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By Dan Maines

Mark 13

Mark 13:1-2

As He was leaving the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, look, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another, which will not be torn down."

† The disciples marveled at the grandeur of the temple, but Jesus foretold its destruction.

† This prophecy was fulfilled in AD 70, when Rome demolished Jerusalem and the temple.

† The end of the temple meant the end of the Old Covenant system.

Mark 13:3-8

As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew were questioning Him privately, "Tell us, when will these things come about, and what will be the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?" And Jesus began to say to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. Many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He!' and they will mislead many. And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; those things must take place; but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will also be famines. These things are only the beginning of birth pains."

† The disciples asked about the timing and signs of the temple's destruction.

† False messiahs, wars, famines, and earthquakes were signs leading up to the end of that age.

† These were not signs of the end of the world, but the beginning of covenantal transition.

Mark 13:9-13

"But be on your guard; for they will hand you over to the courts, and you will be flogged in the synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them. And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations. And when they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you at that time; for you are not the ones speaking, but it is the Holy Spirit. And brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. And you will be hated by everyone

because of My name; but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved."

† The disciples themselves would endure persecution before the temple fell.

† The gospel reached the nations (Roman world) before Jerusalem's judgment (Colossians 1:23).

† Endurance through persecution marked true discipleship.

Mark 13:14-23

"But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where it should not be-let the reader understand-then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. The one who is on the housetop must not go down, or go in to get anything out of his house; and the one who is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. But woe to those women who are pregnant, and to those who are nursing babies in those days! Moreover, pray that it will not happen in winter. For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will again. And if the Lord had not shortened those days, no life would have been 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 will provide signs and wonders, in order to mislead, if possible, the elect. But beware; I have told you everything in advance."

† The abomination of desolation referred to the Roman armies surrounding Jerusalem (Luke 21:20).

† Jesus warned His followers to flee, and history shows they did - escaping to Pella.

† This tribulation referred to the Jewish War (AD 66-70), unique in its horror and destruction.

Mark 13:24-27

"But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be

darkened and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven."

† This cosmic language was covenantal, not literal, describing the fall of nations and rulers (Isaiah 13:10, Ezekiel 32:7).

† The coming of the Son of Man in clouds echoed Daniel 7:13-14, symbolizing vindication and enthronement.

† The gathering of the elect revealed the establishment of the New Covenant people.

Mark 13:28-31

"Now learn the parable from the fig tree: as soon as its branch has become tender and sprouts its leaves, you know that summer is near. So you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door. Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away."

† The fig tree lesson confirmed that the signs Jesus described would occur in that generation.

† "This generation" meant His contemporaries, not thousands of years later.

† His words were more certain than heaven and earth itself.

Mark 13:32-37

"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. Watch out, stay alert; for you do not know when the appointed time is. It is like a man away on a journey, who left his house and gave his slaves authority, assigning to each one his task, and also commanded the doorkeeper to stay alert. Therefore, stay alert-for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the

evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning-so that he does not come suddenly and find you asleep. What I say to you I say to all: stay alert!"

† The exact day and hour were unknown, but the season and signs were clear.

† Jesus urged vigilance and faithfulness as the crisis drew near.

† His call to "stay alert" remains timeless, urging readiness in every generation.

How it applies to us today:

† Mark 13 is one of the clearest fulfilled prophecies of Christ. The destruction of Jerusalem validated His authority, vindicated His disciples, and marked the covenantal shift from the Old to the New. For us today, it strengthens our confidence that Christ kept His word, reigns in His kingdom, and calls us to live faithfully in His fulfilled promises.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Josephus, Wars 6.4.5

† Tacitus, Histories 5.13

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies 5.25.3

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