

# WEEK # 31

## Mark 13

### Discussion Guide

Do you remember hearing any predictions of the end of the world? What did you think at the time?

How was Jesus' prophecy a prediction of both imminent events and distant events? What Old Testament prophecies also had near and far fulfillments?

Why did the Jews think the temple could not possibly be destroyed? Do we feel the same way about certain buildings, institutions, or denominations?

What is discouraging about Jesus' predictions of end times? What is encouraging about having the predictions before the events happen?

What recent and current events appear to be fulfilling this prophecy? What should we do in light of these events?

How can persecution of Christians result in the spread of Christianity? What are some recent examples? How is this encouraging?

In what context should you not "worry beforehand what you will say"? Does this mean we should not practice our testimony, study apologetics, or prepare for hypothetical theological debates?

When we see that "death" is a possible result of persecution, what should be our Christian attitude toward death? Why is this sometimes difficult to take to heart?

What are the indications in this text that God is completely in control of events all the way to the end of time? How is this encouraging?

What value is there in studying current events and analyzing whether they are fulfilling the prophecies of the end of time? What should we be doing with our time and talents while we wait?

How does a failed prediction of the rapture harm the church? How does the false doctrine that Jesus will never physically return harm the church?

What is the significance of the upheaval in the heavens before the second coming?

What is the work we Christians are assigned to do between now and the second coming?

What is the attitude we should be in while we wait?

How would you respond to those who say that Jesus hasn't returned for two thousand years, so any talk of His "imminence" or "coming soon" should be rejected.

How would you explain to a class of adults what "this generation" refers to in Mark 13:30?

What aspect of the "words" of God will not pass away at the end of the world (13:31): His spoken words (His promises), the incarnate Word (Jesus), or the written Word (the Bible)?

Why is it important to say that Jesus voluntarily laid aside omniscience when He took on mortal flesh?

How would you respond to someone who says he knows the precise date when Jesus will return?

How would you respond to someone who says that Jesus could not come tomorrow because the things that are supposed to occur first have not happened?

What is your favorite song that celebrates Jesus' second coming?

### **Questions from Timothy Keller**

The occasion for Jesus' discourse is his prediction that the temple will be destroyed. The temple was an impressive building. Josephus, the Jewish historian, tells us each stone was approximately 37 feet long, 12 feet high, and 18 feet long. Therefore, when Jesus says "not one stone will be standing upon another," he is predicting an extremely violent event, and a tremendous disaster. We know that this prophecy came true. In 70 A.D. the Roman army under Titus destroyed Jerusalem. He raised the Temple to the ground, as a "lesson" and warning to all rebels. This is quite important background knowledge for any readers of this passage.

1. Since the disaster Jesus is predicting in verse 2 is so mammoth, what point in history do the disciples probably think Jesus is describing? (i.e. What are the "these things" that the disciples are asking about in verse 4?)

2. Read through verses 5-13 and verses 14-23. After reading each, circle which question you think Jesus is addressing in that particular section.

A-1 "when will the temple end?" A-2 "what will be the signs leading up to that?"

B-1 "when will the world end?" B-2 "what will be the signs leading up to that?"

verses 5-13: A-1 A-2 B-1 B-2

verses 14-23: A-1 A-2 B-1 B-2

3. Why do you think the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem was so significant for Christians?

4. Read through verses 24-27, 28-31, and 32-37. After reading each, circle which Question you think Jesus is addressing in that particular section.

A-1 “when will the temple end?” A-2 “what will be the signs leading up to that?”

B-1 “when will the world end?” B-2 “what will be the signs leading up to that?”

verses 24-27: A-1 A-2 B-1 B-2

verses 28-31: A-1 A-2 B-1 B-2

verses 32-37: A-1 A-2 B-1 B-2

5. Make a list of all the insights you can glean from verses 5-37 about the second coming of Jesus Christ to earth.

6. Read verses 32-37. We know that Jesus is returning but not when He is returning. What is the practical impact of this balance of ‘knowing and not knowing’?

7. Reflect for a minute on how your behavior and life would change if you took seriously what you have learned here about ‘The Return of the King’.

#### **Remembering the big picture**

**Who Jesus is:** Jesus is the true Messiah, Son of Man and Son of God. He is absent now, (verses 5-23) but he will return (verses 24-37). When he comes in glory, all will know who he is.

**Why Jesus Came:** He came to bring judgement, but not yet judgement on the world. He came to send the gospel out to the elect a New Israel of all nations. When he returns in final judgement, his people will be gathered.

**How should I respond?** Reject false “messiahs” and false “prophets,” however spectacular, and

### ***DIGGING DEEPER***

[Jesus and End Times - Christopher Hilken \(48:59\)](#)  
[Sermon Notes and Discussion Guide](#)

[Mark 13 An Introduction- Alistair Begg \(40:42\)](#)

[A Question for Jesus - Alistair Begg \(36:18\)](#)

[Signs of the End - Alistair Begg \(36:14\)](#)

[Be On Guard - Alistair Begg - \(39:43\)](#)

[The Coming of the Son of Man - Alistair Begg \(38:39\)](#)

[A Wake Up Call - Alistair Begg \(37:24\)](#)