

(6) Notes:

Sierra Community Church December 13th, 2012-Dan & Noah



Eschatology Discussion Part 2
Mark Chapter 13,
Matthew 24, Luke 21
The Olivet Discourse

Disciples' questions:

As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "***Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?***"

Matthew 24:3

Tell us, when will these things happen and what will be the sign of Your coming?

In the preterit view Mark chapter 13 verses 4-31 all have to do with the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in AD 70

Verses 5-13 - the run up to 70 AD

1. False Messiahs will arise:

5 Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. 6 Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many.

It was a terrible time and here's a quote from Josephus during the time of Felix: *As far as the affairs of the Jews they grew worse and worse continually until the country was again filled with robbers and imposters who deluded the multitude. Yet did Felix capture and put death those imposters everyday together with the robbers.*

2. The proliferation of wars, famines and earthquakes

7 And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately. 8 Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in many parts of the world, as well as famines. But this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.

(2) ("Histories" 1:2) Tacitus *"The history on which I am entering [just following Nero's death] is that of a period rich in disaster, terrible with battles, torn by civil struggles, horrible even in peace. Four emperors failed by the sword; there were three civil wars, more foreign wars and often both at the same time."*

Were there intense earthquakes during this time? Yes. Scripture itself records three of them: *when Jesus was murdered (Matthew 27:54); when the stone was rolled away from His tomb (Matthew 28:2); and when Paul and Silas were imprisoned (Acts 16:26).*

Historians note the following earthquakes: Crete (AD 46/47) Rome (AD 51) Phrygia (AD 53) Laodicea (AD 60) Campania (AD 62) Pompeii (AD 63)—this one is particularly famous.

Famines?

there were four famines during Claudius' reign, including the one recorded in Acts 11:28 (circa A.D. 49). . .

Tacitus records a famine occurring about 51AD in Rome:
"This year witnessed many prodigies; repeated earthquakes. . . further portents were seen in a shortage of corn, resulting in famine. It was established that there was no more than fifteen days' supply of food in the city. Only heaven's special favor and a mild winter prevented catastrophe." ("Annals" 12:43)

3. Widespread Persecutions and Gospel is preached

9 "You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. 10 And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. 11 Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit. 12 "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. 13 Everyone will hate you because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. Mark 13:9-13

(3) So what does the rest of the NT have to say about this?

Colossians 1:5–6: . . . because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, ...

Colossians 1:23: . . . if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

See also: Acts 2:5 ;Romans 1:5,6; Romans 16:25,26

Verses 14-27 are descriptive of the actual event of the judgment and destruction of Jerusalem.

4. What is the Abomination that causes desolation? 14 "When you see 'the abomination that causes desolation' standing where it does not belong—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 15 Let no one on the housetop go down or enter the house to take anything out. 16 Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. 17 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! 18 Pray that this will not take place in winter,
Mark 13:14-18

Luke tells us what the "abomination" that will cause this desolation is. The Roman armies that will surround Jerusalem

But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. . . . Luke 21:20–21

Jesus warned them: Luke 19:41–44: As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it 42 and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. 43 The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. 44 They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."

(4) Josephus: *And now the Romans upon the flight of the seditious into the city, and upon the burning of the holy house itself, and of all the buildings lying round about it, brought their ensigns to the temple, and set them over against its eastern gate; and there did they offer sacrifices to them, and there did they make Titus imperator, with the greatest acclamations of joy.* ("Jewish Wars" 6:6:1)

5. The use of Old Testament “prophetic” & “figurative” language

19 because those will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now—and never to be equaled again.
Mark 13:19

Ezekiel is warning about the destruction of Jerusalem at the hands of the Babylonians Ezekiel 5:9: Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Indeed I, even I, am against you and will execute judgments in your midst in the sight of the nations. And **I will do among you what I have never done, and the like of which I will never do again**, because of all your abominations.

Another example: “If the Lord had not cut short those days, **no one would survive**. But for the sake of the elect, whom he has chosen, he has shortened them.
Mark 13:20

*Isaiah declared in Isaiah 13:20 that Babylon would **never** be inhabited again. . . . yet there are people still there.*

6. False Christs will be in greater number during this distress:

At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it. 22 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 23 So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time.
Mark 13:21-23

7. Signs in the heavens: 24 “But in those days, following that distress, “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; 25 the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ 26 “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. 27 And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.
Mark 13:24-27

(5) 8. Jesus uses the fig tree as a parable: 28 “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. 29 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. Mark 13:28,29

9. Jesus predicts this will all take place within their lifetimes:30 Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. Mark 13:30,31

NEXT WEEK:and what will be the sign...of the end of the age?”

Mark 13:32-37 answers this part of the disciples' questions:

32 “But about **that day** or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard! **Be alert!** You *do not know when that time will come*. 34 It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch 35 “**Therefore keep watch** because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. 36 If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘**Watch!**’”

37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. Matthew 24:37-41