



SERIES:	41 Mark - 2013
MESSAGE:	Mark 13:1-37
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Mark 13:1-37

MESSAGE SUMMARY

In Mark 13, Jesus addresses His disciples in what is known as the Olivet Discourse. He warns them about spiritual warfare, false prophets, and the coming tribulation for the nation of Israel. As we study this teaching from Jesus, we are reminded as believers to be alert and to get busy telling the good news of Jesus Christ.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. A transition and a bridge from controversy narratives to passion narrative
 - B. Parallels Matthew 24 and Luke 21
 - C. The book of Mark is action packed—focus is on what Jesus did
- II. The Olivet Discourse
 - A. The disciples asked Jesus about His prediction of the destruction of the temple and the sign of the end of the age
 - B. Jesus weaves together the near event and the far event—the destruction of the temple and the end of the world, the great tribulation
 1. The disciples thought these things were going to come very quickly
 2. There will be quite a length of time between then and His second coming
 - C. The temple
 1. A magnificent building
 2. The stones were huge
 3. The Jews believed that the existence of the temple in Jerusalem was evidence of God's blessing
 4. At the time of Jesus' talk with the disciples, the temple wasn't even done yet
 5. It took 80 years to build
 6. It was destroyed in AD 70
 7. It was set on 36 acres—one fifth the land mass of Jerusalem
 8. The pinnacle of the temple (southeast corner) was 158 feet
 - a. Imagine the scene where Satan tempted Jesus to jump (see Matthew 4:1-11)
 - b. Skip took a Frisbee and hurled it from the pinnacle of the temple out toward the Kidron Valley
 - c. "He who has never seen the temple of Herod has never seen a fine building" (Babylonian Talmud)
 9. A single stone weighed over 400 tons; they were stacked on top of each other
 10. The main building was 90 feet taller than the Temple Mount

11. Golden cornice
 - a. The Roman soldiers dismantled the temple in order to get the gold that had melted and flowed in between the stones
 - b. Today, you can see some of those stones and the dents they made in the streets
 - c. The destruction of the temple was the near event
- D. Four disciples have two questions: When? What?
 1. What's going on in their minds
 - a. They had a fixed Jewish eschatology
 - i. Significant turmoil
 - ii. Elijah or Elijah-like forerunner will appear
 - iii. Messiah will come
 - iv. Scattered Jews will return
 - b. They believed they were at step three; but now the temple will be destroyed? That was confusing to them
 2. A geocentric answer—the context is Jewish
 3. Deception
 - a. We should never be taken off guard that there is spiritual warfare
 - b. Jesus alerted the disciples that they were in warfare
 - c. Daniel 10 explains the Prince of Persia, who delayed the answer to Daniel's prayer (see Daniel 10)
 - d. Old saying, "Satan is never too busy to rock the cradle of a sleeping saint"
 - e. Why deception?
 - i. Sir Isaac Newton: "Every action has an opposite and equal reaction"
 - ii. Every divine action brings an opposite satanic reaction
 - iii. If there's truth, there will be lies
 - iv. John said, "Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour" (1 John 2:18)
 - v. Jesus said, "Many will come in My name" (see Matthew 24:4-5)
 - vi. The Antichrist will come with the characteristics of Satan
 - vii. The primary tactic of Satan is deception
 4. Wars
 - a. The beginning of sorrows—the beginning of birth pangs (v. 8)
 - b. These things (wars, earthquakes, famines) have always been around us
 - c. Birth pangs are different
 - d. When the pangs become more frequent and intense, you know that the birth is right around the corner
 - e. The end times will see an intensity and frequency of war
 - f. The great tribulation tells of the four horsemen will come—people will kill one another—it will be unlike any other time (see Revelation 6 and 12)
 5. Context of verse 10; our schedule or God's?
 6. The rapture of the church
 - a. If the church is raptured, how will people hear about God?
 - i. There will be two witnesses in Jerusalem (see Revelation 11:3)

- ii. There will be 144,000 sealed servants of the Lord
 - iii. God will send a special angelic messenger (see Revelation 14:6-7)
 - b. Why not just send an angel to begin with?
 - c. God has chosen the foolish things (see I Corinthians 1:27)
- 7. The rapture of the church
- 8. The abomination of desolation
 - a. Daniel predicts it three times (see Daniel 9:27, 11:31, and 12:11)
 - b. Someone or something placed in the temple to cause it to be desolate
 - c. It happened before when Antiochus Epiphanes defiled the temple
 - d. Jesus spoke of it as in the future
 - e. It happened historically; when will it happen again?
- 9. Reminder: He was speaking to the inhabitants of Jerusalem about an event in the future
 - a. There is a catastrophe like never before coming to the Middle East, centered in Israel
 - b. The Middle East is always in the headlines
 - c. Currently, Syria is flaring up
 - d. Isaiah made a prediction (see Isaiah 17:1-3)
 - i. The city of Damascus will be totally destroyed
 - ii. That has never happened; it may be oldest city on earth
 - iii. It will have something to do with a battle with Israel
 - iv. It may happen in the tribulation period, may be tomorrow
 - v. Every day the news is unfolding in the Middle East
 - e. Jeremiah called the tribulation period "the time of Jacob's trouble" (see Jeremiah 30:7)
 - f. Zechariah said that when the Antichrist comes, two thirds of the Jews in Judea will be killed (see Zechariah 13)
 - g. God has set time limits on this final day of wrath—1,260 days
 - i. The tribulation period will be God's wrath upon the earth
 - ii. It will be the hatred of Satan for God's elect
 - iii. And man's rebellion
- 10. If you are truly elect, you will not be deceived (v. 22)
- 11. Jesus has not yet returned, so the prophecies in verses 24-27 have not yet happened
- 12. Parable of the fig tree (vss. 28-31); interpreted a number of ways
 - a. A picture of the nation of Israel—no
 - i. Then nation of Israel reestablished in the 1940s? No, the disciples could not have gotten that
 - ii. In Luke 21, Jesus says to look at the fig tree and all of the trees
 - iii. The word generation refers to race; also obscure to the disciples
 - iv. You can tell what the future will bring by what is beginning to happen
 - b. After a winter of tribulation, comes a spring time of blessing
- 13. Even Jesus didn't know the day or time
 - a. If you are in the tribulation period and you see some of these things happen, you can count on the exact day of His coming

- b. Rapture of the church kicks it all off; no one knows when that will happen
- c. From our vantage point we are awaiting:
 - i. Jesus coming toward the earth for the church—we will meet Him in the air
 - ii. Jesus coming to earth with the church

III. Closing

- A. Get saved, get active, get busy
- B. Saddest reality is that some of you will listen to this message and still push away the Lord

Greek Terms: γενεά; genea, race, family, generation

Publications referenced: Babylonian Talmud

Figures referenced: Sir Isaac Newton, Antiochus Epiphanes

Cross references: Isaiah 17:1-3, Jeremiah 30:7, Daniel 9:27, Daniel 10, Daniel 11:31, Daniel 12:11, Matthew 4:1-11, Matthew 24, Luke 21, 1 Corinthians 1:27, 1 John 2:18, Revelation 6, Revelation 11:3, Revelation 12, Revelation 14:6-7

Topic: End of days

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