

## The Eschatology of the Servant Part 1 Mark 13:1-13 “Context, Context, Context”

Please stand and open your bibles to Mark 13:1-13

We are now going to expound on Mark 13 over the next 6 weeks. I felt it was important because some of you are newer to our fellowship and should know some of the biblical doctrines we hold to and some of you have, quite frankly, been watching too many people on YouTube that have you confused about some things, and I thought it good to straighten them out. Please remember that this church's slogan \* is:

“Standing on the Solid Ground of God's Word”

We take this very seriously and will always use what the Bible says as our final authority. It doesn't matter what Joe Schimmel says, or Joel Richardson or Hank Hanegraff says. Or maybe you have been listening to a local radio guy named Steve Gregg of the Narrow Path. All of these guys, I hope through ignorance, tell half-truths and outright lies about dispensationalism and the pre-trib position. Some of them and one in particular that me and the former pastor of the church was in discussion with, when faced with scriptures we asked for answers from, resulted in name calling and accusing us of being deceived and deceiving others. Listen I am up for a good debate but when the other side resorts to discord I am done. (John Haller example) These guys cannot stand on scriptural grounds when it comes to these things, so they rely upon the old John Darby

argument or the stupid idea that if we went into the Tribulation, we will lose our faith. So here is the breakdown of the next six weeks:

The Eschatology of the Servant Mark 13

13:1-13 “Context, Context, Context”

13:14 “Who is the Antichrist?”

13:15-27 “What is the Tribulation?”

13:28-31 “Who or What is the Fig Tree?”

13:32-36 “The Doctrine of Imminency”

13:37 “The Pretribulation Rapture of the Church”

Today we are going to look at the first 13 verses that give us the context of what we call “The Olivet Discourse”. If you want a deeper study of this as a whole, we did this on the Wednesday before easter this last year in a message \* called “The Olivet Discourse in 3D” where we went through all three accounts and put them together. It is in the “Apologetics in Prophecy” folder. Scroll down to the date of March 27, 2024, and you will find it.

So, let’s begin with our study:

Mark 13:1-2

Then as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!” And Jesus answered and said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”

This is what gives us the context of what is about to happen. Context is important in our Bible study and please grab one of these flyers to put in your bibles that gives you three simple rules that will help you to discover all these things for yourself. (Also the Teaching with Lee)

The first thing we need to understand is something that we have been dealing with Jesus's whole ministry. What is it? Their version of what we call "Eschatology" or Study of the last days. For them it was their coming Messiah. The church age was hidden from them in the Old Testament, and they still did not understand that Jesus has to suffer and die for their sins. This is why they were arguing about who would be the greatest. It is only partially their fault; it is what they were taught. Here are some scriptures of the Messiah that talk of the first and the second coming that seem to be just one.

Isaiah 9:6-7

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Zechariah 9:9-10

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem; the battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be ‘from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.’”

Isaiah 61:1-2 (Luke 4:18-19)

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God...”

In the middle of all these verses is the church age. This is a mystery that will not be revealed until after the resurrection. Some call it the Mountain Peaks of Bible Prophecy. But this helps us understand the mindset of the disciples and the context to their question and Jesus’s answer.

Now \* getting back to our first two verses the statement that the disciples are making is a bold one that is telling Jesus “Look at the Temple you are going to reign in!” and Jesus’s answer must have thrown them for a loop. What? Do you know His answer solidifies Him as an authentic Prophet of God? \* As you can see in this picture the proof that is left for all to see!

Now this answer has left them confused and brings us to what happens next:

Mark 13:3-4

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?”

Now this question was not just directed at the destruction of the Temple but the pressing one that is on their mind, when will He be the reigning Messiah? How can we be sure of this? Because it was still on their mind at His ascension...

Acts 1:6

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

They understood that Israel will have an earthly kingdom. They are still asking when? So, Jesus had already answered it here and they would understand that after they have “Received Power when the Holy Spirit has come upon them”

All through Jesus’s ministry He has had to correct their theology. We have a pattern that we need to use here. They ask a question; Jesus tells them the truth and then gives them application. We see this all through the Sermon on the Mount. “You have heard said of old, but I say unto you...”

Now Jesus is going to say unto you. What makes this account interesting is that this is Peter's account through Mark. Peter is giving a firsthand account as He was there. The others have heard it and recorded it. Also, keeping to Mark's style of a "Just the facts man" it is the shortest of the three.

The part of His answer that we are going to look at today sets the context for the rest of the Olivet Discourse. It is what I have called in the past "Signs for all the times". It is broken into two parts. One the is the Beginning of Sorrows and the other is the Persecution of the Saints before the time of the end.

## The Beginning of Sorrows

Mark 13:5-8

Now there are opposing views on the Olivet Discourse. Some say that the whole thing from beginning to end is only talking about the seven-year Tribulation and others, like me, see it as we teach it. They will use a chart that shows the seals of Revelation and these four verses to prove their point. The only problem is that He says "Many" will come in my name and not "one". Also, as we will see in our study of the Antichrist who we see in the first seal will come in his own name and not Jesus. He will be the instead of Christ and not pretending to be.

The most telling of all of this is His first statement to not be deceived. We have today many that we call "Newspaper Theologians". Instead of looking at the news through

scriptures they look at the scripture through the news. Stuff like the 2023 meeting with UN and WHO was the signing of the seven-year covenant. Or that Trump is the Antichrist. How many are saying now the vaccine is the mark of the beast. All these are taking events and putting them into the scriptures. I learned a long time ago to never say “This is it” as I saw many that did to be disqualified.

What Jesus is saying here is look here are some things you guys are going to be dealing with that are signs of all the times. How many Jesuses do we have in the world right now? What about wars and rumors of wars? Just look at what is going on in Russia and the Middle east! We have seen world wars and earthquakes on the rise. The biggest famines in world history have been in the last hundred years. Matthew tells us after these things the end is not yet. The operative word here is \* “Sorrows” this is the word for “Birth Pangs.” This is very important as we know what that is. Contractions that get closer and closer until the time of birth. How do we know we are getting closer to the end? The contractions are coming and getting closer together at a breath-taking pace!

We know this was the thought of the disciples after the resurrection as Paul would use it here:

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3

For you yourselves know perfectly that the Day of the Lord (The Seven Year Tribulation Period or Daniel’s Seventieth Week) so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, “Peace and

safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

Now because this is what they can expect to see before the day of the Lord that He will talk about later He is giving them application of what to expect while waiting...

Persecution while Waiting for His Return

Mark 13:9-13

I am always amazed by those that say we are doing you a disservice by teaching that you will be raptured before the tribulation. They say we need to be preparing you for the coming persecution. But that is not what Jesus says. He tells us not to worry. That the Holy Spirit will take over at that time and do the talking for us. We also have recorded Church history of this being the case in every circumstance of persecution. If you do not believe me read Foxx's book of Martyrs. Amazing stories of courage and faith that fulfill just what Jesus says here. They were a testimony to them. Many Roman guards gave themselves to the flame and lions after seeing the faith of the martyrs. This section also destroys the idea that the church is going to bring peace on the earth. The Bible does not teach that. A matter of fact it is the opposite. Throughout all of this the gospel is to be preached. This is the great commission that is still in force during the church age. Many though take this literally that the gospel has to be preached to everyone before the end can come and I think there is some truth to that but even in Paul's day he said this...



Romans 1:8

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

We also need to remember that after the rapture during the tribulation there will be the Two Witnesses and the Angel flying through the four corners of the earth. It will be preached, and it is. But before we finish today, we need to look at this verse...

Mark 13:13

And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures (Bears Patiently) to the end shall be saved (Delivered).

This verse will scare many a Christian who think this is talking about our salvation. This is not a salvation passage. Please remember that salvation is a free gift received by grace through faith. You are not required to endure and suffer to receive it. Again, we must rely upon context to determine the meaning. The word endure means to “Bear Patiently” and saved means delivered. You and I that bear patiently through persecution even if it is to death will be delivered in the end. If you are saved and born again, what have you got to lose? That is the idea here. When are these things going to happen, they ask, and Jesus tells them what to expect but not to worry. They have been chosen and empowered for such a time as this just like you and me. They will hate us. They will persecute us. But our witness will continue until the Father says it's time to go home.

Paul understood this when he wrote this...

2 Corinthians 4:7-11

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

So, he could then tell us that any persecution cannot take away our eternal hope...

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

You and I have nothing to fear about the future. We have no reason to fret. You and I were meant for such a time as this!