

POWER HOUR

10/20/2024

Lesson Text:
Mark 13:14-27

Background Scripture:
Daniel 12:5-13; Joel 2:1-17

Devotional Reading:
Matthew 24:15-31; Luke 21:20-28

“JESUS POINTS TO DANIEL”

NLT TRANSLATION

Golden Text: *Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds with great power and glory. Mark 13:26 NLT*

Time: A.D.30

Place: Jerusalem

Mark 13:14-27 NLT

14 “The day is coming when you will see the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing where he should not be.” (Reader, pay attention!) “Then those in Judea must flee to the hills. **15** A person out on the deck of a roof must not go down into the house to pack. **16** A person out in the field must not return even to get a coat. **17** How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for nursing mothers in those days. **18** And pray that your flight will not be in winter. **19** For there will be greater anguish in those days than at any time since God created the world. And it will never be so great again. **20** In fact, unless the Lord shortens that time of calamity, not a single person will survive. But for the sake of His chosen ones He has shortened those days. **21** “Then if anyone tells you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah,’ or ‘There He is,’ don’t believe it. **22** For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God’s chosen ones. **23** Watch out! I have warned you about this ahead of time! **24** “At that time, after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light, **25** the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. **26** Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds with great power and glory. **27** And He will send out His angels to gather His chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

INTRODUCTION

It has been said that the theme of the Old Testament is that Christ is coming, the theme of the four Gospels is that Christ has come, and the theme of the rest of the New Testament is that Christ is coming again. There is some truth in this approach. Discussions concerning the Second Coming often provoke significant debate among those who believe the Bible to be God's Word. Sadly, more fire than light is often generated! Those who accept the divine origin of the Scriptures do not always agree about the details of end-times events. Since these things have not yet occurred, we must be cautious about being too dogmatic concerning our preferred understanding of the last days. Two extremes must be avoided. First, we should not entirely avoid the study of last things, or eschatology, because of the controversial nature and the uncertainty of the topic. Second, we should be careful not to develop tunnel vision regarding prophecy and fail to study anything else, thus avoiding the serious study of other important Bible doctrines.

The abomination of desolation Jesus spoke of "the abomination of desolation," which refers to a prophecy by Daniel (Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11; Matthew 24:15). Daniel's prophecy referred to the desecration of the temple. This happened in 167 B.C., during a Seleucid occupation, and again in A.D. 70, when Rome sacked Jerusalem. The Seleucids desecrated the temple. The Romans destroyed it entirely. The prophecy of Jesus is sometimes understood as a reference to a later time when the temple will once again be desecrated—this time by the antichrist.

A period of affliction (Mark 13:14-23). Jesus began His discourse on a future period of affliction with a reference to a specific Old Testament prophecy. He said that when Daniel's prophecy regarding the abomination of desolation was fulfilled, people were to flee for their lives. They were to waste no time returning to their homes for personal possessions. Pregnant women and mothers would be particularly vulnerable, and the time of year would be a significant factor in the degree of distress. This period of affliction would be unlike any other time ever. Unless the Lord shortened the time for the sake of His special remnant, everyone living would perish. Moreover, the deceptive acts that evil powers would perform would be so captivating that even God's special remnant would have a difficult time rejecting them. It has often been said that things have to get worse before they get better. That is certainly true with respect to the

coming of the Son of Man. Differing opinions exist about the timing of this magnificent event; however, one thing can be universally agreed upon by believers—Jesus loves us enough to have given us His truthful and gracious warning. Let us take heed and live to His honor and glory!

A Glorious Arrival (Mark 13:24-27). After a period of great tribulation, the sun and the moon will be darkened, stars will fall, and the heavens will be shaken. But on the heels of these phenomena, humanity will see an even greater one—the coming of the Son of Man in power and glory. Angels will accompany Christ's return and assist the Lord of power and glory in gathering His remnant from the uttermost parts of the world, bringing them into His glorious presence. The coming of the Son of Man is an extraordinary future event that fills the believer with hope and purpose. This world matters, but it is not the ultimate focus of our existence. Believers can endure the present world as spiritual pilgrims, knowing that Jesus has gone to prepare an eternal place for us and that He will come again to gather us together to be with Him (John 14:1-3). The believer can awaken each morning with the faith that all his or her life's activities have meaning in the light of eternity. Anticipating eternal life with Christ, the believer presses on with purpose and dignity.

POINTS TO PONDER

1. God's people are not exempt from suffering and tribulation (Mark 13:14-16 and 2 Timothy 3:12).
2. A time of great tribulation is coming to the earth (Mark 13:17-19).
3. God's grace toward His children is evident even in the midst of tribulation (Mark 13:20).
4. Beware—false christs are even now trying to deter us from following the real Christ (Mark 13:21-23; I John 2:18).
5. We can be confident that Jesus is coming again to reign in power and glory (Mark 13:24-26).
6. When Jesus comes again, He will finally unite all His children from all the ages (Mark 13:27).

CONCLUSION

Jesus gave warnings so that His followers would take heed and be on guard. We often go about our lives pretending that we will live to be 120 and that nothing bad will ever interrupt our plans. We rarely stop to think that God could require our soul from us this very night (Luke 12:20) or that Jesus could return like a thief in the night (1 Thessalonians 5:2; Revelation 16:15). But Jesus promises that He will certainly come in apocalyptic power and glory. While we do not know the day or the year Jesus will return (Mark 13:32), we do know that He is coming. That should change how we live and give us urgency in reaching the lost.

QUESTION(S)

- Why is this section of Scripture called the Olivet Discourse?
- Where do we first read of the abomination of desolation in the Bible?
- What are some possible meanings of the abomination of desolation?
- Does Mark 13 relate to events of the apostolic age or to the end of the age? Explain.
- Why could some of the prophecies of Mark 13 not relate to the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70?
- Why would the Lord shorten the days of tribulation?
- Who are the elect?
- Do you think the signs and wonders of false prophets are real or fake? Why?
- Why are warnings about false teachers always relevant?
- When Christ returns who will see Him? What events will occur?

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week, we will turn to Jonah, this is an example of how we should not behave and reveals God's love for His wayward children. ***“Jonah runs and is found out”***

Lesson Text: ***Jonah 1:7-17***

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