

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

43- Behold He Comes Mark 13:24-37

Mark 13:24-37 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: 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 cockcrowing, or in the morning: 36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. 37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

We have previously looked at the first part of chapter 13 of the gospel of Mark. We talked about the signs of the times and things surrounding the return of Christ.

In my life time I have seen several people who set the date for the return of Christ. One man recently set the date of Christ return as May 21, 2011. If we here on the 22nd, and we were, that disproved him again. He had also set a date in 1994. Having said that let us understand one thing very clear. The Bible says that only the Father has this knowledge. *Matthew 24:36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*

Would you say just because He had not come yet that this makes it probably that He is not coming? I would say that if you do then you would be wrong. Matthew did not say He was not coming only that we do not know the time.

Mark 13 is the record of what is called the Sermon on the Mount. We discovered in the first part of this chapter that there would be false messiahs (v 6, 13), and that international conflict would come (v 7-8). Natural disasters will come (v 8) along with religious persecution and the desecration of the rebuilt temple would occur (v 14-15). One important note of distinction we have discussed is that these signs occur after the rapture of the church and during the tribulation period to follow.

I- Cosmic Disturbances:

I have often wondered why the early men had such a fascination and awe of the planets and stars. That by the way was their version of "as the world turn." We today can hardly notice the awesomeness of God in the cosmos. Notice that there will be cosmic disturbances before the coming of the Messiah.

Mark 13:24 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.

We see this in the book of the Revelation also. Notice *Revelation 6:13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.*

Revelation 8:12 And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise. So we see the cosmic disturbances will happen but notice what is next.

Mark 13:26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

Behold He comes, riding on the clouds. Notice this from the Revelation as well. *Revelation 19:11-15 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. 12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword,*

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that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

II- The Gathering:

As a part of this we also see the gathering of those who are followers of God from all over the earth. *Mark 13:27 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.*

The Lord will gather His people from all over the earth. Some see this as the regathering of Israel, God's people after the tribulation. These also include the Gentiles who are saved during the tribulation. The book of Jude makes it plain that this was part of the future plan of God from early in the history of mankind. *Jude 1:14-15 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, 15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.*

Jesus comes and sets up the millennium kingdom on earth.

III- Parable of the Fig Tree:

Jesus next turn to a parable to show the swiftness that these events will come to pass once they begin. *Mark 13:28 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: 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.*

Now back to the thought of just because He had not come does that make His coming doubtful? I say no because as we see here that once Jesus raptures the church the events will unfold quickly. We can see that the generation He is speaking of was not the one alive when Jesus told us this. However, there is another possible meaning to this as well because this word generation can be used for not an individual but the lineage.

Wuest says, "Certainly, the generation of men alive when our Lord was on earth, has died, and could therefore not remain until this future time. The context must rule here, as to the particular meaning of the word in this instance. The word was used in the papyri manuscripts in the sense of "race, lineage." It denoted a family, without individual reference. It was used in a will to speak of a person's issue, his descendants."

IV- It's Settled:

Not many things in life are certain. We often hear it as death and taxes. Well you could not pay your taxes, risking prison, and Jesus may come and rapture us before death. So these are not really certain. May I suggest that the things of the Word of God is certain. God says that His word will not pass and is more secure than even the earth we know.

Mark 13:31 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.

While it is settled that Jesus is coming back we also know that we do not know when. Now to be totally honest, intelligently, academically and otherwise, we must admit there is much we do not understand about these events but we know for a fact they are settled. We do not have to understand things for them to be true.

V- Watch:

As believers what should be our reaction to the settled facts? Notice what Mark records for us by the words of our Master. *Mark 13:33 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 cockcrowing, or in the morning: 36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. 37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.*

We should be watching and praying and witnessing and telling, loving and expecting.