

A Total Fear Throughout the Earth

Mark 13:1 – 37



~ Our Spiritual Safari rolls on today by the grace of God in the action-packed Gospel of Mark, although the action in this particular report will be entirely prophetic. We haven't had any miracles recorded for a few chapters; and we'll not see any miracles in this leg of our expedition, either. This chapter records Jesus' words regarding the eschatological proceedings of the end of this age. The catastrophic events of the Great Tribulation are given, and the second advent of Christ is graphically iterated. What we discover in this chapter is action geared for divine power. This power is a whole lot greater than atomic power, too, by the way.

As we consider this chapter, you may notice that we've been given all of these events previously in Matthew. This chapter isn't as long as some others; and Mark's policy is to abbreviate his message and get right to the point. We have only had one episode so far where Mark's account was longer than Matthew's. This is an abridged, truncated edition of the Olivet Discourse.

We go with Jesus now back up to the Mount of Olives - again. We know the apostles are in shock at this point, but they find a way to get it together long enough to ask these questions. Mark does not give the full account that Matthew gave but the points he does bring out about it are remarkable. This is an illustration about how misunderstandings can arise when comparing and evaluating the four separate Gospel accounts; and including other passages of Scripture.

If you're just joining our safari then you may, naturally, have a question about the background for this. We have already been through Matthew, so we're going to give only a casual reference here. Jesus pronounces a coming desolation upon the temple that puzzled the apostles. Jesus says it's all going to be gone some day. The glory and grandeur of the temple and the surrounding buildings was so magnificent they simply could not

imagine it not being there one day! The apostles have to ask Jesus if He sees the same buildings they see! Well, the two tallest buildings in America stood for decades and all came down within about an hour.

So, let me ask you – do you REALLY see what man has built? Our civilization appears to be beautiful, strong, sheltering and permanent. When I look at downtown in any city it looks like it's going to be here for a long time. Before it happened, you could never have convinced me those two buildings in New York would fall down so easily. Now, it's much easier for me to look at large landmarks and buildings and imagine them not being there anymore. A true perspective on life would allow us to see that not one stone will be left upon another – it's all coming down. We look NOT at the things that are seen; but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporal but the things which are not seen are eternal.

There was a definite glory about Babylon as Nebuchadnezzar walked through it. Well, old man Neb's looked around and said, "... is this not great Babylon that I have built?" Have you ever seen the pictures of the ruins of Babylon? There's nothing to brag about there today, friends; the glory is all disappeared and gone. Today, in our modern cities we are building as fast as we possibly can; but, it's all coming down again. Why? Because God SAID they were going to come down again. The material things you look around and see are all passing away. Do you really see – do you really WANT to see – things eternal? ~

1 And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master; see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!

2 And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

3 And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately,

~ Mark always drops in the little details that we don't get in other accounts. Since we think this was Peter's Gospel, it makes sense that these four are named. Matthew didn't give us all of this information, but Matthew did ask all three questions. Only Luke will tell us the time when one stone won't be left on top of another; but both Matthew and Mark bring us Jesus answer to what is the sign of the end of the age and what is the sign of the coming of Christ? Matthew goes into much more detail, but Mark's emphasis is writing to the Roman man of that day. Mark only calls attention to that which reveals power and action and that which is dramatic....

4 Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?

5 And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you:

6 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

~ The warnings against false Christ's are more relevant than most people think they are. There is a HUGE danger of being deceived by a false Christ right now today. Some people think they are immune to this danger. Many of you reading this think there is no way you could possibly be deceived by a false Christ. Well, the Jesus of the liberal church and the Jesus that goes around the cult churches – not to mention the Pope himself – is an antichrist! The church does not have the real Christ - and the Pope thinks he is Jesus - but he is just a ritualistic fool – and the liberal Jesus in the liberal church is a myth! We have no record of any liberal Jesus. Sometimes, it even appears that they teach the Christ of the Bible, but they are far from it. The problem is that most church members have no idea what the Bible teaches, and the church is capitalizing and counting on THAT right now.

The only Jesus we have any record of whatsoever on the face of this earth is the Lord Jesus Christ Who was virgin born, performed miracles, shed His blood on the cross for the remission of the sins of the world, was raised bodily from the grave and ascended to Heaven bodily and will be returning

bodily to this earth. If your Jesus isn't that Jesus, then your Jesus is as mythical as Zeus or Athena and probably less because there is NO record of your Jesus at all! If you preach that liberal Jesus, then you really preach for Satan – did you know that? Oh, yes; skip ANY of those points and you have a satanic cult on your hands, friends! The alarm bell is ringing, and the warning has been broadcast! If you choose not to respond, then you will die in your sins right where you sit today!

The Lord Jesus is returning again – that's what the Bible teaches; and the Bible happens to be the only documents of an authentic historical nature about anyone named Jesus; and it claims ALL of these cardinal facts of our faith! John says there are many antichrists, and we have a lot of phonies floating the airwaves of technology saying the dumbest, most asinine things they could possibly say or write. Many preachers claim to be able to do what Christ cannot do and, as we have said, the pope of the cult of Catholicism thinks he IS Christ. Well, a rock group from the sixties claimed once they were more popular than Jesus! They all said they were going to do more for man than Jesus was able to do! Well, those songs from that group somehow aren't as popular as Jesus is – again! I guess Christ has made a comeback. The others are dead or very close to it. There are many antichrists right now; all you have to do is look around! We need to thank Jesus for the warnings He gave us about this, and we need to learn them very carefully....

7 And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet.

8 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows.

~ Wars, like false Christ's, seem to characterize this entire age. No believer should be disturbed by wars because they are not the sign of the end of the age. God says when we see them, the end is not yet. So, we know that neither these false Christ's nor wars indicate we're at the end of the age. Mankind feels extremely advanced and civilized today. We have computers, information, world communication, "smart" cars - and so many gadgets

that increase in number every day. I think man believes he will make the world great again. Unfortunately, we know that we have polluted everything; the bankers have destroyed the economy; doctors are killing the healthcare field; lawyers and judges do not know justice; universities have taught stupidity; governments have stripped all but the most basic of freedoms away – and they're in jeopardy; the press is a slanted tale of misinformation and religion has made a mockery of morals. This world population explosion will make the world unable to sustain feeding its people very soon, and we are fast approaching ultimately making it uninhabitable altogether.

That happens to be exactly what the Bible teaches, friends. The Book that men despise with such acidic and sinister hate just happens to be deadly accurate! Years ago, man said science was going to fix everything - but all they've created are more problems that DEFINITELY cannot be solved. Neither the brain trust nor the normal corrective actions of the earth itself can solve the problems of this age outside of Divine intervention. Even the renowned Bernard Shaw said, "... the science in which I put my faith has failed me and, behold, you are now seeing an atheist that has lost his faith." When an atheist loses his faith that is, perhaps, the worst fall of them all? These are the things that characterized the age when Jesus was here on earth

9 But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.

10 And the gospel must first be published among all nations.

~ The Gospel in this passage means the Gospel of the Kingdom; and it's the same Gospel we have today. None of the Gospel writers attempt to cover completely the entire account they are recording. They do all concur, however, on the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ - and other characteristics which we have previously considered. Each writer has their own separate purpose. The Kingdom Gospel is the same as the Gospel we preach today with one remarkable facet of distinction: while Kingdom dwellers will also have salvation by the grace of God, the

emphasis will be upon repentance - not belief! God has never had but one way to save sinners; and that's by the death, burial and resurrection of Christ! But in the Great Tribulation period when they say "repent" they'll really mean it....

11 But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Spirit.

~ I think this is the most widely used verse by lazy preachers as an excuse to not prepare a sermon. Some preachers wait until they get to the pulpit; and then they wait some more until the Spirit of God gives them a message. I think the Spirit of God would have spoken to them and given them the words for a powerful sermon in Bible study - but, there they are just messing around and saying whatever. Sometimes it's embarrassing, honestly. Well, this passage is not talking about today, it is referring to that day when the one hundred forty-four thousand from the nation Israel will once again be witnesses for Him! This is a message for them - NOT an excuse for preachers and teachers to be derelict at their duty....

12 Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death.

13 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

~ This hate is anti-Semitism. Verse thirteen means God is going to seal those saints in the Great Tribulation period, and He is going to see to it that they will make it through in the end. With that we have the abomination of desolations which we have considered before. I don't know what an abomination of desolations is - and neither do you - but we do know it will mark the beginning of the Great Tribulation period. The first three and a half years are relatively quiet and then appears this abomination spoken of by Daniel the prophet standing where it shouldn't - in the Holy place! ~

14 But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:

~ If Mark had said to the Romans the abomination of desolations would stand in the Holy place, they would have had no idea what he meant. Mark just says it will stand where it shouldn't stand. That's more understandable to most people today, too, because they do not understand the Holy place and the nation Israel as a whole. Of course, there is no Holy place today and the church does not have a "Holy place" ~

15 And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter therein, to take any thing out of his house:

16 And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment.

17 But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

18 And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter.

19 For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.

20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.

21 And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not:

22 For false Christ's and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

23 But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.

24 But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,

25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.

26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

28 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near:

~ These are not rain clouds in verse twenty-six; this is the same cloud as the Shekinah glory. We believe the glory of God will cover and lead the earth when He returns. This is a sign of the Son in Heaven. This is not the rapture of the church in verse twenty-seven., either - because the church is called up to meet the Lord in the air at that time. Angels are not even mentioned as the rapture occurs and angels are not sent to do it. And that brings us by the fig tree again; and, as we have seen, this represents the nation Israel. We recognize the disagreement that might be made to that statement and we do not mind those who think otherwise. If you feel the fig tree is something else that's alright but I believe a search and consideration of all Scripture reveals supporting evidence to make a solid case that the fig tree is the nation Israel! ~

29 So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors.

30 Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.

31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

34 For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.

35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrow, or in the morning:

36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

~ This watch is the watch you and I are on in this Spiritual Safari. We're watching for our Blessed Hope. We can watch for Him in anxiety and fear or we can watch out hopefully; as if waiting for a loved one to arrive! The child of God is to be looking for our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ and His glorious appearing today; and that is an anticipation of joy. During the Great Tribulation period, however, the watching will be done in total fear throughout all the earth ~

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