

The Eschatology of the Servant Part 5 – Mark 13:32-36 “The Doctrine of Imminency”

Please stand and open your Bibles to Mark 13:32-37

We have now come to the end of Mark’s account of the “Olivet Discourse”. He is now leaving us with an exhortation of application while we are waiting for the “Day of the Lord” to come. As we will see today not only was this what Jesus expects of us but is repeated by every Apostle. Before we jump in here is our breakdown of Mark 13...

The Eschatology of the Servant Mark 13

13:1-13 “Context, Context, Context”

13:14 “Who is the Antichrist?”

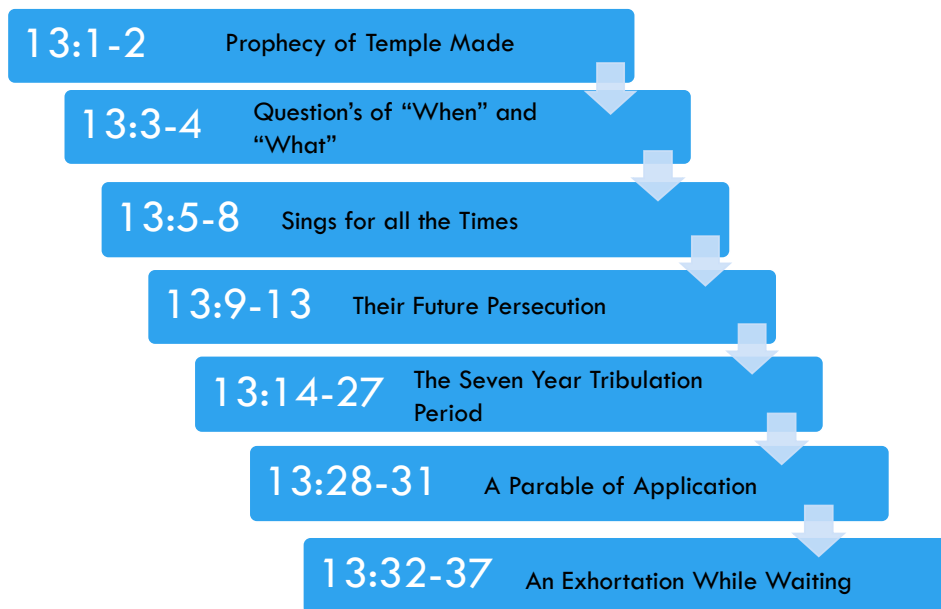
13:15-27 “What is the Tribulation?”

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”

Here is an outline of what we have learned:



Today we are going to learn from this passage the doctrine of imminency and before we do, we need to define some terms. What is it when we say "doctrine"?

Merriam-Webster

Doctrine:

1 a: a principle or position or the body of principles in a branch of knowledge or system of belief: DOGMA

Catholic doctrine

b: a statement of fundamental government policy especially in international relations

the Truman Doctrine

c law: a principle of law established through past decisions

d: a military principle or set of strategies

e: something that is taught

2 archaic : TEACHING, INSTRUCTION

But what is Biblical Doctrine?

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Titus 2:7-9

For a bishop (Overseer, Pastor) must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by **sound doctrine**, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

And we know they had them (doctrine) in the early church...

Hebrews 6:1-3

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection (Maturity), not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.

As you can see this also included Eschatology, which is the study of the last days, what Jesus is teaching us here. If the writer of Hebrews considered it a basic doctrine how come so

many in the church say it is non-essential? None of the apostles did and neither should we.

Now * what is Imminency?

Merriam-Webster

Imminent

: ready to take place: happening soon

: often used of something bad or dangerous seen as menacingly near

I.E. imminent disaster

So, then we can gather that the doctrine of imminency is the teaching that something could happen, or someone could come at any moment.

If you ask anyone on the street if they feel like something big is about to happen on this planet more than 50% will say yes. When asked recently around 80% of Americans believe we are in the last days of humanity. This should be a slap in the face to the church that has ignored this big an issue on people's minds. Not only this there is coming a great shift that will test people's belief system to the core. This is no time to be alive and have shaky faith. Just last month while I was praying about this message and studying for it a book came out that has blown my mind. I don't believe these things are an accident. What Book is that?

Imminent

Inside the Pentagon's hunt for UFO's

By Luis Elizondo

Former head of the Department of Defense's Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program

Let me read to you the Autor's Note written in April of this year...

He says in the book that it is a powerful group of brass in the pentagon that he calls "Religious Fundamentalists" that are squashing the funding to research these things. (Read Passage) Notice they are now called "Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena" or UAP. What happens when there are no more Christians in the top brass? Or what happens when there are no more Christians?

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe **the lie**, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

What is going to happen to someone who believes in "Theistic Evolution" and the president comes out with a big gray alien and says that they are our cosmic brothers that seeded our

planet and that Jesus was one of them that they sent? Are you going to believe it? I can tell you that everything in his book is completely opposite of what this book teaches. They can't both be true. You need to know which one to believe because they are both imminent!

Let's now get into our scripture for today...

Mark 13:32

But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

What day and hour is it? What He was just talking about! We know from our study a few weeks ago that Jesus is focusing on the Jewish part of the Tribulation that is known as the "Seventieth Week of Daniel". He told us, the reader, to understand this. So, this statement in its context can only mean that no one knows the day or hour that the seventieth week starts. They wanted to know when the Kingdom was going to be restored to Israel and He showed them at the end of the week talked about in Daniel. But now He is applying it to them and to us. We will come back to the why in a moment as He tells us some things to do while waiting...

Mark 13:33

Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.

Many people are praying but how many people are watching? When they come out and start talking about aliens being real and we have proof what will they do? Did they expect a great deception coming? Were they watching?

Another problem we have had through the ages is date setting. I never can figure out what part of “no man knows” do they not understand? If people are so easily deceived by just that what else will they fall for?

Now he uses a parable to make the point of how this works for us...

Mark 13:34-36

It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping.

Notice the perspective they were to have. Keep an expectant eye out but be about the master’s business. The picture is one of accountability. What if we think He is delayed? What would be our natural inclination? Matthew gives us more detail about this idea...

Matthew 24:48-51

But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

That is why He said to "Take Heed". Why? Because it is our nature to goof off! You know as well as I do if we did know the day and hour that we would wait till the very last minute to get right with God. So, the expectation of the Lord to return any moment is one that we must always be aware of. It is the Doctrine of Imminency. The teaching that Jesus can and will return at any moment. That is the hope that we are supposed to have at all times. Is it what the early church taught and believed in? Let's look at some scriptures and see.

Romans 16:19-20

Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.

1 Corinthians 1:7-8

... so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:20-21

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Colossians 3:4

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

2 Timothy 4:8

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Titus 2:13

looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ

Hebrews 9:27-28

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

James 5:7-8

Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

1 Peter 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

2 Peter 3:10

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night

1 John 3:2-3

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Jude 1:20-21

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Jesus said:

Revelation 22:12

And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

1 Corinthians 16:22

If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! (Maranatha!)

Do you get the picture? How are we supposed to be living? With the expectation of Jesus returning at any moment to rescue us from this planet!

Luke ended His account of the Olivet Discourse like this...

Luke 21:34-36

“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch

therefore, and pray always that you **may be counted worthy (Lit. Prevail, Strong, Overcome)** to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

It is obvious that Jesus is talking about watching and being ready to escape the Day of the Lord. But then the question is how is one become worthy? Don't let this trip you up. It is actually a bad translation. It is to prevail over or be strong enough or overcome. Well just like our worth where does all that come from?

Romans 8:37

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

1 John 5:4-5

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Matthew 16:18

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail (Same Word!) against it.

As we leave today the verse to connect us to next week is what Jesus told us...

Revelation 3:10

Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.