

Refuge City Church — August 30, 2020
“Is This The End?” (Mark 13:14-27)

Introduction

- **Last week:** Signs of the times, false teachers, persecution, and our great responsibility to share the gospel.
 - **REMINDER:** the full scope of discussing end times, prophecy, and all that’s to take place can not be discussed in its entirety in just a few sermons.
 - We’ll discuss the things related to Jesus’ statements as they relate to Mark 13, and do our best to fill in around it.
- **Today:** Jesus continues His discourse on end times by talking about the Antichrist, the Tribulation, and His 2nd Coming.
 - Jesus had just clarified that the signs we see are just the beginnings of labor pains.
 - He now clarifies the real labor pains and what can be expected.

Scripture Reading (Mark 13:14-27)

Verse 14

14 “But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

- “The abomination of desolation” = What is it? Who is it?
 - We have to look to Daniel’s prophecy.
 - **Daniel 9:27**, “...And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”
 - **Daniel 11:31**, “Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate.”
 - Jesus clarifies and confirms in His discourse that these events will take place in the temple.
 - **Matthew 24:15**, “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place...”
 - But didn’t Jesus just declare the temple would be destroyed? And didn’t we see that take place in 70 A.D.?? Then how can it be that this abomination will stand in the holy place??
- Brief History of the Temple
 - The 1st Temple was built by King Solomon in 953 B.C.
 - It’s destruction foretold, and the temple destroyed in 587 B.C. by the Babylonians.
 - The 2nd Temple built by Zerubbabel; completed in 517 B.C.

- Prior to its destruction, a Seleucid Ruler (Ancient Greece) named Antiochus Ephiphanes IV besieged Jerusalem in 167 B.C.
 - He desecrated the Temple by stealing its treasures, set up pagan alters, and placed a pagan image in the Holy of Holies.
- The Temple was rebuilt and enlarged by Herod the Great around 20 B.C.
- As Jesus predicted, the 2nd Temple would be destroyed **[Rome in 70 A.D.]**
- So in order for the prophecied Antichrist to stand in the holy place, a 3rd Temple would have to be rebuilt.
 - Currently, there is a select group of devout Jews who are planning and preparing for this Temple.
 - **2 Thessalonians 2:3-4**, “Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.”

Verses 15-18

15 Let the one who is on the housetop not go down, nor enter his house, to take anything out, **16** and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. **17** And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! **18** Pray that it may not happen in winter.

- These instructions serve as an intense warning that something terrible would be coming. To drop everything immediately is a strong sign.

Verse 19

19 For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be.

- Brings clarity that all previous events attributed to interpreted Tribulation events has not yet been completely fulfilled.
 - **Daniel 12:1**, “...And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.”
 - Of all the calamities the world has ever seen, the events of the Tribulation will be the worst!
 - For the intensity of the details of what’s to come, the book of Revelation outlines the wrath and justice of God on a world that has rejected Him **[Revelation 6, 8, 16]**
 - **Isaiah 13:6-8**, “Wail, for the day of the Lord is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come! Therefore all hands will be feeble, and every human heart will melt. They will be dismayed: pangs and agony will seize them; they will be in

anguish like a woman in labor. They will look aghast at one another; their faces will be aflame.”

- **Revelation 6:15-17**, “Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”
- **[Jesus declares from the cross] Luke 23:28-30**, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’”
- When you talk of such destruction and judgement, people tend to blame God.
 - “How can such a loving God bring so much destruction?”
 - What we talk about here is His final revelation.
 - Shifting blame from man to God is that man doesn’t want his sin revealed.
 - **QUOTE:** “The terrible thing about sin is that it makes a man a fugitive from God; and the supreme thing about the work of Jesus Christ is that it puts a man into a relationship with God in which he no longer need seek to hide, knowing that he can cast himself on the love and the mercy of God.” (William Barclay)
 - Weeping for the cure is pointless. Weep for the disease of sin, upon which is a coming judgment.

Verses 20-23

20 And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days. **21** And then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it. **22** For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. **23** But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.

- God is in control and has set the time of the Tribulation. Had He allowed it to go on indefinitely, no one would survive.
- In this time, many will come forward claiming to be Jesus.
- So this serves as a repeat warning, similar to what He discussed in verses 5-6.
- Up until the very last moment, Jesus claims “Be on guard!”
- **2 Timothy 3:1-5**, “But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless,

swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.”

- **2 Timothy 3:14-15**, “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”
 - Just because we see and understand the signs, doesn’t mean we can be complacent in our faith.
 - It is a call to be just as fervent in your relationship with God, seeking His Word daily.
 - The influence of the masses can have a dramatic effect on your worldview.
 - This is happening right now! Even within the church, we are placating and responding to the hysteria of culture and trying to save America, when we should be reaching the lost for Jesus Christ!!
- **Psalms 9:9-10**, “The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.”

Verses 24-27

24 “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, **25** and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. **26** And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. **27** And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

- Jesus’ 2nd Coming
 - What’s NOT discussed is an event that many believe will occur prior to the Tribulation: The Rapture
 - The belief that Christians will be caught up with the Lord, and not have to endure the Tribulation period.
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**, “For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.”
 - **Revelation 3:10**, “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, to try those who dwell on the earth.”
 - **1 Corinthians 15:52**, “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.”

- There are various ‘camps of interpretation’ regarding when, and the order of these events **[the rapture, tribulation, 2nd coming, 1,000 year reign of Christ]**
 - Millennium/1,000 year reign of Christ **[Revelation 20:1-10]**
 - Amillennialism: maintains the belief that there will be no future millennium. We’re in it now. Judgment will come, and then eternal destinies begin.
 - Postmillennialism: the current church age will progress and eventually usher in the millennium. Christ will return, judgment will come, and then eternal destinies begin.
 - Premillennialism: Christ will come to rapture believers before the Tribulation, and then return to reign on earth for the millennium, then comes judgement, and finally eternal destinies begin.
- Regardless of whatever camp you may fall in to, every one agrees on the following:
 - Jesus is coming again.
 - The dead will rise.
 - A final judgement will occur.
 - Eternal destinies will be given.
- [Verse 24: “**But in those days, after that tribulation**”] When the Tribulation ends, Jesus will return.
- He won’t just walk on the scene again.
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**, “For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God.
 - **Revelation 19:11-16**, “Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.”

Response/Conclusion

- What are the imperatives of Jesus’ discourse thus far?
 - Do not let anyone deceive you **[vs. 5]**... Get in the Word daily.
 - Do not be alarmed **[vs. 7]**

- **1 Peter 4:12-13**, “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.”
- Be on your guard **[vs. 9, 23]**
 - **2 Timothy 4:2-4**, “be ready in season and out of season... For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.”
- Do not be anxious **[vs. 11]**
 - **Matthew 6:34**, “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”