

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- Q What was wrong about the prophecy of Jesus regarding all the stones being thrown down? See any photo of the wailing wall in Jerusalem.
 - Q Why did the Christ provide “warning signs” about what was to happen? Temple destruction or planet destruction?



- Q Are wars or rumors of same an indication of “the end?”
- Q What was so revolutionary about Jesus’ requirement that the good news must be proclaimed to all peoples?
- Q Why do we have trouble accepting the admonition of the Christ in verse 11?
- Q Why do we dislike Mark 13:13? What can we learn about our theology from Christ’s warning?
- Q Why will brothers betray brothers, and fathers their children, and children their parents “in the last days?”

Mark 13:14-23 *What to Do When the Bad News Headlines Are Published.* Let's remember what Daniel prophesied—"When you see the abomination that causes desolation"—right there, standing, standing where it does not belong... Then if you are in Judea, flee away to the mountains. If you're on the roof, don't enter your house or take anything out.



If you're in the field, don't go back to get your cloak.

It will be dreadful in those days, especially for pregnant women, and nursing mothers! Pray that this will not happen during winter—those days will be unequalled from the beginning of time when We created the world. If the Lord had not limited those days, no one would survive. BUT, for the sake of the elect, whom He has chosen, the days have been limited.

During that time if you hear *Look, here is the Christ!* or *Look, there He is!* Do not believe it. False Messiahs and false prophets will appear, and perform signs and miracles to deceive the elect, if that were possible. So? BE ON YOUR GUARD—I HAVE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING, AHEAD OF TIME!

- Q Why not enter your house, if you were on the roof? To get your cloak?
- Q Why were the folks in Judea particularly vulnerable in Christ's warning?
- Q To what extent is the purpose of distressing incidents—earthquakes, famine, wars—to signify that the Lord Our God is coming, or simply the result of "natural" events?
- Q Why would the Lord Our God even permit false "Christs?"
How shall we ascertain the deceivers? They will do miracles after all.
- Q Why don't people want to hear spoilers about *Avengers—End Game*?



MARK 13:14-23

"When you see 'the abomination that causes desolation' [Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11] standing where it [or *he*] does not belong—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁵Let no one on the roof of his house go down or enter the house to take anything out. ¹⁶Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. ¹⁷How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! ¹⁸Pray that this will not take place in winter, ¹⁹because those will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now—and never to be equaled again. ²⁰If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive. But for the sake of the elect, whom he has chosen, he has shortened them. ²¹At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. ²²For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and miracles to deceive the elect—if that were possible. ²³So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time.

Mark 13:24-37 *And Now the Story Itself.* Jesus continued by noting Isaiah's warning—the sun will darken, the moon will not be visible, stars will fall from the sky; heavenly bodies will be shaken [literally, “the powers that are in heaven will be shaken”].

Then the Son of Man will be seen coming in the sky with great power, great glory. He will send His messengers to gather those chosen by God from all directions, and from the ends of the earth, to the ends of the heavens.

Remember the fig tree? When its twigs get tender, and the leaves come out, you know summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, the day is near, right at the door. Amen [truly], this generation will not pass until all has happened. And, for the record, heaven & earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.

Now, no one knows the specific day & hour, neither He, nor His messengers, nor the Son, but only Father God, So? Be on guard. Be alert. Pray. You do not know when it's happening. It's similar to a man who's going away and leaves his house to his servants to tend—each has a task, and tells the doorkeeper to keep watch.

Ergo, keep watch—you do not know when the owner of the house is coming back—at night, midnight, early morning, or when the rooster crows. If the owner comes suddenly, do not let him find you asleep. What I say to you, I say to everyone. WATCH!

Q To what extent is the Lord Our God talking about the end of time, or the beginning of the millennium, or something else?

Q Who are the elect?

Q What words will not pass away? To what is Jesus the Christ referring?

Q Why are our houses cleaner when we're expecting company?

MARK 13:24-37

"But in those days, following that distress, " `the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; 25the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' [Isaiah 13:10; 34:4]

26"At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. 27And 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.

28"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. 29Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. 30I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.

31Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

32"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

33Be on guard! Be alert [some mss. read *alert and pray!*]! You do not know when that time will come.

34It'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. 36If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. 37What I say to you, I say to everyone: **Watch!** "