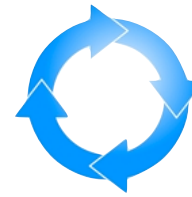


**False expectations often lead to spiritual confusion and discouragement.**

- ✓ The Christian life
- ✓ Answers to prayer
- ✓ The church
- ✓ Temporal blessing
- ✓ Cultural renewal
- ✓ Abundant life



**Ancient history was circular and endless.**



**Ancient Greek, Babylonian, Hindu, Buddhist, Mayan, Incan**

**Genesis Promise Messiah Kingdom**



**Biblical history is linear with a beginning and end.**

**The O.T. Prophets expected the Kingdom to come in this temporal world.**

**MESSIAH**

**"this age"** → **Restoration** → **"age to come"** → **Retribution**

**(earthly kingdom)**

**Christian expectations often focus on temporal blessings.**

**Personal blessing** → **Prosperity** → **Power**

**National blessing** → **Peace** → **Justice**

**The abundant life**

**Revelation 21:2**

"And I was the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming **up from the earth to God**, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband."

**Revelation 21:2**

"And I was the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming **down out of heaven from God**, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband."

**Titus 2**

"11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, 13 **looking for the establishment of God's kingdom in this age through the faithful ministry of his church;**"

### *Titus 2*

“<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, <sup>12</sup> instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, <sup>13</sup> **looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;**”

### *Observations*

Our **hope** is not in this life or in our temporal experience.

- There is no suggestion that we can expect cultural **reform** or spiritual **renewal**.
- There is no indication that the Christian faith will eventually **triumph** in this world.
- There is a call to faithfulness with no mention of a temporal **reward**.

### *I Corinthians 15:19*

“If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.”

**Maranatha**  
“Our Lord, come!”



### *Mark 13*

“<sup>1</sup> And as He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!”  
<sup>2</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another which will not be torn down.”

“<sup>3</sup> And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew were questioning Him privately, <sup>4</sup> “Tell us, when will these things be, and **what will be the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?**”

### *Matthew 24:3*

“And as He was sitting 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 of the end of the age?**””

### *The beginning of birth pangs starting in the first century*

“<sup>5</sup> And Jesus began to say to them, “**See to it that no one misleads you.** <sup>6</sup> Many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He!’ and will mislead many. <sup>7</sup> And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, **do not be frightened;** those things must take place; but that is not yet the end. <sup>8</sup> For nation will arise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will also be famines. These things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.”

“9 But **be on your guard**; for they will deliver you 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. 10 And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations. 11 And when they arrest you and deliver you up, **do not be anxious** beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit. 12 And brother will deliver brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. 13 And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but the one who **endures to the end**, he shall be saved.

## *“The beginning of birth pangs”*

**Things that will take place in life that could be wrongly understood to be the signs of the end but are not.**

- 1. Don't be misled.**
- 2. Don't be afraid.**
- 3. Prepare to endure.**

### **Predicted dates of the END**

70	1533 (Oct.19)	1763 (Feb.28)	1880	1954 (Dec.21)	1994 *8
247	1534 (April 5)	1780 (May 19)	1881	1957 (Apr.23)	1994 (Sept.29)
365	1544	1789	1890	1958	1995
380	1555	1790	1891	1959 (Apr.22)	1996 (Dec.13)
500	1556 (July 22)	1792	1895	1960	1997 *8
793 (April 6)	1583 (April 28)	1794	1896	1962 (Feb.4)	1998 *15
800	1584	1795 (Nov.19)	1899	1966	1999 *36
806	1588	1801	1900	1967 (Aug.20)	2000 *59
848	1600	1805	1901	1969 (Aug.9)	2001 *17
870 (March 25)	1603	1814 (Dec.25)	1908 (April 23)	1972	2002 *6
992	1623 1624	1820 (Oct.14)	1910 (May 18)	1973	2003 *6
995	(Feb.1)	1832	1911	1974	2004
1000	1648 1654	1836	1914 (Oct.1)	1975	2005 *3
1033	1656	1843 (April 28)	1915	1976	2006 (Feb.12)
1184	1657	1844 (Mar.21)	1918	1977	2007 *4
1186 (Sept.23)	1658	1845	1919 (Dec.17)	1978	2008 (Mar. 21)
1260	1660	1846	1925 (Feb.13)	1980 (April.1)	2009
1284	1666 1673	1847 (April 7)	1928	1981 (June 28)	2010
1290	1688	1849	1934	1982 (Mar.10)	2011 (Dec.31)
1306	1689	1851	1935	1983	2012 (Dec.21)
1335	1694	1856	1936	1984 (Oct.2)	2020
1367	1697	1862	1938	1985 (Mar.25)	2022
1370	1700	1863	1941	1986	2023
1420 (Feb.14)	1708	1867	1943	1987 (Apr.29)	2025
1496	1716	1868	1945 (Sept.21)	1988 (Sep.15)	2026
1504	1719 (April5)	1869	1947	1989 (Sept.30)	2033
1524 (Feb.20)	1734	1870 (June 28)	1950	1990 (April 23)	2035
1525	1736 (Oct.13)	1872	1952	1991 (Mar.31)	2037
1528 (May 27)	1757	1874	1953 (Jan.9)	1992 (April 26)	2040
1532	1761 (April 5)	1878	1953	1993 (Nov.14)	

### *The defilement of the temple*

“14 But when you see the *abomination of desolation* standing where it should not be (let the reader understand),

*Daniel 11:31*

“Forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation.”

**In 1 Maccabees the term points to the actions of Antiochus IV Epiphanes 167 BC. where he set up an altar to Zeus in the Temple in Jerusalem, and sacrificed swine on it.**

### *The Great Tribulation*

“14 . . . then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 15 And let him who is on the housetop not go down, or enter in, to get anything out of his house; 16 and let him who is in the field not turn back to get his cloak. 17 But woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babes in those days! 18 But pray that it may not happen in the winter. 19 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 shall.

20 And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect whom He chose, He shortened the days. 21 And then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ’; or, ‘Behold, He is there’; do not believe him; 22 for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order, if possible, to lead the elect astray. 23 But **take heed**; behold, I have told you everything in advance. 24 But in those days, after that tribulation, *the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken.*”

## The second coming of Christ

26 And then they will see *the Son of Man coming in clouds* with great power and glory.  
 27 And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth, to the farthest end of heaven.  
 28 Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender, and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.  
 29 Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door."

30 Truly I say to you, **this generation** will not pass away until all these things take place.  
 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.  
 32 But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone."

**"the most embarrassing verse in the Bible"**

*The Essential C.S. Lewis p.385*

γενεα **GENEA** (generation, offspring)

This Greek word's meanings depend on the context - "a lineage", "offspring" (physical or spiritual).

*Psalms 14:5*

"for God is with the righteous **generation**."

*Mark 8:38*

"For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful **generation**, . . ."

*1 Peter 2:9*

"But ye are a chosen **generation**, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:"

*Matthew 16:28*

"Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who shall not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

**John's vision - The book of Revelation  
or**

**The Transfiguration - 2 Peter 1:16-21)**

### Chronological progression of the discourse (Mark 13)

*"The beginning of birth pangs"*

**vs. 5-13**

**Don't be afraid**

- ✓ False Christs will come
- ✓ Wars & rumors of wars
- ✓ Famine & earthquakes
- ✓ Believers hated by all
- ✓ Conflict within the ch.
- ✓ False prophets
- ✓ Many are mislead
- ✓ Increased lawlessness
- ✓ Love will grow cold
- ✓ World evangelism

*"Tribulation"*

**vs. 14-23**

**Be informed**

- ✓ "Abomination of desolation"
- ✓ Unparalleled tribulation
- ✓ False signs

**Second Coming**

**vs. 24-27**

**Be awake**

**The Great Resurrection**

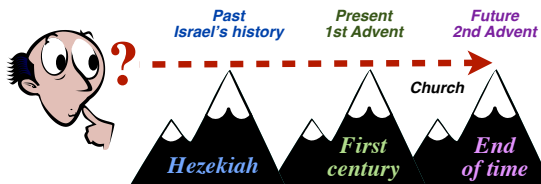
**vs. 28-37**

### O.T. Prophetic perspectives are often timeless.

*Isaiah 9 (Luke 1:31-33)*

6 For to us a child is born to us, a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

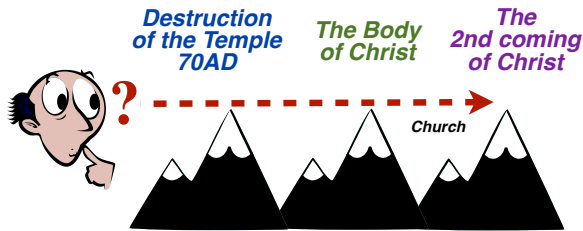
7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.



## To what is Mark 13 referring?

*Luke 21:20-21*

“When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near.”



## Three applications

Who is being addressed?	What is being described?
The first cent. disciples only	Destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD and the church
The nation Israel only	“Great Tribulation” leading to the “Millennium”
All elect (disciples)	The course of history leading to the end of time.

## Lessons from this text

- ✓ **History is God’s drama with a start & finish.**
  - We have an acting part not a writing part.
- ✓ **Expect hard times as history unfolds.**
  - We will not bring in the kingdom of God before Christ’s return.
- ✓ **Discernment and endurance will be needed.**
  - We will be tempted to be confused, misled, and discouraged.
- ✓ **Being about God’s business is our calling.**
  - When Christ returns he expects to see us with a living faith, faithful lives, and evident fruit.

*1 Peter 4:12-13*

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.”

**Example  
of Jesus being IN but not OF  
the world.**

**Disciples are prepared to  
persevere, knowing that  
times will be harder rather  
than easier as God’s plan  
unfolds.**