

Mrk50 – **Be Ready For The End-Times – Mark 13:1-13**

We're **back** in our **Vs.-By-Vs. study** of **Mark** today

& **since** this is **Palm Sunday**

I **really wanted** to **call** this msg - **TRIUMPHAL RE-ENTRY**  
to **Connect it** to **Palm Sunday** - But I **couldn't**

But we **just did** The **Triumphal Entry** in **Mark**  
**Not too many Weeks** ago

So I **thought** we'd just **Forge Ahead** today - (*Next Section*)

**Let's Pray** – That we would **Be Ready For The End-Times**

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I **think** we've done **SIX msgs**

On the **Attacks & Debates** that **Jesus** faced  
from the **Religious Leaders**

on **JUST THIS One Day** of the **Passion Week**

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& **So** - as we **start** today – **Jesus** is just **LEAVING** the **Temple**  
**After** a very **Wild & Crazy Day**

& **AS** **Jesus Leaves** – **One** of the **Disciples COMMENTS**  
**About** the **Magnificent Temple**

## **Mark 13:1 (NLT)**

***1 As Jesus was leaving the Temple that day, one of his disciples said, “Teacher, look at these magnificent buildings! Look at the impressive stones in the walls.”***

**Have you ever been impressed with a church building?**

**I sure have – in fact – I analyze every detail**

**& people LOVE to BE IN – Big impressive church buildings**

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**But – No Church building – of ANY Era  
has ever been - anywhere CLOSE**

**to the Temple in Jerusalem – At this time**

## **PICTURE – Temple**

**From a distance it looked like a mountain of gold,  
because its exterior was plated with gold and silver**

**The Historian Josephus wrote:**

***being covered on all sides with massive plates of gold, the sun was no sooner up than it radiated so fiery a flash that persons straining to look at it were compelled to avert their eyes, as from the solar rays. To approaching strangers it appeared from a distance like a snow-clad mountain; for all that was not overlaid with gold was of purest white***

**AND - The Jewish people viewed The Temple  
as PROOF – that God was with them**

**AND** - they **made** a very **clear connection** between  
the **Magnificence** of the **Temple**  
& the **Magnificence** of their **God** - (*maybe the comment*)

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But – **here's** the **First Lesson** – **NO BUILDING** can **house**  
the **Magnificence** of **God**

### **Acts 7:48-49 (NLT)**

***48 . . . the Most High doesn't live in temples made by human hands. As the prophet says, 49 'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Could you build me a temple as good as that?' asks the Lord . . .***

& so **Jesus** is going to **"Take this Opportunity"**  
To **ROCK** his **Disciples** – about **MORE** than **just** the **Temple**

**Jesus** is **about** to **SHAKE**  
the **Foundation** – of their **End-Times Expectations**

**Because** the Disciples **NEEDED** to be **Shaken**  
to **BE PREPARED** for **what** was **coming**

Just **LIKE WE Need** To **BE Prepared** - **Today**

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### **& so – Jesus responds in Mark 13:2 (NLT)**

***2 Jesus replied, "Yes, look at these great buildings. But they will be completely demolished. Not one stone will be left on top of another!"***

**THIS** – was **Earth-Shaking** – **Prophecy**

**AND** – It was **Precisely Fulfilled** in **70 AD**  
By the **Roman Army**

& - **AS** Jesus said  
**NOT ONE Stone** was **Left** on **top** of **another**

## **PICTURE – STONE PILE**

**HERE** is a **PILE** of the **Stones**  
from the **Destruction** of the **Temple** in **70 AD**

**Laying** on the **Street from 70 AD** – **below** the **Temple Mount**

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But **Listen** – **The Reason This Prophecy** from **Jesus**  
Was **SO Shocking**

**Was because** these Disciples **THOUGHT**  
**They were Living** in the **End-Times**

**Because they KNEW – IN the End-Times**

- 1) **Israel** would be in **Troubled** times - & they **were** (Rome)
- 2) A **forerunner** would **come** - & he **did** (John the Baptist)
- 3) The **Messiah** would **Enter** Jerusalem as a **King** - & **Jesus** Did
- 4) **THEN** All **Israel** would **Live** under the **Rule** of the **Messiah**  
With the **Temple** as the **Center Piece** of **Messiah's Rule**

& so - They **Thought** they were  
**IN Phase FOUR** of the **End-Times** - **Already**

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**Remember** – the **Disciples** still **didn't understand**  
That **the cross** was **coming** – in **just a few days**

At **THIS Point** - they **thought**  
**they** were **ONLY WAITING**

**For Jesus** to **RUN Rome** - **out of** the **Land**  
& **Set up** his **THRONE** as **Messiah & King** in **Jerusalem**

**with** the **Temple as** the **Center**  
of **ALL Jewish Life**

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& **so** the **Disciples** are **Certainly ROCKED** –  
(**& Jesus WANTED them Rocked**)

**Because** he **wanted** to **Prepare THEM**

**In** the **SAME WAY** – that **He wants** to **Prepare US**

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**Because** Jesus **does not want us** to **be**:  
**MISLEAD** – **DECEIVED** – or **DISCOURAGED**

**Instead** - **HE wants** us to **PUSH HARD**  
**He wants** us to **FOLLOW HARD** after **Him**

**To the Very END** – **WHENEVER** that **COMES**

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**So** – the **Disciples**

**SEND IN** - the **Inner Circle** - (*Peter, James, & John*)

To **ASK Jesus** for **more information**  
**about** this **SHOCKING statement**

& **then** – **ANDREW** – (Peter’s Brother)

is like, *“C’mon you guys, let me go with you . . .”*

**& so we read in Mark 13:3-4 (NLT)**

*3 Later, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives across the valley from the Temple. Peter, James, John, and Andrew came to him privately and asked him,*

*4 “Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will show us that these things are about to be fulfilled?”*

& **when WE GO** to **Israel**

**WE Sit** on the **Mt of Olives**

**Just across** the **Valley** from **the Temple**

**Maybe near** the **same place**

**Jesus** was **now sitting** with his **disciples**

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& the **Inner THREE** (with Andrew) **come** & **ASK Jesus**

**When** will all this happen? & **What** will the **sign** be?”

& this **launches Jesus** –

**into** what is **Commonly Called** – **“The Olivet Discourse”**

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**BUT – WHAT we've GOT to understand  
as we approach this text - IS**

**Altho this IS PROPHECY**

**It's clear that Prophecy - is NOT the Primary Purpose  
of this long discourse from Jesus**

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**Jesus is speaking here - as a SHEPHERD – a PASTOR**

**Jesus is Not So Much  
Detailing - End-Times Prophecy**

**AS He Is – ENCOURAGING the Disciples  
to PUSH HARD**

**& to FOLLOW HARD after Him  
thru ALL that will come - UNTIL His Return**

**He's Encouraging His Disciples  
to be STEADFAST and FAITHFUL - UNTIL He Returns**

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**& so the Disciples Ask  
WHEN will this happen?  
WHAT Signs will we see?**

**The Disciples ask about “TIMING” and “SIGNS”  
& Jesus replies – with something FAR MORE IMPORTANT**

**Mark 13:5-6 (NLT)**

***5 Jesus replied, “Don’t let anyone mislead you,  
6 for many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah.’  
They will deceive many.***

From **THAT day** – to **THIS day**

We **Desperately NEED** to **HEAR** – **THIS Truth**

**Don’t Be MISLEAD or DECEIVED**

**There** are **plenty** of **people** out there

**Peddling** their **IDEAS** of **the truth**  
& **claiming** to be **THE ANSWER** for **people**

But **NONE** of **them** – **OR** their **ideas**,  
**can ever begin** to **measure up**

to the **Supernatural**, **Miraculously Proven**,  
**2,000 year** old **Foundation** of **the Bible**

**Not** to **mention** the **Historical Fact**  
of the **Resurrection** of **Jesus Christ** from **the Dead**

**Don’t be MISLED, & Don’t be DECEIVED**

**because Jesus** says **MANY will come**  
with **MESSIANIC CLAIMS** - & **they** will **Deceive Many**

**Don’t Be Duped by them**

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& then – in Mark 13:7-8 – Jesus cont's  
with the “Don't Be” Warnings

**Mark 13:7-8(a) (NLT)**

*7 And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately. 8 Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom . . .*

**Don't Be DECEIVED** (v.5-6) - & **Don't PANIC** (v.7)

**Don't Be Deceived** - by those selling their own truth

**Don't Panic** – about a General LACK - of PEACE on EARTH

**There** has always been - those who Deceive & Mislead

**There** has always been - Wars & Threats of Wars

**These things MUST** take place

because we live in a Sinful, Fallen World

But these things (by themselves)

**DO NOT indicate** the end of the age

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& then Jesus says – It's the Same with Natural Disasters

**Mark 13:8(b) (NLT)**

*8 . . . There will be earthquakes in many parts of the world, as well as famines. But this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.*

## JUST AS - Deception & Wars

### Earthquakes and Famines

have always been a part of this Fallen World

**BUT** – it's all only the beginning of “Birth Pains”

& there are more to come – BEFORE Jesus Returns

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& then – in V.9 – Jesus gets PERSONAL

### Mark 13:9 (NLT)

**9** *“When these things begin to happen, watch out (be on guard)! You will be handed over to the local councils and beaten in the synagogues. You will stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell them about me.*

This began happening within MONTHS  
of Jesus speaking these words

From the beginning of the book of Acts -  
this is EXACTLY what happened to These Disciples

& since that time – it has happened  
over & over again - thru-out History

It is STILL happening in many parts of the World

& it MAY SOON be happening in OUR Part of the World

**But notice - Mark 13:10 (NLT)**

***10 For the Good News must first be preached to all nations.***

**FROM the Book of Acts**

**TO the underground church in IRAN & CHINA today**

**Wherever we see Persecution of Believers**

**We see the Spread of the Gospel Message**

**It's often said**

***when the Enemy tries to STOMP OUT the Fire of the Gospel  
He only spreads the coals - & Starts even MORE fires***

**Since the Beginning of the Church**

**Persecution has Served**

**to SPREAD the GOSPEL Message**

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**& You & I – in SOME WAY – Have a PART in that**

**& So Jesus says in Mark 13:11 (NLT)**

***11 But when you are arrested and stand trial, don't worry in advance about what to say. Just say what God tells you at that time, for it is not you who will be speaking, but the Holy Spirit.***

**Back in V.9 – Jesus said**

**Be READY - Be ON GUARD**

**& when we are called to Speak**

**In these intense settings**

**Jesus says – Don't Worry about what to say**

**At that Point – Your LIFE is a Testimony  
to the Transforming Power of Jesus**

**& God will Give you the Words – BY the Holy Spirit**

**YOU Stand - & GOD will Deliver**

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**BUT – It's not JUST "Civil Persecutions"  
that we must Prepare to Face**

**it is also Personal – & Relational Persecutions**

**Mark 13:12 (NLT)**

***12 "A brother will betray his brother to death, a father will betray his own child, and children will rebel against their parents and cause them to be killed.***

**Mark is writing this Gospel - to Believers IN ROME**

**& Soon – IN ROME (under NERO)**

The intense persecution of Christians would begin

**& Families WOULD TURN on their own members  
who had become Christians**

**in order to save their own lives**

**& today – in countries like IRAN & CHINA – that is still the case**

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**& then - Mark 13:13(a) (NLT)**

***13 And everyone will hate you because you are my followers . . .***

**There is a Certain Time - & a Certain Place**

Where Christ-Followers – Either ARE – or WILL BE  
HATED by the World

**Jesus said – in John 15:18 (NLT)**

***18 “If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first.***

**These are HARD Words**

**but they are Words of PREPARATION, & WARNING**

**Truly Following Jesus Christ**

**is Going Against - the Flow of the World**

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**There has Always been – a Determined Opposition  
to Christ-Followers – in other parts of the world**

**& it seems to me – that we may be seeing the signs**

**of a coming Determined Opposition toward Christians  
in our “Previously Christian” Nation**

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But Then – HERE is the End of it all

HERE is the POINT – Especially of this  
PART ONE of the Olivet Discourse

Guys - Jesus is not interested in “Tickling our Ears”  
with Signs of the End-Times

Jesus is interested in THIS ONE THING

& it's in Mark 13:13(b) (NLT)

*13 . . . But the one who endures to the end will be saved.*

Jesus is Calling his disciples

to get ready to PUSH HARD –  
& to FOLLOW HARD after Him

To LEAN IN – & to Be ON GUARD

Jesus is Preparing his Disciples  
For what is going to happen

As they begin - to take the Gospel  
to the Ends of the Earth

Jesus is strengthening their RESOLVE  
(*& he wants to strengthen OUR Resolve*)

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**Jesus is giving His Disciples**

a **Foundation** they **can STAND ON**  
**when** these things **Begin to Happen**

& they **DID Begin to Happen**  
& they **ARE Still Happening**

& at **some time** – to **some extent**

**We** (as **Christ-Followers**) will **also experience them**

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But **JUST LOOK** at the **Victory** – at the **end** of **V.13**  
**But the one who endures to the end will be saved**

If **ENDURING Trials & Persecution**  
in **this World**

**MEANS Spending Eternity**  
With **God in Heaven**

**Then** we are **RESOLVED, COMMITTED, & DETERMINED**  
To **Endure whatever this world** can **throw at us**

**In order** – to **spend Eternity** – with **Jesus Christ**  
In the **GLORY of Heaven**

## **1 Peter 4:12–13 (NLT)**

***12 Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you.***

***13 Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.***

## **2 Corinthians 4:17 (NLT)**

***17 For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!***

## **Romans 8:18 (ESV)**

***18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.***

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**HERE is how Jesus BEGINS  
his Discourse on the End Times**

**Don't Be Deceived - Don't Panic**

**Be Ready – Be On Guard**

**Hold On To Jesus – Endure to the End**

**THAT is what we TRULY NEED**

**To Be READY – For the End Times**

**Let's Pray**