

Our Future in His Hands

Mark 13:01-13

Series: Christ our Focus

1. Introduction:

- a. We are getting to one of the most contentious portions of Scripture.
 - i. This portion is contentious because many people, honest people, have differing views as to the meaning of this portion in regards to the end times.
 - ii. For our purpose today, we are going to look at this chapter as both containing a message for the day in which Christ ministered and also as a future eschatological event.
 - 1. Chapter 13 prefigures Christ as coming in final judgment, the destruction of the temple, and the fall of Jerusalem.
- b. Central to Mark 13 is the destruction of the temple and the questions that the disciples ask of Jesus.
 - i. Question 1 – Tell us, when will these things be?
 - ii. Question 2 – What will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?
- c. There is a paradox, an alternating between the immediate future and the end of time, in which the destruction of the temple and fall of Jerusalem are function as a prefigurement for the Coming of the Lord.
 - i. Hebrew Parallelism
 - 1. A¹ – End of the temple and fall of Jerusalem – V. 1-13
 - 2. B¹ – Tribulation and Parousia – V. 14-27
 - 3. A² – End of the temple and fall of Jerusalem – V. 28-31
 - 4. B² – Parousia and watchfulness – V. 32-37
- d. The premium of discipleship is placed not on predicting the future but on faithfulness in the present, especially in trials, adversity, and suffering

2. Verses 1-2 – The destruction of the temple

- a. Verse 1 –
 - i. As he came out of the temple
 - 1. More than a physical description, rather, it symbolizes Jesus’ final and definitive break from the temple.
 - 2. The temple had been judged and condemned as a “den of robber”
 - 3. Jesus leaves the temple never to return.

- a. **Ezekiel 10:18-19** Then the glory of the LORD went out from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim. (19) And the cherubim lifted up their wings and mounted up from the earth before my eyes as they went out, with the wheels beside them. And they stood at the entrance of the east gate of the house of the LORD, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them.
 - ii. Look at the temple!
 - 1. Temple was glorious. It was being built for over 50 years at this time and would continue for another 40 years.
 - 2. 35 acres complex
 - 3. East wall covered in gold and jewels.
 - 4. The disciples are amazed.
 - b. Verse 2 –the temple stopped functioning as it was intended and like the Pharisees it was a clean cup on the outside but inside it was filled with filth.
 - i. It would be completely destroyed in AD 70 by the Romans.
- 3. Verse 3 – Sitting on the mount of olives
 - a. Position of teacher
 - b. The place by which the presences of God left.
 - c. Jesus positioning himself in the role of God.
- 4. Verses 4-5 – Two questions
 - a. When will the destruction of the temple be
 - i. A paradigm of something greater
 - b. Sign as to the end of the age, the coming of the Lord.
 - i. And yet the end will not be yet
 - c. Verse 5 – see that you are not deceived
 - i. Christ is against future speculation at the expense of present obedience.
- 5. Verse 6 – Threat to Discipleship
 - a. Threats from within the household of faith
 - i. Deceivers will arise claiming, “I am he.”
 - ii. The original Greek, “I am.”
 - iii. The years before the revolt many people came and today they are still coming

1. **Acts 5:36-37** For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. (37) After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered.
6. Verses 7-8 – International affairs will affect Christianity
 - a. Verse 7 –
 - i. In the years before the destruction there were wars and rumors of war.
 - ii. This continues today
 - iii. We are not to be alarmed
 - iv. The end is not yet.
 - b. Verse 8 – these are the beginning of the birth pains
 - i. We are then not to speculate about the dates but to be watchful.
 7. Verses 9-10 – Threats to faith through persecution
 - a. Be on guard
 - i. Believers will be persecuted by the religious and the political
 - ii. But their suffering is not without purpose
 1. Paul testified in front of Caesar
 2. Others in front of their ruling and governing authorities
 3. Others in front of false religions
 - b. To all nations – even now the persecutions of believers witnesses authentic preaching of the gospel
 8. Verse 11 – Persecution should not produce anxiety
 - a. Faithfulness is not predicated on forecasting the future but instead it is predicated on trusting God and His grace to fulfill His will for us.
 - b. God will speak for us.
 9. Verse 12 – Persecution will break up families and the closes of relationships.
 - a. Because of the persecution one will turn on the other.
 - b. Loyalty to Christ will be odious to the world, and believers will be hated
 - c. Believers are not commanded to do what they cannot but what they have been empowered to do.
 - d. Here lies our salvation

10. Benediction –

- a. **2 Timothy 4:16-18** At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! (17) But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. (18) The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.