

Our Future in His Hands – Part B

Mark 13:14-27

Series: Christ our Focus

1. Introduction:

- a. Purpose of this sermon:
 - i. Not to scare anyone but to cause everyone to take stock and realize that as this world deescalates, we can come to the Lord.
 - ii. Prophecies purpose is to change our today
- b. Last week we discussed the breakdown of this chapter.
 - i. The chapter is written from both perspectives:
 1. The fulfillment in the destruction of the temple
 2. The advent future catastrophic events as a precursor to the second advent of our Lord, Jesus Christ
 - a. The bible then indicates that the state of this world will continually degrade and even become increasingly hostile toward true Christianity and Christ himself.
- c. This chapter is broken down as follows:
 - i. A¹ Verses 01-13 – End of the temple and fall of Jerusalem
 - ii. B¹ Verses 14-27 – and Parousia
 - iii. A² Verses 28-31 – End of the temple and Fall of Jerusalem
 - iv. B² Verses 32-37 – Parousia and watchfulness for the Coming
- d. The difficulty found in the portion of Scripture is found in verse 14 – “The Abomination of Desolation”

2. Verses 14-18 – The abomination that Causes Desolation

- a. Verse 14 – Abomination...
 - i. **Daniel 9:27** And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator."
 - ii. **Daniel 11:31** Forces from him shall appar and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate.

- iii. **Daniel 12:11** And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days.
- iv. Antiochus IV (Epiphanes) – defiled the temple but our portion is speaking of a future desecration
 - 1. Some equate it with Caligula’s desire to set up an idol which he never did
 - 2. Some equate it with Titus marching into Jerusalem but here too no marching into a temple and desecrating by standing inside
 - 3. It refers to the man known as Antichrist
 - a. A future event – a rebuilding of the temple
- v. Antichrist –
 - 1. **2 Thessalonians 2:1-4** Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, (2) not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. (3) 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, (4) 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.
- vi. The severity of the persecution will be such that an immediate exodus is what is required.
 - 1. Remember Lot’s wife

3. Verses 19-23 – The Tribulation

- a. The destruction of Jerusalem was a precursor to this dark and terrible time that is awaiting the earth.
- b. Verse 19 – a tribulation that will dwarf anything else in human history
- c. Verse 20 – the death toll will be astronomical and if God does not intervene all life on earth will cease
 - i. Think of our ability to destroy one-another
 - ii. For the sake of the elect – shortens the time and the extent of the destruction
- d. Verses 21-22 – The false

- i. The false will be prevalent the deception of signs and wonders so believable – that if it were possible the elect themselves would be fooled.
 - 1. This goes to the eternal security of the believer –
 - 2. **John 10:28** I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.
 - e. Verse 23 – be on guard, I have told you
 - i. The mark of faithfulness is watchfulness
 - ii. Jesus warns his disciples and the church not to be distracted or diverted from obedience to Himself
 - iii. Christ reveals truth to us
- 4. Verses 24-27 – The Return of Christ
 - a. It is the upheaval here that signals the return of Christ, and not false messiahs.
 - b. A cosmic collapse – darkness overpowers everything just as in Genesis.
 - i. **John 8:12** Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
 - c. Verse 26 – they will see the son of man coming in the clouds
 - i. Christ comes in the clouds, the presence of God
 - ii. He comes in power and glory
 - d. Verse 27 – He will gather his elect from the four corners
 - i. This is our promise, no matter where we are at the Lord will deliver us to Himself.
- 5. Benediction –
 - a. **Mark 8:36-38** For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? (37) For what can a man give in return for his soul? (38) For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."