

Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church

Mark 13:14-23 | The Double Fulfillment of the Tribulation

August 29, 2021

WELCOME:

- Please turn your Bibles to Mark 13:14-23
- Bibles in back—our gift to you.

REVIEW:

Last Sunday, we saw how the Twelve Disciples were admiring the Temple's beauty and size.

This Temple has been the center of their universe for their entire lives.

And without skipping a beat, Jesus tells them that the Temple they admire so much will be destroyed.

It's like finding out that John F. Kennedy was shot.

Or the Spaceship "Challenger" exploded during takeoff.

Or learning that terrorists blew up the Twin Towers in NYC.

After hearing the news, the Disciples then wanted to know how and why the Temple would be destroyed.

But, Jesus didn't give them a direct answer— but pressed into more bad news.

The KEYPOINTS:

- *Jesus doesn't give them what they want; He gives them what they need.*

In other words, Jesus didn't give them the information they wanted; He gave them the truth and the reality of that truth.



- *Some of the greatest threats to the church don't come from outside the church— but inside.*

We discussed discernment and being very careful who you were watching on the Internet, the podcasts you're listening to, and the authors you are reading.



- *How Sharing the Gospel is more important than your personal safety.*
- *Your suffering is not about you.*
- *Endurance is a key characteristic of the Christian life.*

That's all a review from last Sunday.



INTRODUCTION:

And the subject of endurance segue's perfectly into today's Scripture passage.

So Jesus moves from the prophesying/promising about the destruction of the Temple and the persecution that comes with it in the first century—

To an unknown timeframe with the End of the World.

This is known as the Great Tribulation.



Definition:

The Great Tribulation is a time of worldwide devastation.

A revealing of God's Truth.

The Great Tribulation is when the wrath of God will be unleashed over all creation because of unpaid sin.

This is a time of unrivaled wickedness. Why?

Because the Holy Spirit will remove His common grace from the Earth.

During the Great Tribulation, demonic activity will escalate at a level that's been unseen and unheard of since the beginning of mankind.

This is a time where God begins his severe judgment on sin.

For the most part, time has run out for the world.

The time of grace has ended, and God's judgment begins—there are exceptions to that. *—but make no doubt about it - it's decision time for the world*

Let's pause. We may not like that.

We may think that's unfair.

But let's remember that God the Father, gave Jesus, as a way to deal with sin.

God the Father didn't leave us in our brokenness.

+ **cf. John 3:16 ESV**—For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

+ **cf. John 3:17 ESV**— For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

+ **cf. John 3:18 ESV**— Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is ^{guilty} condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

It's as if God is saying, "You don't want my Son to pay for your sin? ...Then you will pay for your sin, yourself through this tribulation and a very real place called hell for eternity."

How dare you,

Now for those of you who have called on the name of Jesus as Lord and Savior, and you believe in your heart that God the Father raised Jesus from the dead, I have some very good news for you.

It is my understanding that you, with the rest of the true church will not endure the Great Tribulation.

Jesus will supernaturally snatch us out of this world and take us to Heaven.

I know it sounds like science fiction, but it is not.

It's called The Rapture. (cf. John 14:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:15-18; Rev. 3:10).

And the reason that God is going to pluck us out of this world before the final years of the Great Tribulation is that:

1. The book of Revelation talks about the church only at the beginning and the end. There is no mention of the church during the Tribulation.
2. Throughout Scripture, we read about Jesus being a Husband and the Church being His bride.

And since Jesus has already endured the wrath of God once...

Why would He let the Church, as His bride, experience God's wrath again when Jesus already paid for those sins?

So yes, dear friends, the rapture is a biblical concept, and you can read more about it in 1 Thessalonians 4:13.

But today Jesus is going to teach us the importance of The Great Tribulation and how it applies to you at this moment.

This is another weighty lesson from Jesus—it's from the same conversation that Jesus had with His Disciples. *Last week*

We're breaking Jesus' teaching in Mark chapter 13 into four sermons so we can digest it slowly.

As you will remember from last Sunday, the Disciples asked for a sign when the end of the world would come.

Today, Jesus gives us that sign. What is it? Let's find out!

Please stand for the reading and honoring of God's Word.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 13:14-23 CSB

Mark 13:14— "When you see **the abomination of desolation**, standing where it should not be" (let the reader understand), "then those in Judea must flee to the mountains.

Mark 13:15— A man on the housetop must not come down or go in to get anything out of his house,

Mark 13:16— and a man in the field must not go back to get his coat.

Mark 13:17— Woe to pregnant women and nursing mothers in those days!

Mark 13:18— "Pray it won't happen in winter.

Mark 13:19— For those will be days of Tribulation, the kind that hasn't been from the beginning of creation until now and never will be again.

Mark 13:20— If the Lord had not cut those days short, no one would be saved. But he cut those days short for the sake of the elect, whom he chose.

+ **Mark 13:21**— "Then if anyone tells you, 'See, here is the Messiah! See, there!' do not believe it.

+ **Mark 13:22**— For false messiahs and false prophets will arise and will perform signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, the elect.

+ **Mark 13:23**— And you must watch! I have told you everything in advance.

+ **PRAY:**

+ **EXEGESIS:**

Mark 13:14— "When you see **the abomination of desolation**, standing where it should not be" (let the reader understand), "then those in Judea must flee to the mountains.

We discussed last week how Mark chapter 13 is one of the most difficult chapters in Mark's Gospel.

Verse 14 is one of the most challenging verses in chapter 13 to understand — if not in the entire NT.

The Disciples wanted a sign; verse 14 is the sign.

So Jesus jumps right into the Great Tribulation.

The Great Tribulation will last seven years, but Jesus jumps straight into the middle of this terrible time.

The first three and a half years seem to be somewhat less tragic and terrifying compared to the last three and half years.

Remember Jesus gave us the analogy of birth pains last week—so the end of the world becomes increasingly wicked over these seven years.

Jesus illustration is this

As a woman's labor pains increase so does the the pace of wickedness as the end of the world draws near.

Back to...

Mark 13:14— "When you see **the abomination of desolation**, standing where it should not be" (let the reader understand),

standing where it should not be

A better translation is "standing where he should not be."

We'll see how this person plays out in a moment.

Where is this person standing?

He's standing in a new Temple in Jerusalem—in a holy place.

This is the first time that Mark's Gospel inserts commentary like this— (*let the reader understand*),

This is so important, and it's like Mark grabs us by our shirt collar and says— "*Slow down and wake up and pay attention.*"

This is a ginormous clue to the context of this passage.

Who are the readers reading this passage right now?

Us! The context of this verse is not people in the first century.

Because it wasn't until nearly 200 years later where the cannon was assembled and affirmed. (Muratorian Canon 170 AD)

So dear friends, Mark is saying to RBC today, "Reader, pay attention!—You need divine wisdom here."

For us to understand what Jesus is saying, we must see where else Scripture talks about **the abomination of desolation** before we can move on.

We will slow way down and get in the weeds with terms that are very important for us to understand.

The abomination of desolation points to the Antichrist's ultimate desecration of God's Temple. (cf. Dan. 9:27; 11:31; 12:11)

Abomination— something that is detestable, immoral, sacrilegious, and repulsive to God.

Throughout Scripture, the word "abomination" refers to idolatry and pagan worship.

When people choose to worship a false god—that is an abomination to The One True Living God.

Desolation— complete devastation and ruin.

You've seen pictures of the Twin Towers after they fell.

That event, unfortunately, (Or-derve) an hors d'oeuvre, to the Great Tribulation.

Antichrist- An enemy of Jesus Christ and the Church—authorized by Satan.

It's important to note that there are many Antichrists in Scripture, not just one.

We'll get to that ~~more~~ in a moment.

Jesus is not the first to use the term **the abomination of desolation**.

The prophet Daniel uses this term in Daniel 9:27, 11:31, 12:11.

Now, I usually would have us turn there and read it, but not today—if we did that, we would open up a can of worms that would take the next week to put back in.

KEYPOINT:

Summarize—*the abomination of desolation is a sacrilegious act that results in widespread destruction.*

History—In the OT book of Daniel, we read about a man named (Ann-Tie-Uh-cuss) Antiochus IV.

He is a Syrian king who controlled Israel from 175–165 b.c.

He proclaimed that he was a god.

And He did many things to irritate the Jews.

He sacrificed a pig on the altar of their Temple.

If that wasn't horrid enough, he forced the Jewish priests to eat its meat.

As you know, the Jews don't eat ham or bacon. So this is a problem.

Antiochus goes on to oppress the Jewish people, sells many Jews into slavery, and goes on to slaughter thousands more.

When you thought Antiochus was done, he goes on to place an idol of Zeus in the Temple.

Probably Along with an image of himself!

Finally, Antiochus also set up a brothel in the Temple chambers (2 Maccabees 6:4).

Now, that's Daniel's account—that's biblical history.

We would most definitely call Antiochus an Antichrist.

So, when Jesus uses this term—*the abomination of desolation*—the Disciples know precisely what Jesus is talking about here—that's why Jesus uses the term.

But Jesus is borrowing the term for the future.

There is a pretty good chance that Jesus is using this term as a double fulfillment.

Many people look at this passage today and think that it either had to be fulfilled in the first century with the destruction of the Temple.

Or that it will be fulfilled when Jesus comes back.

I'm going to propose to you that this text is not either-or, but both-and.

We see "double fulfillment's" all throughout Scripture...

For example, when we look at all the prophets, God was working through them.

These prophets were a type and a shadow of Christ himself—Abraham, Moses, Joseph, David—

These men were shepherding God's sheep at that time, but also pointing to Jesus at the same time.

Let me show you what I mean.

Mark 13:14— "then those in Judea must flee to the mountains.

Now Jesus is providing instruction at this point that is contradictory to what people did throughout Biblical history.

When people were attacked, they didn't run out to the mountains—they ran into the protection of the city walls.

And unfortunately, that is precisely what happened when the Romans invaded Jerusalem.

Most people ran toward the city instead of away from it.

However, the Disciples told their followers what to do.

The Disciples had about 40 years to prepare for the event.

The Romans destroy the Temple in 70 AD. *Just as Jesus promised.*

When the Romans conquered Jerusalem, all the Jews were trapped inside those city walls.

And the Romans butchered them—they murdered 1.1 million Jews.

The Roman general, Titus, his armies conquered Jerusalem and stole the gold from the Temple, and then burnt it down to the ground—

That was not enough destruction, desolation, and humiliation for the Jews.

Titus comes back to all the rubble— and places an idol on the old Temple Grounds and worships the idol.

Once again, any form of worship other than worship to the One True Living God is an abomination.

This abomination caused all sorts of desolation and destruction.

But, the Christians were not within the city walls. Why?

Because they ^{obeyed} listened to the words of Jesus in verses 15-18

Mark 13:15— A man on the housetop must not come down or go in to get anything out of his house,

Mark 13:16— and a man in the field must not go back to get his coat.

Mark 13:17— Woe to pregnant women and nursing mothers in those days!

Mark 13:18— "Pray it won't happen in winter.

Verses 15-18 is about urgency in the first century.

Jesus knows exactly what will happen and gives His disciples detailed instruction on how to survive this Tribulation.

You don't want anything slowing you down.

All you preppers, take note! Jesus says run!

You're not gonna have time to grab all that toilet paper you've been hoarding!

Jesus is precise, giving examples of things found in Israel.

So it's easy to think that Titus is this man that caused the abomination of desolation.

But then Jesus says this.

Mark 13:19— For those will be days of Tribulation, the kind that hasn't been from the beginning of creation until now and never will be again.

Wow.

All that to say this...

KEYPOINT: 1

The tribulation of the Temple was a foreshadowing of the ~~final events~~ The Great Tribulation.

Jesus is saying that The Great Tribulation will be more catastrophic than the Noah's flood.

So we know that this prophecy was not completely fulfilled with the destruction of the Temple in 70AD.

That would be impossible— because we wouldn't be here this morning.

We can look at this text this way:

1. There was an abomination of desolation with the Destruction of the Temple in the first century—This was a tribulation.
2. There will be the Great Tribulation which soon impacts the whole world.

Jesus provides more insight...

Mark 13:20— If the Lord had not cut those days short, no one would be saved. But he cut those days short for the sake of the elect, whom he chose.

So Jesus is not talking about the local Tribulation of Jerusalem here in verse 20,

but now, Jesus has shifted gears and is warning us about the worldwide cataclysmic event—that no one knows the day or time.

↳ The Great Tribulation

God, in His mercy, has chosen to cut short—the idea is to “amputate” those terrible days for the sake of the elect.

He has removed them on purpose.

+ **Mark 13:20**— *no one would be saved.*

Jesus is not talking about salvation here; He is saying that no one would be delivered or rescued from the Great Tribulation—everybody would die.

But why did He cut these days short?

+ **Mark 13:20**— *But he cut those days short for the sake of the elect, whom he chose.*

+ **Doctrine of Election**—The act of God before He created the world, where he chose a person or a group of people to be saved.

And if you, dear friend, have called on the name of the Lord Jesus for the payment of your sins—

And you believe that God the Father raised Jesus from the dead as proof that your sins have been paid for—

Then your response is evidence and confirmation of your election.

Your life, now being a living sacrifice for the Gospel, is a living testimony to your calling.

In other words, if you say that you're a Christian, and yet—your life has not changed slowly and progressively towards holiness and purity since that time, you're not a Christian.

Christians act like Christ—not perfectly but increasing over time.

Sons and daughters obey their Heavenly Father.

Please don't fool yourself.

Election is one of the most controversial aspects of salvation.

The reality is that, yes, God loves the world, and yes, God loves people...

AND God has always made a distinction between people, by placing His love upon them.

Being chosen is the very essence of what it means to be loved by God.

Why did God choose Israel? He loved them. (Deut 7:6-8.)

Why?

He loved them— because He chose to love them.

Scripture never apologizes or defends the doctrine of election.

Election is something that happens to us, not something we do.

So, it's out of God's love for His elect that He chooses to cut those days short.

Mark 13:21— "Then if anyone tells you, 'See, here is the Messiah! See, there!' do not believe it.

Mark 13:22— For false messiahs and false prophets will arise and will perform signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, the elect.

Mark 13:23— And you must watch! I have told you everything in advance.

Here we see the double fulfillment once again. *of this text*

The Tribulation with the Destruction of the Temple brought out many pretenders.

There will be more pretenders in the Great Tribulation.

please know
The false prophets will have supernatural demonic power to perform miracles.

BUT, they will not be able to deceive God's elect.

Your God is a Father, and a father guards His children with a holy vengeance.

Somebody may take your life, but they will not and cannot take your soul.

Jesus says that these false teachers will perform signs and wonders.

Signs are miracles that seem like things only God can do.

Wonders are the response of the miracle—people's amazement, shock, and surprise.

KEYPOINT: *Z*
Signs and wonders are not clear indicators of God's presence—Scripture is.

That's why Jesus has been telling us repeatedly to be careful and discerning of the false teachers, and now of the demonic miracles they will perform. *to fool people*

PREACH:

So what does all this talk of the Tribulation in the first century—and the Great Tribulation coming up at an unknown date and time—mean for you today?

How relevant is all of this as you watch the news and hear about wars and rumors of wars?

Let me ask you this...

Doesn't it seem that something demonically supernatural has clicked over the past two years—especially in our own country?

It appears that we have entered into a lower level of human depravity.

It seems that God has removed His hand of grace a notch upon the Earth.

You can not dismiss COVID—as anything else but judgment from God.

For the first time in the history of mankind, there is a worldwide enemy that no one can even see, let alone understand.

People think they understand, but they don't.

Is COVID a birth pain? Yes.

Are we a day closer to the Great Tribulation? Of course.

Is mandatory vaccinations a precursor to the Mark of the Beast? —Possibly.

One of Australia's news papers came out with a headline that said, "No Shot, No Shop."

Countries in Europe are moving forward with the same kind of polices.

Here in the U.S., the government is forcing military personnel to get vaccinated—along with encouraging major companies to fine employees who refuse.

Let me ask you this, "*Why would God judge the world right now?*"

Let's look over our shoulder and see how America's been living for the past 100 years or so.

- We ^{engaged} experienced the first sexual revolution back in the 1920s.
- Our second sexual revolution was in the 1960s.
- Our third sexual revolution is happening right now.
- We legalized sodomy and lesbianism in 2015 under the guise of modern marriage.
- We've twisted and deformed the image of God through transgenderism.
- We're allowing and encouraging kids to mutilate themselves physically and emotionally—so much so they truly believe that gender can be changed simply by saying it out loud.
- We started legally murdering people through the facade of abortion in the 1970s.
- We've taken prayer out of schools.
- We've taken prayer out of the workplace.
- When we do try to pray, we are mocked, shut down, and fined.
- We've modernized the abuse of women through Internet pornography, that nearly every channel, every ad, every newscast depreciates the value of women who are made in the image of God.
- We watch murder, rape, and pornography as entertainment on a daily basis.
- Lastly, We've redefined truth to mean whatever it is that we want at the moment.

So, "Why would God judge the world right now?"

Answer—one word. Disobedience

Jesus says there are two ways to live your life.

1. My Way
2. Your Way.

It's the Lord Jesus who decides what truth is.

It's the Lord Jesus who defines what marriage is.

It's the Lord Jesus, your creator and sustainer, who defines your sexuality and your gender for you.

It's the Lord Jesus, who defines marriage and love.

It's the Lord Jesus, who tells you how to treat your spouse and children, ^{neighbors}

It's the Lord Jesus, one who tells you how to handle your finances.

And it's the Lord Jesus, who offers eternal life.

The Great Tribulation will happen because people refuse to repent of all this sin and acknowledge Jesus as God.

Let me ask you, "*Are we, as a nation, even coming close to repentance?*"

In fact, people are becoming more defiant at the thought of a holy God telling them the best way to live their life.

And yet, dear friends, The Great Tribulation is coming—are you prepared for all hell to break loose?

What about your children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors in the Verde Valley?

And I'm not talking about physically or financially prepared.

I'm talking about being spiritually prepared.

Do you personally know this Jesus that we pray to and worship every Sunday?

Because He is coming back.

And this is not the 21st century sissified, feminized, Americanized Jesus that we think we know.

When Jesus comes back, He'll have eyes like a fiery flame, His feet like bronze to crush the wicked.

He's tatted up and His clothes are dipped in blood with a sword coming out of His mouth.

People who mock the cross of Christ will meet this Jesus—and they will pay for their sin themselves.

Now, we don't know the day or time.

I talked to a friend of mine, Pastor Randy, over at Vineyard Church this past week, and he said this...

"Jesus hasn't come back yet, because He can't understand all of our graphs and charts for the End Times."

One thing is for sure, and we learned this in verse 14.

When you see a man who claims to be God, having demonic powers, standing in the new Temple in Jerusalem demanding to be worshipped—

That is the sign when you know that there are three and a half years left of the Great Tribulation.

That's the sign we are looking for.

After those 3.5 years — Jesus will come back for the second time — Next week

in Jerusalem

Now the Temple has not been rebuilt, but there are groups of people working on that.

My prayer this morning is that the words of Jesus don't freak you—but do give you pause.

So that you think critically about your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Nothing is more important.

Secondly, our job as the church doesn't change.

It's the same as it was yesterday—the same as it will be tomorrow.

And that is to share the Good News of the Gospel!

That Jesus Christ came to set the captives free!

The Verde Valley can have peace with God, regardless of worldly circumstances.

Dear friends, please grab one of those blue invitation cards and a paper back Bible and give it to one person this week—just one.

And let's watch what God will do with our obedience to the Great Commission.

As He prepares us for The Great Tribulation

PRAYER ROOM:

PRAYER:

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