

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

"WHEN THE END BEGINS" | MARK 13: 14-27 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What is the best ending to a movie or story you've experienced?

"Now the End Begins" Mark 13: 14-18

Jesus warns his followers that when the Jewish temple is desecrated, disaster will be coming and people in Judea should leave.

Besides watching for God's signs, how else can His followers know when to leave or to stay in a tough situation?

"It's the End of the World as We Know It" Mark 13: 19-23

Jesus shares this tribulation will be the worst disaster the world has seen, yet it's cut short for God's chosen in that time. He warns not to be fooled by false prophets. **What guards God's people against false prophets? Why is that important in tough times?**

"The Sky is Falling" Mark 13: 24-27

During this future tribulation, the heavens will shake, and Jesus will come in glory and power and gather his people. **What does this imply about Jesus? What does that mean for Jesus' followers?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus shares details about the disasters the Jews and the rest of the world will face at the end of the world, warning people to flee and be on guard. He promises He will return in glory and gather His people. **Do you trust God's plan for the end? What are ways you've let down your guard against false teachings? Ask God to give you discernment and faith to stay faithful through it all.**

Jesus Journal: Write down at least one thing about Jesus that impressed you in the passage and message.

Mark 13:14-27

8-17-25

When The End Begins

I. Announce:

- A. Welcome to those watching online.
- B. Slide1-5 AP: Foundations. Divorce Care. CK. GriefShare. Men's.
- C. Slide6 Nepal Cross-Cultural Trip: Oct.15-24 Join us in Nepal as we serve alongside CCBC and David & Becky, *training nationals, serving at a youth retreat, and learning about ministry in a Hindu country.* Come be part of what God is doing! This is more than a trip, it's an opportunity to **encourage** and **equip** our brothers and sisters in Christ, grow in your own faith, and see how God is moving in Nepal. For more info, contact pastor Larry. Scan the QR code to fill out an application or calvarymurrieta.com/cross-cultural-trips. *space is limited.*
- D. Slide7 Prayer:

II. Intro: When The End Begins

- A. Last week we dealt w/the **beginning** of *The Tribulation* (13:5-13).
- B. Slide8 2-Fold meaning 2nd Coming: 1007yrs & end of Trib actual physical coming.
 - 1. Today we'll deal w/: **Now The End Begins** (14-18) *The Middle of the Tribulation.* **It's the End of the World as we Know it** (19-23) *The Great Tribulation* (in Mt. called Great Trib; in Rev. called the wrath of God). **The Sky is Falling** (24-27) *The 2nd Coming.*
- C. Slide9 show Chart. All the names for The Trib. [John gives us ch.'s 6-20 in his Rev about these 7 yrs]
- D. Why is it called the Time of Jacob's trouble? (Aka *the time of distress* for Jacob) What did **this Jacob** do?
 - 1. When **Jacob** is used in a prophetic context they're referring to the Jewish nation
 - 2. The 7 yr period is called **the time of Jacob's trouble** because God uses it to bring Israel through the deepest refining in their history. He was dealing with centuries of **covenant rebellion** and their **national rejection** of **Messiah**. **So that** they will **finally recognize Jesus** as their King.
 - a) Paul explains in Romans: Ch.9 Israel's Past Election (up to Pent.). Ch.10 Israel's Present Rejection (now/church age). Ch.11 Israel's Future Reception (Trib).

3. Best def: *It's **severe mercy**: judgment that ends in redemption.*

4. *It's not only about Israel - there's **global** judgment / **worldwide** chaos.*

a) *Slide10 Rev.3:10,11a (to ch of Philadelphia) **Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world** (AD70 was only local!), to try those who dwell on the earth. I am coming soon!). But **Jacob's trouble** is because **Israel** will be once again at the center of **God's redemptive focus**.*

b) You could say it's **not just about** judgment ... it's about, **God's love chasing His people down until they come home**. (Just like **He** did, for you, and me!)

E. *Slide11 1 Last thing, It took Zeph **11 descriptive words** to explain these 7 yrs.*

1. Zeph.1:14-18 NLT ***That terrible day of the Lord is near. Swiftly it comes - a day of bitter tears, a day when even strong men will cry out. 15 It will be a day when the Lord's anger is poured out - a day of terrible distress and anguish, a day of ruin and desolation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness, 16 a day of trumpet calls and battle cries. Down go the walled cities and the strongest battlements! 17 Because you have sinned against the Lord, I will make you grope around like the blind. Your blood will be poured into the dust, and your bodies will lie rotting on the ground. 18 Your silver and gold will not save you on that day of the Lord's anger. For the whole land will be devoured by the fire of his jealousy. He will make a terrifying end of all the people on earth*** (in the land)

F. **Tribulation** - a time of great world troubles *unlike* anything in history.

1. **More space** is devoted to the tribulation in the NT, **than** to **the Coming of Christ**. Every NT writer refers to it.

a) God once sent a **Peace Treaty** to earth to be signed my man. Man tore it up and sent it back. That **Peace Treaty** was **the Prince of Peace Treaty**.

III. *Slide12a **NOW THE END BEGINS (14-18)** the middle of the tribulation* Read

A. **The abomination of desolation** - 1st used by Daniel (9:27, 11:31, 12:11). Here by **Jesus**. In between was **1 & 2 Maccabees** (not part of canon, but good history) ...

B. 167bc **Antiochus IV** a Seleucid/Syrian King also called **Epiphanies** (Illustrious) desecrated/polluted the Jewish temple so greatly, he **sacrifice a pig** on the holy altar, **poured out its blood**. Then he turned the temple into a **brothel**. He erected a statue of the **Roman god Zeus**, and made the Jews worship it *standing where it ought not* or standing in the holy place (Mt.24).

1. You might think it doesn't get worse than that, **but** that's what **Jesus** is explaining here ... **this is still future!** (Jesus is saying this, approx 200 yrs after that event). **This abomination is still in the future.**

a) **Where he ought not to be** (in the rebuilt temple) - This man/beast/antichrist has a right-hand-man, **the false prophet**. He will make **an image of the beast**, breathe life into it, **and** it even speaks.

C. (14b-18) **Flee to the mountains** – head for the hills Judean's. *Get out as fast as you can!*

1. This same warning applied when Rome attacked Jer. in 70AD. What happened in **70AD** foreshadowed what'll happen in the middle of the trib.

D. **Slide12b** Harry Rimmer, *"Coming events cast their shadows before. Straight ahead lies yesterday!"*

E. (15-18) Simply shares the **urgency** of it. [*next pic a lil *Dystopian*]

IV. **Slide13 IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT (19-23)** *the great Trib*

A. *"It's the end of the world as we know it, and I feel fine!"* These R.E.M. lyrics, sung in the 1980s, are **still** a powerful expression of our **culture's feelings** about **the future**.

B. (19) Says this is unquestionably the worse this planet will have ever seen, or will ever see. World-wide unprecedented trouble, horror, misery, & chaos on the earth.

C. **Why so radical Jesus?** *Ever thought of a little softer approach?* **Oh, you tried that already at Your 1st coming ... and you were rejected.**

D. (20) Even in the midst of His wrath He remembers mercy. (Hab.3:2)

1. **The elect** here refer to **Israel and the Gentiles** who **come to faith** during the Tribulation.

2. **Shorten** – i.e. Jesus limits them to the 3 ½ years, already determined.

E. (21,22) **If possible even the elect** – What a great deception.

1. Of themselves **miracles/signs** are **not** proof of divine calling and approval.
2. The final test is **the Word of God**.

F. (23) **But be on your guard** - against *deceptive pitfalls* in **crisis days**.

G. **I have told you beforehand** - what to **expect** and what to **avoid**. **Trust His Word!**

1. **His Word is dependable and durable, so trust it.**

H. **Slide14** Augustine said, He who **loves** the coming of the Lord is **not** he who affirms it is **far off**, **nor** is it he who says it is **near**; **but** rather he who, whether it be far off or near, **awaits it with sincere faith**, steadfast **hope** and fervent **love**.

V. **Slide15 THE SKY IS FALLING (24-27)** *the 2nd Coming* **Read**

A. **Picture yourself** with your back to the ocean making a sand castle, watching and competing to those on your left and right side, to make sure **yours is better than theirs**. **And then** getting so engulfed in it, that you never saw the little wave coming, that just **demolished** it. **This chapter is that wave!**

B. **But now after that tribulation** - here is the good news!

C. **Slide16** There are 1,845 references to Christ's 2nd coming in the OT. Where 17 books of the 39 OT books give it prominence. In the 260 chapters of the NT, there are 318 references to the 2nd coming of Christ (1 out of every 30 vss). 23 of the 27 NT books refer to this great event. For **every** prophecy in the Bible concerning Christ's **1st** coming, there are **8** which look forward to His **2nd**.

D. (25) **You think an earthquake** is bad ... **This is a Heaven-Quake!** Yes, world-wide chaos on the earth, **but also** terrifying signs in the heavens.

1. **The universe** seems to move towards **disorganization**.
 - a) Earth's own star dims, **and** the **moon's reflective light** is too little to see by.
2. **Then** in all this **cosmological confusion** **Jesus will Come**, in shining clouds of Glory.

- E. (26) **Jesus' Return** - In contrast to His **1st coming** (in **obscurity & weakness**); Jesus will return the **2nd time** in **majesty** and **glory**, **this time** not to **suffer and die**, **but** to **rule/reign** as *King of kings and Lord of Lords*.
1. **Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him.** Rev.1:7
 - a) There will be **NO uncertainty** of the fact that He has returned.
 2. **Slide16 Jesus will:** defeat the devil (lock him up); subdue the rebellious generation; bring everything into submission; **then** this world will become **the kingdom** of our **God and** of **His Christ forever**.
 - a) **This is...**His kingdom come, His will be done, on earth just like it is in **heaven**
- F. (27) This is the **completion** of the *world-wide gathering* of **Israel**.
- G. **Slide17** In Rev.14 His angels are released as both *grim reapers & as joyous reapers*. **2 Reapings:** (very different). [*Similar imagery to: sheep/goats, fish caught in net (some keep, others throw back), Wheat/Tares*].
1. Rev.14:14-16 **Reaping the Earth's Harvest; Packaged Grapes.** (Harvest) *part of the true vine*. Rev.14:15 *Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe* (perfect ripeness).
 2. Rev.14:17-20 **Reaping the Grapes of Wrath; Pressed Grapes.** (Winepress) *vine of the earth*. Rev.14:19 *So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the **wrath** of God.*
- H. **Why should we, as believers, anticipate Christ's return with eagerness and hope?**
1. **Because: it brings Justice to a broken world. It completes our salvation. It brings us face-to-face with Jesus. It fuels faithful living now. It fuels our Mission.**
- I. **Keywords:** the end, return, second coming.