

Watch, Watch, Watch! Three times Warned- Mark 13 and the End!

Mark 13:33-37 1) "Be **watchful**! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. 2) **Watch**, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly & find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 3) '**Watch!**'"

And Three Strikes Caught!

Mark 14: 32-41 "Then they came to a place named Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter, James, and John, and began to be troubled and distressed. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch." He advanced a little and fell to the ground and prayed that if it were possible the hour might pass by him; he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will." When he returned 1) **he found them asleep**. He said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak." Withdrawing again, he prayed, saying the same thing. Then he returned once more and 2) **found them asleep**, for they could not keep their eyes open and did not know what to answer him. He returned a 3) **third time** and said to them, "Are you **still sleeping** and taking your rest? It is enough. The hour has come. Behold, the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners.

Mark thoroughly covers the times: When will Messiah come? Four possibilities to prepare for!

Mark 13:35 "you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, 1) whether in the evening, or at 2) midnight, or 3) at cockcrow, or in the 4) morning."

Mark 14:17- "When it was evening" Last Supper

Mark 14:40 – "He found them sleeping again" In the middle of the night in garden

Mark 14:72 – "At that moment the cock crowed" In courtyard, Peter's denial

Mark 15:1 - "As soon as morning came.....handed him over to Pilate" In court-palace

Apocalyptic Eschatology: Revealing the Last Days or Last Things

Apocalypsis = "Unveiling" or "Revelation" & Eschatos = "Last, Final or Farthest"

How to handle all 'end of the world' or 'second coming' speculation? Especially in Early Church Future or Realized? Now, but not yet fully! In a moment, Really, in a moment!

Maybe He will come right back, but again, maybe it will be awhile! Either Way, be ready!

Mark chapter 13 seems to brace for sudden crash but also relax patiently for a 'slow burn'. Both elements of 'any moment cataclysm' and 'but it may not blow up until later' are found here. For example, if you read together Mark 13:1-2, 8, 14-22, 24-30, Mark seems to give a warning that the 'last days' will come upon you in the next hour or so. But if you read together Mark 13:3-7, 9-13, 21-23, 32-37, Mark seems to offer a more prolonged wait that should include provisions for the long haul.

1 John 3:2 "Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."

Romans 8:19 "For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God"

Romans 8:22-23 "We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies."

Hebrews 10:36-38 "You need endurance to do the will of God and receive what he has promised. "For, after just a brief moment, he who is to come shall come; he shall not delay. But my just one shall live by faith, and if he draws back I take no pleasure in him."

(*Psalm 90:4 'one day as a thousand years'*)

Revelation 1:9 "I, John, your brother, who share with you the distress, the kingdom, and the (patient) endurance we have in Jesus,"

The Dilemma: Is Christ's return imminent, or should we settle in for longer wait?

Example: The Church at Thessalonica struggled with different expectations about the last days.

1st Dilemma: While we wait for Lord to come back, some of us are dying. What about them?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 "We do not want you to be unaware about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. (1 Thessalonians 4:16 'at sound of trumpet')"

1 Corinthians 15:23-24 "so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first-fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end," See 1 Cor 15:51-52 about sequence of raisings, at 'sound of trumpet')"

2nd Dilemma: While we wait, what do we do? Some have stopped daily duties, like working...

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 "We ask you, brothers, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling with him, not to be shaken out of your minds suddenly, or to be alarmed either by a "spirit," or by an oral statement, or by a letter ... that the day of the Lord is at hand." Paul's example of continued day to day commitments like work and future travel plans

Paul was still actively working between jail stints--1 Thessalonians 2:8-9 & he makes future travel missionary plans in 1 Thessalonians 2:17-18.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2, 6 "Concerning times and seasons, brothers, you have no need for anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief at night. 6 Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober."

2 Thessalonians 3:1-11 "In fact, when we were with you, we instructed you that if anyone was unwilling to work, neither should that one eat. We hear some are conducting themselves among you in a disorderly way, by not keeping busy but minding the business of others."

While John has whole Book of Revelation-Apocalypse, each synoptic gospel has a 'Little Apocalypse' found in Mark 13, Matthew 24 and Luke 21.

Mark 13: 1-5 As he was making his way out of the temple area one of his disciples said to him, "Look, teacher, what stones and what buildings!" Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? There will not be one stone left upon another that will not be thrown down." As he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple area, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will this happen, and what sign will there be when all these things are about to come to an end?" Jesus began to say to them, "See that no one deceives you." (Zechariah 14:4 "On that day God's feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is opposite Jerusalem to the east. The Mount of Olives will be split in two..")

What leads up to helter skelter of 70 AD in Jerusalem? 50 AD Famine in Palestine, 61-62 AD Earthquakes and Volcano eruptions in Pompeii and Laodicia, 67 AD Rome faced impending Parthian invasion amid escalating tensions, 66-70 AD Jewish insurrection was brewing in Palestine 66 AD Tax (Romans stole silver of Temple) Revolt, & 68 an all-out uprising erupted.