

**Refuge City Church — August 23, 2020**  
**“Is This The End??” (Mark 13:1-13)**

### **Introduction**

- How we study, speak, and what we believe about these events is very important.
- In the context of Mark 13, we must consider the following:
  - Who was Mark writing to? **[Gentiles; Romans]**
  - How Jesus answered the disciples questions.
  - How does this apply to us today, given world events
    - FYI: The United States is not the center of end times prophecy!
- Chapter 13 is broken down in the following sections:
  1. Jerusalem’s destruction & signs of the end.
  2. The Tribulation
  3. Christ’s return

### **Scripture Reading (Mark 13:1-13)**

#### **Verses 1-2**

**1** And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” **2** And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”

- In leaving the temple complex, Matthew tells us Jesus spent some time in lament over Jerusalem.
  - **Matthew 23:37-39**, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”
- Jesus prophesied the destruction of the temple; as massive as it was **[500 x 400 yards]**
  - The building itself had become an idol to the people. It meant more to them than God Himself.
  - The initial prophecy unfolds in 70 AD when Rome destroyed the city.

#### **Verses 3-4**

**3** And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, **4** “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?”

- 4 disciples ask Jesus about these events... They want to know **WHEN** it will occur, and **WHAT** will be the signs of it coming **[Matthew = “...and of the end of the age.”]**

- Due to the lack of understanding, the disciples still had focus on an imminent new kingdom, one free of Roman oppression.
- They believed Jesus was the Messiah come to establish His throne on earth.
  - **[post resurrection] Acts 1:6**, “So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

## Verses 5-8

**5** And Jesus began to say to them, “See that no one leads you astray. **6** Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. **7** And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. **8** For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.

- Jesus proceeds to give them answers that pre-date His 2nd Coming.
  - 1. Do not be deceived; Watch out [Core Value! wisdom/knowledge of God, not men]**
    - **Ephesians 5:6**, “Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”
    - **Colossians 2:8**, “See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”
    - **1 John 3:7**, “Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.”
  - Take heed...beware and be aware!
  - There will be many who come and claim to be Christ.
    - There is only one. He has already died for your sins, Jesus is the only ‘I Am’. The only Messiah.
      - **1 John 2:18**, “Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.”
      - **1 John 4:1**, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.”
    - Everyone is to be held accountable to the Word of God!
  - 2. Other signs act as “the beginning of birth pains”.**
    - What signs precede labor?
      - Worry/Anxiety, lower back pain, headaches, Braxton Hicks contractions
      - These are all physical representations of what is to come.

- Although uncomfortable, uneasy, and a little painful, even knowing the pain and discomfort will increase in severity as time progresses... **is.not.labor...** just the signs of what is to come.
- Look to history, how many times have people claimed to be Jesus or the Messiah? False prophets and teachers have deceived numerous people.
- How many wars, rumors of wars, natural disasters, famines, etc.?
- These are just the pre-cursors to the final judgment.
- This is the perspective we have, and can bring to others that don't know Jesus.
  - What we are seeing in the world today are mere signs of the coming judgement.
- Yet, Jesus says “do not be alarmed”; frightened, agitated.
  - **1 Thessalonians 5:1-4**, “Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.”

### Verses 9-13

**[verse 7: do not be alarmed] 9** “But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. **10** And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. **11** And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. **12** And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. **13** And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

### 3. Be on your guard! You will be persecuted for your faith!

- We're seeing this take place today!
- But it's been happening since God sent prophets to Israel. It happened to John the Baptist. It happened to Jesus. It happened to the disciples. It will happen to us.
  - **John 15:20**, “...If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.”
    - James killed by sword **[Acts 12:2]**
    - Peter and John arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin **[Acts 4]**
    - Paul arrested and tried before King Agrippa **[Acts 26]**
- “To bear witness before them”
  - Peter declares before the council that he will not stop preaching Christ; “we must obey God rather than man!”

- Paul shared the gospel to King Agrippa.
- Paul stoned at Lystra, but returned to preach the gospel.
- Paul preaches to the Philippian jailer.
- **QUESTION:** What is your response to a world hostile towards Jesus and Christianity? What is your reply when the world is falling apart?

#### 4. The gospel must be proclaimed to all nations!

- This is our great responsibility.
  - **Matthew 24:14**, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”
  - **Matthew 28:19-20**, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- **KEEP IN MIND:** With the same fervor, passion, and joy when the gospel is received, so with the same fervor, passion and hatred will come from those who reject it.
  - We are to speak the gospel, not justify our own actions.
- **ULTIMATELY**, this is about Jesus... “for my name’s sake.”
  - To endure is to remain faithful in all that God has given you to do. To remain under His authority, live in His grace, and trust in His ways.
  - **2 Timothy 2:11-12**, “The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;”

#### Response/Conclusion

- The theology of the end times can be very confusing and cause a lot of contrary views to scripture, which can lead, and has led to division in the church.
  1. So let us be certain that we are always looking to the Word of God for our answers, rather than man.
  2. As a Christian, don’t allow these discussions to cause you to become lazy and apathetic about your faith.
    - Are you assured of your salvation? Praise the Lord! Now use the time to do what you can to bring others in to a better understanding of who Jesus is.
    - Learn how to share the gospel, your faith, your testimony!
  3. Jesus makes the message extremely clear...be watchful, be alert, yet do so with much anticipation!
    - **Luke 21:28**, “Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”