

Prepare for the Son (Part 1) - Let's Go
Mark 13:1-23
1-30-22

Genesis 11:4 – "...*They said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.'*"

I. Deception and Disruption Will Challenge Us.

Mark 13:1-6 – "*And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!' And Jesus said to him, 'Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.'* And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, '*Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?*' And Jesus began to say to them, '*See that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray.*'"

Ezekiel 11:23 – "*And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain that is on the east side of the city.*"

1. Many false prophets will appear.

1 John 2:18 – "*Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore, we know that it is the last hour.*"

2. They will deceive the multitudes.

Matthew 7:15 – "*Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.*"

II. Persecution and Pain Will Test Us.

1. There will be wars and rumors of wars.

Mark 13:7 – "*And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet.*"

2. Nation will fight against nation.

Mark 13:8 – "*For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.*"

3. Earthquakes and famines will increase.

Mark 13:8 – "*...there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.*"

4. Families and friends will publicly choose sides.

Mark 13:12-13 – *"And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved."*

Acts 5:41 – *"Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name."*

III. The Antichrist Will Rise.

Mark 13:14-23 – *"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. Let the one who is on the housetop not go down, nor enter his house, to take anything out, and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! Pray that it may not happen in winter. 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. 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. And then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand."*

The Antichrist:

1. He will claim to be God.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 – *"Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God."*

2. He will blaspheme God and His people.

Revelation 13:6 – *"And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven."*

3. He will have world-wide economic and political control.

Revelation 13:7 – *"...(he) was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation."*

Revelation 13:16-17 – *"(he) forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name."*

4. He will have miraculous power, stage a resurrection, and be worshipped by many.

Revelation 13:11-14 – *"Then I saw another beast it... makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, and ...deceives those who dwell on earth..."*

Revelation 13:14 – *"(they were) ordered to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived."*

5. He will cause a world-wide war against God's people.

Revelation 19:19 – *"And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army."*

6. He will be righteously judged.

Revelation 19:20 – *"And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur."*

7. He cannot stop Christ or us from glorifying the Father.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 – *"Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word."*

- Don't be led astray, be aware.
- Don't be anxious, be active.

Growing Deeper This Week

1. Do you remember hearing any predictions of the end of the world? What did you think at the time?
2. Why did the Jews think the temple could not possibly be destroyed? Do we feel the same way about certain buildings, institutions, or denominations?
3. What is discouraging about Jesus' predictions of end times? What is encouraging about having the predictions before the events happen?
4. What recent and current events appear to be fulfilling this prophecy? What should we do considering these events?
5. How can persecution of followers of Christ result in the spread of Christianity?
6. In what context should you not "worry beforehand what you will say"? Does this mean we should not practice our testimony, study apologetics, or prepare for hypothetical theological debates?
7. When we see that "death" is a possible result of persecution, what should be our Christian attitude toward death?
8. What are the indications in this text that God is completely in control of events all the way to the end of time? How is this encouraging?
9. What should we be doing with our time, treasures, and talents while we wait for His return?