

Mark 13:28-37 –15 August 2021

“The End Times Question The Disciples Didn’t Think To Ask”

Introduction

- *Jesus has had a 3-year public ministry
- *And now Christ comes into Jerusalem for the last week of His earthly ministry & life to die for our sins
- *Jesus is being examined (4 days) & leaving at night
- *They’re on the Mt of Olives east of Jerusalem, so they call this the Olivet Discourse
- *Mark gives the intro for a study of the last days (or Eschatology) himself (Read Vs 1-4)

“When shall these things be?” – This is talking about the temple destruction in 70AD

“When will all these things be fulfilled”

Matt & Luke said is clearer – “What is the sign of Thy coming & of end of the world?”

*Vs 5-8 describe the “Beginning of Sorrows” – those things leading up to the 7-year Tribulation

*Vs 9-13 describe the “End of the Beginning” – those things leading up to the mid-point of the Tribulation

*Vs 14-27 describe the “2nd half of the Trib” – and the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ to the earth

*Now (Read) Zec 14:4-5 refers to something special

1. At end of Trib, as Israel is fleeing from the A-C, the Jesus comes back “w/ His saints”.
2. This hints at the mystery of the church
3. This hints at the Rapture of the church
 - a. Read Jude 14 – “Behold, the Lord cometh with 10,000s of His saints.”

*Vs 28 begins BONUS, “behind the scenes” info that they didn’t even know to ask about – The Rapture

Today we’ll see 3 things we need to know about the Rapture of the Church

1st thing to know about the Rapture: Know the season of the Rapture (Vs 28-31)

Read Vs 28

1. Israel is pictured as a Vine, Fig and Olive Tree
 - a. Vine – Spiritual Privileges
 - i. Psm 80, Isa 5, Jer 2, Eze 15, John 15
 - b. Fig – National Privileges
 - i. Hos 9, Jer 24, Matt 20, 21, 24
 - c. Olive – Religious Privilege & Heritage
 - i. Hos 14, Isa 17, 24, Psm 52, 128, Rom 11
2. “Now learn a parable of”...the nation of Israel
 - a. Jesus describes the rebirth of the nation of Israel as the super-sign of the pending Rapture of the Church
3. Rebirth of Israel deserves an entire study
 - a. There had been no nation of Israel from 70AD until 1948 (Daniel 70 wks timeline)
 - b. Eze 36 – Land of Israel becoming fruitful
 - c. Eze 37 – The people returning to the land

4. Read Isa 66:8 – Nation born at once

Read Vs 29-31

1. When we see the nation of Israel beginning to bud, we KNOW all these things are at hand.
 - a. Twain's book, *The Innocences abroad*, he details how in 1867 it was completely desolate
 - b. Today, as Eze 36 tells, they're blooming!
2. This generation shall not pass away
 - a. The generation that “sees” & “knows”!
 - b. How long is generation? (Read Psm 90:10)
 - c. Although the Greek language allow for “this generation” to mean the race of Israel, the context is talking about the rapidity of things happening
3. So within the lifetime of the rebirth of the nation of Israel, the following events will happen!

2nd thing to know about the Rapture: Can't know the time of the Rapture (Vs 32-33)

Read Vs 32

1. Now we're talking about a different event than the 2nd Coming of Christ
2. 2nd Coming has a known, set day.
 - a. We read vs 14-27 that led up to 2nd coming.
 - b. Dan 9 tells us from Ab of Des until 2nd coming is exactly 3.5 yrs.
 - c. Rev 12:6 Israel flees to wilderness for 3.5 yrs only to be saved by the 2nd coming of Christ as recorded in Zec 14:5
3. The Rapture of the church is an unknown date.
 - a. Even Jesus limited by His humanity didn't know when it would be.

Read Vs 33

1. The Rapture is a “coming” of Christ but not to the earth, but to meet the Church in the air.
2. Let's look at the rapture from Paul's writings

3. Turn to I Cor 15:50-58

- a. Paul is teaching about the state of the body after you die.
 - i. Vs 51 – We shall not all sleep
 - ii. He's saying, 'we shall not all die'
- b. Rapture will happen "at the last trump"
 - i. Can't be 7th trump from Rev 11 b/c there's lot more judgements b4 Christ comes.
 - ii. In Rev angel has trump, in I Thes Jesus has
- c. Have hope! The work we do for the Lord is worth it and shall be rewarded

4. Turn to I Thes 4:13-18

- a. Paul talks of rapture, 'by the word of the Lord'
 - i. This isn't Paul's opinion
 - ii. He tells us when it's something from him
 - 1. Exp: I Cor 7:12 speaking of divorce
- b. We meet the Lord in the air
 - i. This isn't 2nd Coming which is to the earth
 - 1. See Rev 19 & Acts 1:11
- c. Comfort one another, have great hope!

5. “Caught Up” prototyped all over the OT
 - a. Gen 2:22 – Eve was brought to Adam
 - i. Brides always brought to husband
 - ii. The Church brought to Christ
 - iii. SOS 2:8-13 – “Arise & come away”
 - b. Gen 5-6 – Enoch raptured just before Flood
 - i. Read Gen 5:24 – “...for God took him”
 - ii. Noah then sealed in Ark thru flood as the Jews are sealed thru the Trib
 - c. Lot being taken by force
 - i. God said He won’t destroy righteous with the wicked – Gen 18:25
 - ii. Lot was righteous – II Pet 2:6-8
 - iii. Angels brought Lot forth out of Sodom, literally “to pluck out”. – Gen 19:16
 - d. Rahab saved before Jericho destruction
 - e. Daniel mysteriously not there (Raptured) when 3 Israelites go thru fire (Trib)
6. Turn to II Thes 2:6-8
 - a. What is holding back the A-C from being revealed? The Holy Spirit within the Church

7. Remember Tribulation is the wrath of God
 - a. He says so in (Read) Rev 6:16
 - b. Read Luke 21:36 – We’re told to pray that we’re worthy to escape the wrath to come
 - c. Read I Thes 5:9 – we’re not appointed to wrath, praise God.
8. Some people scoff at a “secret rapture”
 - a. Yes, it is secret
 - b. Read Matt 24:37-39
 - c. Just as the Flood of Noah’s time was secret,
UNTIL IT HAPPENED

3rd thing to know about the Rapture: Know how to live ready until the Rapture (Vs 34-37)

Read Vs 34-35

1. Notice the Lord knows all about time zones and I could happen day or night
2. Some people think, “Since we don’t know when Jesus is coming...”
 - a. “It doesn’t really matter”
 - b. Some say; “we should find out & set a date”
 - c. Some say biblically; “we should be alert, eager & telling others of His soon return”!

Read Vs 36-37

1. Turn to Matt 24:46-51
 - a. Whether you believe in the soon unknown-date for the Rapture of the church will determine whether you’re alert or aloof
 - b. There is a purity that comes with sound belief that Jesus could return at any moment
 - c. There’ll be a joy for all those that are alert!

Conclusion

*So, the great things that God has prepared for us! He gave us insight in the Rapture & the disciples hadn't even thought to ask!

1. **We can know the season (or general time period) of the Rapture**
2. **We can't know the time (or moment) of the Rapture**
3. **We can know how to live ready until the Rapture**

What do we do about it?

1. Have hope in our soon union w/ Christ Jesus!
 - a. I John 3:3 – “Every man that hath this hope in him, purifies himself, even as He is pure”
2. Let it drive us to live worthy of Christ!
 - a. II Pet 3:10-11 – “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night...Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy lifestyle & godliness?”
3. Luke 19:13 says to “occupy til He comes”.