

Mrk51 – **Be Ready - Part 2 - Mark 13:14-37**

We are **Back** in our **vs-by-vs study** of **Mark** -
& **We** are **basically** a **DAY & a NIGHT** away from **the Cross**

In our **Last msg** - **Jesus** was **Leaving** the Temple
For the **LAST Time**

& **One** of the **Disciples COMMENTED**
About the **Magnificence of The Temple Buildings**

To which **Jesus responded** (back in V.2)
these great buildings will be completely demolished. Not one stone will be left on top of another!

It was a **SHOCKING Prophecy**
Meant to **SHOCK the Disciples** - **into Paying Attention**

so that **Jesus** could **HELP THEM** – **AND US**
BE READY for the End times

That's **what we WANT**
We **want** to **BE READY**
We **want** to **ALWAYS BE READY**

Let's Pray

Mark Ch 13 – is Called **"The Olivet Discourse"**

& **again** - what is **CRITICAL TO UNDERSTAND**
as we **RETURN** to this **text** for **Part 2** - - **IS THIS** →

Altho the SUBJECT here IS PROPHECY

It's clear that the Primary Purpose of Jesus
is NOT TO Give us "Prophecy Details"

Jesus is NOT TRYING to give us
all the Facts & Figures & Details of the End-Times here

INSTEAD - Jesus is ENCOURAGING
BOTH - His Disciples – AND US - -

LOOK at THESE Statements
ALL of which – come from Our Text today

Be On Guard!
Stay Alert!
Watch For His Return.
Keep Watch!
Don't let him find you Sleeping.
Watch For Him!

Jesus is Encouraging His Disciples – AND US
to be STEADFAST and FAITHFUL - UNTIL He Returns

Jesus wants us to BE READY

To Stay ALERT - & To WATCH for His RETURN

At ANY Time – WHENEVER that COMES

Believers throughout the ages

have **always Wanted** to see **SIGNS**
(& even **supposed Proof**)

of **WHEN** - & **HOW** - the **END TIMES Prophecies**
of **the Bible** - will **come to pass**

& **Many Millions of Dollars** have been **made**

by **People claiming**
to have "**Figured Out**" the **SIGNS**

& **claiming to have**
some '**PROOF**' of the **End-Times DETAILS**

& **Many Believers** are **DRAWN TO THIS Subject**

Because we want to **KNOW**
the **WHEN** & **HOW** of the **End-Times Details**

BUT – As the Commentator James Edwards says
The salvation brought by Jesus is NOT a salvation of
KNOWLEDGE. The salvation of Jesus is rather A WAY - of
following, of faithfulness, of standing guard at our posts . . . It is
NOT a way of dispensing with mystery BUT of living in mystery.

That is **AWESOME Statement !**

& **THAT** is how we **Need To Approach** this text

So – Jesus **BEGAN** His

“End-Times Encouragement” - last week

& he **finishes it Today**

with a **Long Stretch** of Vs’s

But **Remember** – the **PURPOSE** – is to **PREPARE US**

to **BE READY for the End Times** – **WHENEVER** they come

Jesus **starts today** - with a **Famous Subject**

From the **Book of Daniel**

“The Abomination of Desolation”

Here we go – Mark 13:14 (NLT)

14 “The day is coming when you will see the sacrilegious object that causes desecration (the Abomination of Desolation) standing where he (or it) should not be.” (Reader, pay attention!) “Then those in Judea must flee to the hills.

As with **ALL End-Times Prophecies**

there are a **number** of **Views** & a **number** of Theories

on **WHAT** this is **referring to** - & **WHEN** this **will occur**

& **although** there **have** been **“Types”** and **“Kind-of’s”**

that have **already occurred** in history

We see this as **ultimately being** - the **Moment**

that **Splits** the **7-year Tribulation period** in **HALF**

**Marking the beginning
of what is called "The GREAT Tribulation"**

**From the Book of Daniel we learn
that MID-WAY thru the Tribulation period**

the Anti-Christ will desecrate
the New Jewish Temple

& set himself up as God
to be worshipped there

**Beginning the 2nd half of the 7-year Tribulation
Known as the GREAT Tribulation period**

& then – we get a general description
of HOW GREAT this Tribulation period will be

Mark 13:15–20 (NLT)

15 A person out on the deck of a roof must not go down into the house to pack.

16 A person out in the field must not return even to get a coat.

17 How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for nursing mothers in those days.

18 And pray that your flight will not be in winter.

19 For there will be greater anguish in those days than at any time since God created the world. And it will never be so great again.

20 In fact, unless the Lord shortens that time of calamity, not a single person will survive. But for the sake of his chosen ones he has shortened those days.

THAT - is **why**
this period is called **“The GREAT Tribulation”**

& **the question** most **often asked**
Right here in **these vs’s** is

“WILL WE BE HERE ?”

& **The Answer** (from us) is – **NO**

We believe the **Church** **WILL BE RAPTURED**
3 ½ yrs PRIOR To

the **Ultimate Fulfillment** of **this prophecy**

You can **Search** the word **RAPTURE** –
on the Phone App – or **Either Website** - & **hear** all about it

& the **ONLY Way** – **to BE READY** – **or GET READY**
To **MISS** this **Great Tribulation**

By **having** a **Saving Relationship** with **Jesus Christ** – **Before Then**

Then - Jesus **RE-ITERATES**
A **Warning** here **gave** us **last week**

Mark 13:21–23 (NLT)

21 “Then if anyone tells you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah,’ or ‘There he is,’ don’t believe it.

22 For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God's chosen ones.

23 Watch out! I have warned you about this ahead of time!

False Messiah's & False Prophets

have **been around** since - **forever**

But - **they** will **greatly increase** as the **end draws near**

But listen to me **pls** – **Please HEAR THIS**

The Bible is the most **Supernatural** – **Miraculous** –
Divinely PROVEN Document in all of **human History**

Written by **40 Authors** – on **3 Continents** – over **1500 yrs**
With **One Single Concise Story Line**

Repeatedly proven by **every area** of **Science** & **History**
& **withstanding thousands of attacks** from its **enemies**

WHY would **anyone believe** a **person** who **comes up**
with **their own wackiness** & **starts a religion** with it?

& Jesus says – For **TODAY** - & for the **END TIMES**

Watch out! I have warned you about this ahead of time!

& then – **Jesus gets** really **CLEAR**
About the END – of the **End Times**

Mark 13:24–25 (NLT)

24 “At that time (referring to the Great Tribulation), **after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light,**

25 the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

These **EXACT EVENTS** are described in **REVELATION CH 6**
& elsewhere in Revelation

THIS IS the lead up – to the **Physical Return**
of **Jesus Christ** - to **this Earth**

Notice – the **Sun is Darkened** - the **Moon gives no light** –
& the **Stars fall from the sky**

This **makes me think** of the **BIGGEST Moment**
that **WE** could **Try To Create**

before some huge **SUPER-STAR**
comes out onto some **HUGE STAGE**

ALL the **Lights** are **shut down**
& the **Entire Place** begins **shaking**

& then Mark 13:26 (NLT)

26 Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds with great power and glory.

We **can't EVEN IMAGINE** this **Re-Entrance**
of **Jesus Christ** to this **Earth**

God is going to Take Down - ALL the Lights
& then He's going to - SHAKE Heaven & Earth

& then ALL EYES will See

Jesus coming on the clouds
With Great POWER - & Heavenly GLORY

& THIS is the event that begins the 1000 Year Reign
of Jesus on earth - called THE MILLENNIUM

& the BEGINNING of THE MILLENNIUM
is what is DESCRIBED in the next Vs

Mark 13:27 (NLT)

27 And he will send out his angels to gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

Everyone on earth
Will SEE the Return of Jesus Christ in Glory

But ONLY THOSE who have
Received Him as Lord & Savior

will be GATHERED TO HIM
from all over the World

to Begin the Thousand Year Millennium on earth

Again there are different views
on the DETAILS & TIMING of this event

But – As I said – Jesus is Not Giving Us
ALL the Details we WANT

Jesus is EXHORTING us – TO BE READY

Then – in the Next Paragraph

Jesus AGAIN uses the Fig tree
to teach a LESSON - (*as he did in Ch 11*)

Mark 13:28–29 (NLT)

28 “Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is near.

29 In the same way, when you see all these things taking place, you can know that his return is very near, right at the door.

Jesus is NOT setting an EXACT time here –
or EVEN setting a BROAD Time

Jesus is saying BE ALERT – BE WATCHFUL -
WATCH for the SIGNS – AND BE READY

Now – because the Fig Tree is a Symbol
of the Nation of Israel

& because Jesus connected
the Fig Tree to Israel in Ch 11

& because Israel JUST became a Nation in 1948

In 1979 - when Pam & I got Saved – these Vs's
were routinely used to say that Jesus was coming back

IN the Generation that Saw Israel become a Nation

BECAUSE of the Next Vs

Jesus says in - Mark 13:30 (NLT)

30 I tell you the truth, THIS GENERATION will not pass from the scene before all these things take place.

Israel just celebrated its 73rd birthday

So - IF this means – the Generation
that SAW the Birth of Israel

Will NOT Pass before all these things take place

Then the Return of Jesus

MUST BE very, very close (& it may be)

However – Jesus MAY HAVE been referring

To the GENERATION that SEES THE THINGS

He's talking about here – Take Place

Meaning – Once these things START to happen

They will all happen Very Quickly

& There ARE other theories on this

But again – the REAL Context here –
is NOT Jesus giving us all the DETAILS that WE WANT

The Real Context here is Jesus – CONVINCING US
That we need – TO BE READY

Because - ALL these things are Absolutely, Positively,
Without a Doubt, GOING TO HAPPEN

& THAT is EXACTLY What Jesus is DRIVING HOME
In the Next Vs

Mark 13:31 (NLT)

31 Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.

Rev 21:1 says – THIS Heaven & Earth
That We Know – That we LIVE IN now

They ARE going to Ultimately Disappear

2 Pet Ch 3 – says *they will ultimately
be destroyed by Fire*

BUT – Altho the Heavens & Earth that we know NOW
WILL Someday Disappear

<p><u>The Words</u> of <u>Jesus Christ</u> <u>WILL NEVER DISAPPEAR</u></p>
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The Point is THIS – The **Words** of the **Lord**
Are **MORE SURE** - & **WILL Endure Longer**

Than the **EARTH** you are **Standing on**
And the **STARS** you **See at night**

THAT'S Some **Serious Encouragement**

& **then** – Jesus **Makes it CLEAR**

WHY we need - to **BE ON GUARD**
& **STAY ALERT** - & **BE READY**

in **Mark 13:32–33 (NLT)**

32 “However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.

33 And since you don't know when that time will come, be on guard! Stay alert!

Jesus says – You **DON'T KNOW**
when these **things** will **happen**

& You **CAN'T KNOW**
when these **things** will **happen**

& **SINCE** you **DON'T KNOW** - & **CAN'T KNOW**

<u>INSTEAD</u> of <u>TRYING to Know</u> - <u>BE ON GUARD! STAY ALERT!</u>

Honestly - & as gently as I can say it

WHAT I SEE - in the Church At Large
Is MUCH MORE INTEREST

IN WHEN - these things Might Happen
THAN in - Being On Guard! And Staying Alert!

But - Jesus says
You DON'T KNOW - & You CAN'T KNOW

So instead – ALWAYS BE READY

Which is How Jesus closes
his Discourse on the End-Times

Mark 13:34–37 (NLT)

34 “The coming of the Son of Man can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. When he left home, he gave each of his slaves instructions about the work they were to do, and he told the gatekeeper to watch for his return.

35 You, too, must KEEP WATCH! For you don't know when the master of the household will return—in the evening, at midnight, before dawn, or at daybreak.

36 Don't let him find you sleeping when he arrives without warning.

37 I say to you what I say to everyone: WATCH FOR HIM!”

Jesus wants us – to ALWAYS BE READY
For his Return

Let me add just Two Vs's – From the Apostle Paul

1 Thessalonians 5:1–2 (NLT)

1 Now concerning how and when all this will happen, dear brothers and sisters, we don't really need to write you.

2 For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night.

SO - Be On Guard!

Stay Alert!

Don't be LULLED to Sleep.

Watch For His Return.

AND – ALWAYS BE READY

Let's Pray