

## Mark Chapter 13

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- This chapter describes the final days of the life of Christ.
  - Sunday was the triumphal entry to Jerusalem on a donkey, He was despised and rejected.
  - Tuesday Jesus is back at the Temple after having cleansed it and having taught the people, and now He leaves the temple for the last time.
  - He heads to the Mt. of Olives and delivers the “Olivet Discourse.”
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V: 1 Jesus departs from the Temple, for the last time until He returns again in glory.  
But for now it's Ichabod.

Eli, Hophni, Phinehas

**1 Samuel 4:21-22** “And she named the child Ichabod, saying, the glory has departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken, and because of her father in law and her husband. <sup>22</sup>And she said, the glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken.”

**Hebrews 1:1-3** “<sup>1</sup>God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; <sup>3</sup>who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the Word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

- Prior to the Nativity of our Lord, the glory of God had long departed the Temple.

**Luke 2:22-39** Describes Joseph and Mary bringing baby Jesus to the Temple to present Him to the Lord according to the Law. That is when the Glory of God returned to the Temple.

- Jesus is the Glory of God, when He departs the Temple for that last time, the Glory has departed, Ichabod.
- As He does so, it follows a pattern that was already set or demonstrated in the OT, remember: in the Tanakh.
- Acts 1:9 Ascension of Jesus from the Mt. Olives.

**Acts 1:9** “Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.”

Bethany:

**Luke 24:50-52** “<sup>50</sup>And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup>Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He

was parted from them and carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.”

**Ezekiel Ch. 8:3-18, 9:3, 10:4, 18, 19. 11:23** and is gone, ascended, not mentioned.

- The glory of the Lord departed the Temple and landed upon the Mt. of Olives.
- The glory of the Lord, appeared in the Temple when Joseph & Mary brought Him.
- Now, just like Ezekiel, The Glory of the Lord departs the Temple - then after He's crucified and resurrected, appears at the Mount of Olives, and ascends into heaven with the promise to one day return.

V: 1b Back on the ranch.... *“One of His disciples said to Him...”*

**Matthew 24 & Luke 21** both parallel this account of what is known as the Olivet discourse:

- The disciple drew their attention to the magnificent edifice – a landmark seen for miles, the center of Jewish life.
- Possibly like the twin towers in NYC or other man made landmarks that we think will last forever, part of the landscape – it is assumed they won't change.

V: 2 Just as Jesus' teaching radically changed their view of God's word. Now Jesus is going to describe how their world will change in other ways.

- This great edifice / This magnificent Temple will be torn down and not one stone will remain upon another.
- A shocking statement, but He is referring to the temple's destruction in 70 AD.
- This was all fulfilled within 40 yrs. By Emperor Vespasian and his son General Titus with 3-4 Roman legions.
- Josephus records that after the destruction / siege it was “just as though there had never been a building there.”
- The current Western Wall / wailing wall is actually the old retaining wall to the foundation of the temple. This current location is approximately 70' above the original ground level / Tyropan valley that Jesus walked through. This is because all the stones and rubble filled up the valley to that point, some of which were later used to build portions of old Jerusalem, including the temple mount area. This actually happened on all sides of the Temple mount.



- This had all been prophesied long before the birth of Jesus:

**Daniel 9:26** “And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.”

**Micah 3:12** “Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest.”

- There is actually only one thing in life that doesn't change:

**Hebrews 13:8** “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever.”

V: 3 Perspective, sitting on the Mount of Olives looking over at the Temple, trying to imagine it being wiped away.

**Jeremiah 19:3** “... hear the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: behold, I will bring such a catastrophe on this place, that whoever hears of it, his ears will tingle.”

- Andrew is added to that inner circle of Peter, James, and John.

V: 4 Two questions:

1. When shall these things happen? (The destruction of the Temple & city.)
2. What will be the signs that these things are accomplished or fulfilled, or of the end of the world?

**Matthew 24:3** “Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and the end of the age?”

- Mark's account omits “What will be the sign of your coming again?”

V: 5-6 Jesus answers – beginning with - it will be a time of deception – warning that many will claim to come in His name - but they will be like wolves in sheep's clothing.

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

- Paul warns us of that time.

**Colossians 2:8** “<sup>8</sup>Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not after Christ.” (psychology)

- Actually we’re warned quite a bit about not being deceived:

**Ephesians 4:14** “That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting;”

- Jesus tells us to take heed, to beware - watch out.
- How can we protect ourselves from the enemies deceptive ways? From his cunning craftiness and deceitful plotting?

**John 8:31-32** “<sup>31</sup>If ye continue in my word, then are you My disciples indeed; <sup>32</sup>and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make free.”

**2 Timothy 2:15** “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Be like the Bereans:

**Acts 17:11** “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

**1 John 4:1-3** “<sup>1</sup>Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, <sup>3</sup>and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.”

- I quoted Matthew 7:15 a minute ago, let me give you the rest of that passage as it applies to identifying false prophets:

**Matthew 7:15-20** “<sup>15</sup>Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. <sup>16</sup>You shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup>Even so every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup>A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup>Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup>Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”

## V: 7 It shall be a time of wars & rumors of war:

- Most of us have grown up and lived our lives with the various nations of the world being at war. Not so much on our shores, but all around the globe. WWI & WWII were world wide conflicts, but since then we've had Korea, Viet Nam, the Iraq war, the war on terror, Afghanistan, Somalia, Yemen - the war on drugs in Mexico, wars all around Asia and Africa - too many more to list.
- The ones we're watching are connected to Israel. The war of independence in 1948.
- The 6 day war in 1967, the Yom Kippur war of 1973, the Lebanon wars of the 80's, the various internal wars, the "intifada's" - and now the war in Gaza with Hamas, the war in Lebanon with Hezbollah, the war with Iran and their proxies - but the ones we're still looking for - the **Psalm 83** war involving Israel's close neighbors, and of course the Ezekiel war described in **Ezekiel 38 & 39** - we're always watching to see how these things play out and or looking for the beginning of these wars as they point to the proximity of our Lord's return.
- Jesus goes on to list a number of other factors - but just looking at wars and rumors of wars put's us pretty close, and in the proper mind set of the imminence of our Lord's return, which means the rapture is all the more imminent.
- This means that we should be awake, alert, watching and waiting: Taking heed to our Lord's instruction.

**Luke 21:36** "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

- The disciples are asking about the signs of the end of the world, the timing of how and when.

## Ezekiel 38-39

- The Magog invasion involves specific nations that seek to wipe out Israel, the Battle of Armageddon involves the nations of the world coming against God Himself (Rev. 19:11-19), which is ended abruptly by the return of Jesus in the Valley of Megiddo as opposed to the area East of the Dead Sea.
- Different timing, different battle ground locations, different participants.
- "Gog" (ruler) of the land of "Magog"; the "prince of Rosh (Russian), Meshech (Moscow), and Tubal (Tubalsk),..."

- “Gog” is a person or title, “Magog” is a land or territory, or more specifically a people group within that territory.
- Meshech & Tubal are the area’s in and around Moscow & Tobolsk.

**Ezekiel 38:3-4** “hooks” – how the Assyrians controlled their prisoners.

- Used as a method of describing how the armies of Magog, Meshech, and Tubal would be drawn to the battle.
- A description of the armies: horses / cavalry: Russia still has cavalry units.
- Hooks:
  1. Oil, natural gas - Leviathan, mutual defense treaties.
  2. Dead Sea, pot-ash, fertilizer – making of weapons.
  3. Control: power point of the world, gateway to 3 continents. Africa, Asia, Europe.

**Ezekiel 38:5** A listing of the allies / participants:

- Persia: Iran
- (Modern) Ethiopia: modern name for a non-player today, no military to speak of.
- (Ancient) Ethiopia: Cush / Southern Egypt. (Peace treaty)
- Libya / Put – West of Egypt / Western Egypt.
- All equipped for war

**Ezekiel 38:6** Gomer: Eastern Europe / Germany.

- Togarmah: regions in modern Turkey. (Peace treaty)
  - No mention of Syria, Iraq, or any other middle eastern states.
  - No mention of USA – who has a mutual defense treaty with Israel.

**Back to Mark 13**

Question #2

When shall these things be? The destruction of the Temple / City.

**Luke 21:20-24** “<sup>20</sup>But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. <sup>21</sup>Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. <sup>22</sup>For these are the days of vengeance, that all things

which are written may be fulfilled. <sup>23</sup>But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. <sup>24</sup>And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”

**V: 8 Romans 8:22** “For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.”

- The beginning of the end, not necessarily the end itself.
  1. Nations will rise against nations, economically, militarily, (wars / rumors).
  2. Earthquakes in various places.
  3. Famines & troubles / pestilences.
- The beginning of sorrows, the build up to Jacob’s trouble...
- Likened to the birth pangs of a woman, increasing in both frequency and intensity.

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- Review verses 1-8, end times chronology.

- **End Times Overview Chart:**

1. Church age / present.
2. Rapture – trigger / short delay - for the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel, the day of Jacob’s trouble, the great tribulation.
3. 7 years split into two 3 ½ year portions.
4. Culminating in the battle of Armageddon and the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus.
5. Satan is bound, the armies of the world are defeated.
6. Ushering in the millennium, the 1,000 year reign of Christ on the earth where we rein with Him during the time of enforced righteousness.
7. At the end of the 1,000 years Satan is loosed for a short season, the world falls into corruption.
8. Jesus judges the world and everything in it, Satan, death, and hell are cast into outer darkness.
9. Jesus creates a New Heaven and a New earth after the old one is dissolved.
10. And we live with Him for eternity!

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**V: 9** This is a turning point, a transition, describing a time of persecution (world wide anti-semitism / anti-Christianity) leading up to and during the tribulation period.

- This has also been repeated, there have been similar situations and conditions over the years, different era’s of persecution from 10 different Roman emperors to the inquisitions of the dark ages (also generated from Rome), to modern day

persecutions from the various communist governments, the Muslims, and the ACLU - who all have the same boss.

- The rapture of the church is a “trigger”, that is when things start happening.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** “<sup>13</sup>But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. <sup>15</sup>For this we say to you by the Word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

**2 Thessalonians 2:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>Let no man deceive you by any means: for that Day will not come, unless the falling away (apostasia) comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, <sup>4</sup>who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”

- “Anit-Christ”: opposed to, in place of, both fit here.
- Applies primarily to the Jews, but there is a dual application for us today and for the church in general.

**Matthew 5:10-11** “<sup>10</sup>Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>Blessed are you, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.”

- Jesus was speaking about the destruction of the temple, but there is also a current application considering the level of anti-Semitism in our world today.
- Also the growing bias against Bible believing Christians.
- This persecution will be the result of Jesus in the lives of those Christians; and as evidence against them in the final judgment.

**John 15:18-20** “<sup>18</sup>If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup>If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup>Remember the Word that I said to you, “a servant is not greater than his

master.” If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My Word they will keep yours also.”

**V: 10 Dominion Theology? No.** (2<sup>nd</sup> question, sign of the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming?)

- Error. Set’s pre-condition on the return of our Lord.
- This is simply our Lord’s direction and encouragement to spread the Gospel throughout the world. For many this has been the motivation for international missionary work.

**Matthew 28:19** “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”

- The early church took this charge seriously, and it had an impact.

The dis-believing Jews in Thessalonica made accusation:

**Acts 17:6** “... they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, “these who have turned the world upside down have come here too;”

- We know that even during the great tribulation, the gospel will be preached not only by the 144,000, but also an angelic messenger to the whole world:

**Revelation 14:6** “Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth - to every nation, tribe, tongue and people.”

Why? Because then as now:

**2 Peter 3:9** “The Lord is ... not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

**V: 11 “When” – not “if”...**

**John 16:33** “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

**2 Timothy 3:12** “Yes, and all who desire to live Godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”

- Push back, resistance, persecution is almost guaranteed - part and parcel to the sold out Christian life.
- But when it happens and you’re brought before magistrates and so on, don’t worry about what you’re going to say - the Holy Spirit will guide you.

**John 14:26** “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

**Matthew 10:32-33** “<sup>32</sup>Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. <sup>33</sup>But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven.”

V: 12 When the persecution arises, particularly during the great tribulation it won't be racial or economic, it will be religious and spiritual. As we're seeing today it will be an ideological war / persecution.

- Jesus is referring to a prophecy from Micah:

**Micah 7:6** “For son dishonors father, daughter rises against her mother, daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies are the men of his own household.”

**1 Corinthians 1:18** “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

**2 Timothy 3:1-3** “<sup>1</sup>This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. <sup>2</sup>For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup>without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good...”

- The point of separation is always the Word of God, actually Jesus Himself.

**Hebrews 4:12** “For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

V: 13 This is the same as the end times language which is consistent with the book of Revelation - “enduring to the end”:

**Revelation chapters 2-3** Overcomes / enduring to the end.

**Revelation 2:7** (Ephesus) “He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches; to him that overcomes will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.”

- This rolls back to V: 9 - they will hate Christians because of their faith in Jesus, they hate Him and so they will hate us, or those who follow Jesus after the rapture or the church.

V's: 14-20 This is speaking to the Jews in the tribulation. Gentiles can't flee from Judea, nor as it's stated in Matthew do we care about the Sabbath etc.

V: 14 During the tribulation the big sign is the abomination of desolation, this marks the half way point. Rapture / pre-trib / mid-trib / pre-wrath / post trib. Looking for Jesus or looking for the AC?

**Titus 2:12-13** “Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;”

- This abomination of desolation has already happened once with Antiochus Epiphenes in 170 B.C.

Daniel 11:31, Daniel 9:24-27, Daniel 12:11

**2 Thessalonians 2:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; <sup>4</sup>Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”

- This is speaking to the Jews, they are the ones in Judea. Why do they flee?

**Zechariah 13:8-9** “<sup>8</sup>And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, says the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. <sup>9</sup>And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on My name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.”

- Only 1/3 of the Jews survive, 2/3 are killed.
- Where are the survivors going to flee too?

**Isaiah 16:1-4** “<sup>1</sup>Send the lamb to the ruler of the land from Sela to the wilderness, to the mount of the daughter of Zion. <sup>2</sup>For it shall be as a wandering bird thrown out of the nest; so shall be the daughters of Moab at the fords of the Arnon. <sup>3</sup>Take counsel, execute judgment; make your shadow like the night in the middle of the day; hide the outcasts, do not betray him who escapes. <sup>4</sup>Let My outcasts dwell with you, O Moab; be a shelter to them from the face of the spoiler (A/C). For the extortioner is at an end, devastation ceases, the oppressors are consumed out of the land.”

**Revelation 12:14** “But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.”

V: 15-16 Scram! No time to waste. There will be this build up, all the signs will be evident - then suddenly greater things will be set in motion.

- There will be no time to waste. The event that places them in peril or triggers it is the abomination of desolation.

**Proverbs 22:3** “A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.”

- They’ve been warned, let’s hope and pray that when the time comes they take heed to the warning.

V: 17-18 Who to those who are pregnant or nursing babies.

- Being pregnant it’s hard to move quickly, same with nursing a child - difficult to do on the run. A good husband isn’t going to leave his wife and kids behind, it takes a lot to move a family quickly. This is all very practical. Movement in winter conditions is more difficult as well.

V: 19 Describing the scope and intensity of the great tribulation. Un-precedented.

**Jeremiah 30:7** “Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.”

**Joel 2:2** “A day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, the like of whom has never been; nor will there ever be any such after them, even for many successive generations.”

**Isaiah 13:6-12** “<sup>6</sup>Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. <sup>7</sup>Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: <sup>8</sup>And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames. <sup>9</sup>Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and He shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. <sup>10</sup>For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. <sup>11</sup>And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. <sup>12</sup>I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the

golden wedge of Ophir. <sup>13</sup>Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the Lord of hosts, and in the day of His fierce anger.”

- Also described in Daniel Ch. 9 & 12.
- This will be the most horrific, cataclysmic time in all of history, since the creation.

V: 20 The elect is not the church, that would put them in the tribulation. The elect are the Jews that have been left behind. God knows how to separate the sheep from the goats, He doesn't judge the righteous with the un-righteous.

**2 Peter 2:9** “<sup>9</sup>The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:”

**1 Thessalonians 5:9** “For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Romans 5:9** “Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”

- “Elect” = Israel

**Isaiah 45:4** “For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name...”

**Isaiah 65:9** “<sup>9</sup>I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, and from Judah an heir of My mountains; My elect shall inherit it, and My servants shall dwell there.”

- If God didn't put a stop to it all flesh, including the elect would be destroyed.
- As it is  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the Jews alive at the beginning of the tribulation will be killed, only  $\frac{1}{3}$  will survive.

**Zechariah 13:8-9** “<sup>8</sup>And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, says the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. <sup>9</sup>And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on My name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.”

V: 21-22 False Christ's, mentioned a couple of times, verse 6 and here. This is another warning against deception.

- Doing great signs and wonders:

**2 Thessalonians 2:9-12** “<sup>9</sup>The coming of the lawless one (A/C) is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, <sup>10</sup>and with all unrighteousness deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. <sup>11</sup>And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, <sup>12</sup>that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

**1 John 4:1-3** “<sup>1</sup>Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>Hereby know ye the spirit of God: every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: <sup>3</sup>And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: And this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof you have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.”

Anti-Christ / Beast / False Prophet

**Revelation 13:13-14** “<sup>13</sup>He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. <sup>14</sup>And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.”

- Elect, again is Israel. That is exactly who Jesus is talking to, context.

V: 23 Take heed, be careful - I've warned you.

**Amos 3:7** “Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.”

- Why does He reveal it to the prophets? So the prophets will reveal it to us. Why does He reveal it to us? So that we'll do something. We've been warned.

**John 14:29** “And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.”

**1 Chronicles 12:32** “... the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do...”

V: 24-25 Describing the end of the great tribulation:

- Sun darkened, moon not giving it's light (no source), the stars of heaven falling, powers in heaven being shaken.

**Isaiah 13:10** “For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be darkened in its going forth, and the moon will not cause its light to shine.”

It ends the way it started:

**Joel 2:30-31** “<sup>30</sup>And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke. <sup>31</sup>The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD.”

**V: 26** The Great Tribulation ends with the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of our Lord Jesus.

Described and predicted:

**Daniel 7:13-14** “<sup>13</sup>I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. <sup>14</sup>Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.”

**Revelation 1:7** “Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.”

**Revelation 19:11-16** “<sup>11</sup>Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup>His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. <sup>13</sup>He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup>And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. <sup>15</sup>Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. <sup>16</sup>And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

**Zechariah 14:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. <sup>4</sup>And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south.”

**V: 27** Again, the “elect” refers to the Jews.

**Isaiah 11:12** “He will set up a banner for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.”

**Isaiah 43:5-6** “<sup>5</sup>Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west; <sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, give them up! And to

the south, do not keep them back! Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth.”

- We're seeing this now, the regathering of the Jews to Israel - which will continue into the millennium.

V: 28-29 The fig tree is symbolic of Israel: and the time is close.

**Jeremiah 8:13** “I will surely consume them, says the Lord: no grapes shall be on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree, and the leaf shall fade; and the things I have given them shall pass from them.”

**Hosea 9:10** “I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the first ripe in the fig tree at her first time: but they went to Baalpeor, and separated themselves unto that shame; and their abominations were according as they loved.”

**Joel 1:7** “He has laid waist My vine, and ruined My fig tree...”

- The fig tree is also a New Testament symbol or figure of Israel that Jesus Himself referenced as well.

**Luke 13:6-9** (Turn to / read) The Parable of the “barren fig-tree.”

- This is another picture of Israel. The “fig-tree” is the Jewish nation.
- The “fig-tree” was planted in a “Vineyard” - the land of Israel.
- The owner of the Vineyard and of the Fig-tree is God. He came in the person of His Son Jesus, and for the three years of our Lord’s ministry He had looked for fruit from the Jewish nation but didn’t find any.
- He decided that it was time to cut the tree down, to remove the nation from the Vineyard.
- Intercession was made for it, grace was given, and the day of judgment was put off 40 or so years.
- But the day finally came and the “axe-man” - Titus came at the head of the Roman army in 70 AD and cut the “Fig-tree” down and cast it out of the Vineyard in what is known as the diaspora.
- While the “Fig-tree” / Israel was cut down and cast out of the “Vineyard” / land of Israel, it’s root was not destroyed, the axe was only laid at the root of the tree. Ala the words of John the Baptist in **Luke 3:7-9**. (When the 40 years started.)

- The root itself was not destroyed or removed from the soil. We know from the parable of the Fig-tree in **Matthew 24:32-34**, that a new tree will spring from that root, that is, the nation of Israel, it will revive, be re-established, and it will grow to one day “put forth leaves” - the sign of the fig tree!
  - The putting forth of leaves is happening in two ways. Zionism and Anti-Semitism.
1. **Zionism:** is the longing of the Jews to return to their own land and the establishment of a Jewish state and we see the fruit of that in the land of Israel today.
  2. **Antisemitism:** the Satanically inspired persecution of the Jewish people all over the world driving them back to their covenant land.
- Kind of like when you see the Christmas decorations, the trees, lights, candy canes - you know that Thanksgiving is right around the corner!
  - The tree is there, we're seeing leaves - now we're waiting for the fruit of faith, it's close. Summer is nigh - Christ's return can't be too far off!

V: 30 This generation? “Generation” = national ethnic group, Israel.

- No other group in history has been able to maintain their culture, language, and national identity for more than two generations without a homeland, Israel did it for over 2,500 years. This generation / Israel has yet to pass still.
- Other possible numeric suggestions. The problem being that they all make sense from a scriptural point of view, and are different, or haven't come true. The national ethnic view is the only one that has proven true thus far.

1. Generation = **38-40 years**. Basis of Hal Lindsey's The Late Great Planet Earth.

**Numbers 32:13, Deuteronomy 2:14** - 40 yrs. until that generation passed that was unfaithful.

1948 + 40 = 1988, subtract 7 years for tribulation = 1981 or so.

2. Generation = **100 years**. **Genesis 15:13-16**, 4 generations = 400 years, 2048?

(I hope not)

3. Generation = **51.4 yrs**. **Matthew 1:17**, 42 generations from Abraham to Jesus, 14 X

- Backing up thru genealogies, Christian and Jewish scholars agree that Abraham was called by God in 2085 BC. Genesis 12:4 says he was 75 years old at the time, so he was born in 2160 BC. Divide that by 42 generations = 51.4 years, which means that you get to Oct. 1999, then subtract 7 years = Oct. 1992?

4. The law of redemption. 6,000 years of bondage, Adam to present age, redemption / freedom given in the 7,000<sup>th</sup> year.

- We have about 6,000 years of recorded history from Adam to present, the time of our redemption draws nigh!

5. The generation that was living on May 14, 1948 – during their lifetime, these things would come to pass.

- Interesting discussion, we can't be too dogmatic because we really don't know, and no man will know the day or the hour, so no need to argue. Whichever one you pick, I say Maranatha! Keep watching, keep waiting, the time is near, keep praying!

V: 31 The supernatural durability of God's Word. Heaven and earth shall pass, but God's word remains forever! Amen!

**Isaiah 34:4** “And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll: all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falls from the vine, and as fruit falling from the fig tree.”

**Revelation 20:11** “Then I saw a great white throne, and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.”

**Matthew 5:18** “For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”

- “*My words shall by no means pass away*” AMEN!!

**Isaiah 40:8** “The grass withers, the flower fades: but the word of our God stands forever.”

V: 32-33 Jesus says no man knows, that means no man knows!

- We don't and won't know the day or the hour, but we're expected to know the “time and the seasons”, if we're watching and paying attention.
- The emphasis at this point is on the general conditions Vs the exact timing.

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-4** “<sup>1</sup>But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains

upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. <sup>4</sup>But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.”

**Zechariah 14:7** “It shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord,..”

- We need to be on our toes!

V: 34-37 No sleeping on the job - it's no time to take a nap!

**1 Thessalonians 5:6** “Therefore let us not sleep, and do others; but let us watch and be sober.”

**Romans 13:11** “And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep, for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

**Luke 21:36** “Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”