

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?
Ready Yourself for Christ Return
Mark 13:14-37

I. The ruin of Jerusalem (13:14-23)

A. Warning about the abomination of desolation (vv. 14-20)

Matt. 24:15 “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

Daniel 11:31 Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate.

1. There are multiple fulfillments:

- Syrian king Antiochus IV (167 B.C.)
- Destruction of Jerusalem by Titus (66–70 A.D.)

Lk. 21:20 “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near.

- The end time

2 Thessalonians 2:3–5 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

2. They were instructed to flee (v. 14b-18).

3. There will be unprecedented suffering (vv. 19-20).

Lk. 21:23-24 Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. 24 They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

B. Warning about deceivers (vv. 21-23)

II. The return of Christ (13:24–37).

A. Signs in heaven will precede his return (vv. 24-25)

B. He will come with great power and glory (v. 26)

C. He will gather His elect (v. 27)

- What will be the reaction and result of Christ's return?

1. The Christian

Lk. 21:28 Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

1 John 3:2-3 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

2. The non-Christian

- All the tribes of the earth will mourn (Matt. 24:30b)
- Distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and waves (Lk. 21:25)
- People fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world (Lk. 21:26)

3. Jesus closes with three parables in his Olivet Discourse (Matt. 25).

What do they have in common?

- There is a sudden return of the Lord.
- Some are prepared for his coming and others are not.
- There are rewards and judgments.
- Those who are lost are no doubt amazed at that outcome.

> What are we to do between now and then?

1. Trust Christ's eternal word (vv. 28-31).
2. Be on guard, stay awake (vv. 32-37).
3. Watch yourself (Luke 21:34-36).
4. Be a faithful servant (vv. 10, 34).

Acts 1:6-8 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

