

## Watchful Until The Son of Man Comes (Daniel 7:13-14 and Mark 13:24-37)

22-Feb-2026

### **Daniel 7:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. <sup>14</sup> He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

### **Mark 13:24-37**

<sup>24</sup> “But in those days, following that distress,  
“the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light;

<sup>25</sup> the stars will fall from the sky,  
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

<sup>26</sup> “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

<sup>28</sup> “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. <sup>30</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

### **The Day and Hour Unknown**

<sup>32</sup> “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. <sup>34</sup> It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

<sup>35</sup> “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. <sup>36</sup> If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup> What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

There are Bibles in front of you

And a sermon outline

Please have your Bibles opened up at Mark 13 starting at verse 24.

Let me pray first...

### Context/Recap

Last week – Jesus was at the temple in Jerusalem and...

He predicted that - as magnificent as the temple was...

Because of the people of Israel's rebellion against God and because of their rejection of God's Son – Jesus – the Promised Messiah...

The temple would one day be destroyed!

And we said this actually happened 40 years or so after Jesus' death and resurrection, happening in **70AD** and it was a dreadful event in history -

When the Romans – under army commander Titus – completely destroyed Jerusalem and the temple

And then we also drew some conclusions:

### **[Slide-Recap]**

1. As Christians **we can expect persecutions** – in different forms
2. We can **expect false Messiah's, deceivers, wars and rumours of wars**. We can **expect nations at loggerheads**. We can **expect earthquakes and floods and famines**. And we need to **watch out, stand firm and be on our guard** – but **it's not the end**

3. And we said - **Jesus is our spiritual temple now** (John 2:13-22) – and **our bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit attached to Jesus** (John 14:15-21 and 1 Cor 6:19-20)

4. But we also said there will be a **final Anti-Christ** who would try to infiltrate God's Temple (The worldwide Christian Church) and try to deceive people.

With all that in mind - this week - Jesus now talks about another **future event**.

**His Second Coming** in verses 24 to 27

[The Second Coming \(Mark 13:24-27\)](#)

Let's look at verses 24-25

**[Slide-vv24-25]**

*<sup>24</sup> "But in those days, following that distress,*

*"the sun will be darkened,*

*and the moon will not give its light;*

*<sup>25</sup> the stars will fall from the sky,*

*and the heavenly bodies will be shaken*

*"In those days, following the distress"*

What **distress**?

The distress of periods of persecution that have occurred.

From the time Jesus rose and ascended to Heaven – throughout the centuries – there have been times of persecution – which recur over and over for a limited time – and seem to intensify at each occurrence.

This period of time – from Jesus' ascension to now – we call the **End times**

But what Jesus is describing here - is that at some point – this distress stops and a future cosmic event occurs.

In these verses – Jesus describes - a **shift in the universe** – which affects what’s going on – on Earth!

Yes, in one sense - when Jesus was crucified –some amazing things happened - it went dark for 3 hours in the middle of the day (Mark 15:33) and the earth shook, rocks split and tombs broke open (Matthew 27:51-53).

But what Jesus is describing here in Mark 13 is a **cosmic intergalactic shift**.

And He’s saying when this cosmic event happens – vv26-27

**[Slide-v26-v27]**

*V26 -v27– At that time people (all people on Earth) – will see the **Son of Man** coming in **clouds!** And he will send his angels and gather his **elect** from the **four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.***

Who is the **“Son of Man”**?

- **The Son of Man – is the title Jesus mainly gives Himself:** Jesus uses the title “Son of Man” for Himself 82 times in the New Testament. Others rarely used it for Him, except Stephen at his martyrdom (Acts 7:56).
- **The Title Son of Man - Emphasizes Jesus’ humanity:** The phrase “son of man” can simply mean “human being,” as we see when God calls Ezekiel “son of man.” But Jesus truly became a human being , coming “as God in human flesh.”
- **The Title Son of Man - Shows Jesus’ humility:** Though He is eternally divine, Jesus willingly leaves Heavenly glory and humbles Himself by

becoming human—born in lowliness, associating with sinners, suffering, and having no earthly home.

- **The Title Son of Man - confirms His deity and authority:** Unlike Ezekiel, Jesus is *the* Son of Man who perfectly represents humanity and embodies God’s fullness. As such, He forgives sins, rules the Sabbath, saves people from the punishment of their sin, rises from the dead, judges the world, and reigns with divine authority.
- **And the Title Son of Man – also fulfills prophecy:** When Jesus uses this title He is pointing to our Old Testament (OT) reading from Daniel 7:13–14, where Daniel prophesies that the Son of Man will receive an everlasting kingdom from God the Father. It’s Jesus’ claim that He is the Son of Man - which eventually leads to accusations of blasphemy at His trial.

**The bottom line is:** The title “Son of Man” highlights both Jesus’ true humanity and His divine authority. As both Son of God and Son of Man, He is fully God and fully human.

What about Jesus’ **Elect**?

His elect – are those people chosen by God’s grace (Romans 8:33) who repent of their sins, believe in Jesus’ death for the forgiveness of their sins and believe in His resurrection for eternal life.

Why is Jesus coming in the **clouds** important?

Clouds are a symbol of God’s divine presence and glory:

- God guided the Israelites in the wilderness with a pillar of cloud (Exodus 13:21).
- A cloud filled the tabernacle and the temple (Exodus 40:34; 1 Kings 8:10).
- A cloud overshadowed Jesus at the Transfiguration (Mark 9:7).

When Jesus speaks of the **Son of Man coming with the clouds**, He is claiming His divine status, He's not describing weather.

And it's also a link to our OT Reading from Daniel 7:13-14 where **Daniel has a vision of the Son of Man coming in the clouds**.

**[Slide-Daniel 7:13-14]**

*<sup>13</sup> "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days [God – Ancient = Eternal, of Days=Sovereign over time and history] and was led into his presence. <sup>14</sup> He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.*

What Daniel sees is a vision of the future with Jesus coming on the clouds from Heaven and becoming ruler over **an everlasting kingdom**. Not like the Babylonian, Persian, Greek, Roman or British Empires – that are ALL long gone. **Jesus' Kingdom can never be destroyed.**

If we want a bit **more detail of what Jesus Second Coming** looks like, we get it from the Apostle Paul – in **1 Thessalonians 4:16-18** – Here's what Paul says:

**[Slide-1 Thes 4]**

*<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.<sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

[Explain – a) what happens if we die before Jesus returns and b) what happens if Jesus comes before we die]

**We should be encouraged by these words too!**

Jesus promises to come and gather us into His arms and usher us into Heaven with a **new imperishable body** (1 Corinthians 15)

What a glorious day that will be!

Jesus goes on to say we will be able **to read the signs for His Second Coming** –

Mark 13:28-31 – and He uses the example of a fig tree...

**Reading the Signs for the Second Coming (Mark 13:28-31)**

**[Slide-Signs]**

He says just like when you see a fig tree in Israel start to have tender twigs and the leaves come out – v28 – then you know it's summer

In the same way – Jesus says – in v29 – when you see **these things happening** you know Jesus is near and the end has come!

**Which things happening?**

All the things He's described earlier in Mark chapter 13 –

- False messiahs and deception (vv.6–23)
- Wars and rumours of wars (v.7)
- Earthquakes, famines, and natural disasters (v.8)
- Persecution of believers (vv.9–13)
- Destruction of the Temple (vv.1–2, 14–23)
- Cosmic signs: sun darkened, moon not giving light, stars falling (vv.24–25)

Some of these things have already happened

But the cosmic signs haven't.

So we're close to the end – but not there yet!

But Jesus says in v30 – this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things happen.

There's been a lot of thoughts and ink spent trying to work out which generation Jesus is talking about.

His disciples were certainly the generation alive when the Temple was destroyed but they were not alive for most of the other signs – and certainly won't be alive for the signs that still need to happen.

One helpful way to look at Mark chapter 13 is to see that there is a near and far prophecy here.

It's a bit like looking out in the distance to see 2 mountain peaks far ahead

One mountain peak behind the other – but you don't know how long and deep the valley is in between 1<sup>st</sup> mountain peak and the 2<sup>nd</sup> mountain peak

What Jesus is describing is

1 – One mountain peak – prophecy - not so far ahead – which is the Destruction of the Temple

2. –And one mountain peak – a lot further ahead – which describes the signs that lead to Jesus’ Second Coming

The people who are living when these cosmic signs described in vv23-24 actually occur – will certainly be the generation that won’t pass away – before Jesus comes again. The cosmic signs will mean Jesus’ return is just around the corner!

Whether we are alive then or not

We can be encouraged right now with the promise that Jesus makes in v31

Jesus says “*Heaven and earth will pass away, but His words will never pass away*”

What Jesus is doing here is establishing the absolute permanency and authority of His Words – they are the **ETERNAL TRUTH!**

An immediate application for us now – is why would we look anywhere else for wisdom and advice – when we have His **ETERNAL** Words in our Bibles!

It also means – we can draw confidence in knowing that if Jesus says something will happen – it **WILL** happen!

Jesus hasn’t finished with the **Details about His Second Coming** yet – there are more in vv32-37

## Details about the Second Coming (Mark 13:32-37)

### [Slide-Details]

V32 – Jesus says no one knows that day or the hour He will return. People don't know, angels don't know, not even Jesus knows – only God the Father knows. This means wasting time trying to come up with a date for Jesus' return is pointless; instead humility and readiness are required, in case we are unprepared!

If Jesus doesn't know the day or hour; He doesn't know the year either – so we must stop guessing! And use that time to serve the Lord. It would be a much better use of our time to tell people about Jesus – than coming up with a theoretical timetable for His return!

However, it does raise the question: How come Jesus doesn't not know when He is coming back? Isn't He, God, and He knows all things?

Jesus did not know this, but it was not because He gave up His omniscience. It was because He voluntarily, in submission to God the Father, restricted His knowledge of this event.

And Jesus then gives another little parable – in verses 34 to 36

He says His Second Coming is like:

A man – the owner of a house - leaving his house in the hands of some servants and they have work to do before the owner comes back – and the servants don't know when the owner is coming back – so they need to be ready and waiting and to have done all the work the owner wanted! In case he finds them sleeping on the job!

In the parable...

Jesus is the owner of the house

The Church (worldwide) – which includes us - is the house

Christian believers are the servants – each of us has work to do. We are not responsible for someone else's work – but we are certainly responsible for our own work.

Ephesians 2:10 tells us - *we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

Jesus tells His disciples and us

We need to *be on guard* and *stay alert* (verse 33)

And to "*keep watch*" for His return (verses 35 and 36)

In other words we need to **be prepared**

So how do we **apply** this section of Mark 13 - to our lives today?

**[Slide-Application #1]**

### Application for us

1. **1<sup>st</sup> - Be Prepared** – Just like Baden Powell told the boy scouts and girl guides. Just like the Ancient Israelites under slavery in Egypt - had to be prepared to leave at a moment's notice – they baked bread without yeast because they didn't have time to wait for the bread to rise. Just like if we live near the bush – we need to be prepared with an evacuation plan and backpack – to leave at a moment's notice – if there's a bush fire.

Billy Graham said, he lived everyday as though Jesus was coming back today! This means not getting too far ahead of ourselves when it comes to Earthly plans – because Jesus might return before then.

### [Slide-Application #2]

2. **2<sup>nd</sup> - Live our lives with eternity in mind** – this will mean not ignoring opportunities to share our faith. I'm not just talking door knocking here. I'm saying our whole lives – should show we love and follow Jesus. When people see we obey God's Word, and that we show love to everyone, and we are morally pure, and we persevere through difficult trials, and that we have hope rather than fear even when things are tough. People will see we are different and will want to join us.

It also means – if Jesus might come back today/tomorrow – **there is an urgency to show and tell Jesus to others – so they don't miss out on Heaven!**

How will you feel if you haven't mentioned Jesus to your loved ones? Who do we know that doesn't know about Jesus? What will we do about that?

(pause)

### [Slide-Application #3]

3. **3<sup>rd</sup> - Serving Jesus whilst we watch and wait for His Return** –
- a. Praying regularly in submission and dependence on God
  - b. Praying with alert intercession for those who are lost from God
  - c. Encouraging those who are struggling with severe trials to keep persevering – call them – pray with them – visit them – cry with them

- remind them their struggles are temporary in the scheme of all eternity
- d. Saturate ourselves in God’s Word [**Remember Jesus said His Words will not pass away**] – because God’s Word is powerful. And we can encourage others to saturate themselves in God’s Word – we can send them power verses to uplift them!
- e. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide us and show us what needs to be done as we **wait and watch** for Jesus to return.

[Explain story of me as a boy waiting and watching for my Dad]

### Conclusion (Hebrews 10:23-25)

Let me finish with these verses from **Hebrews 10:23-25** which clearly **show what we must be like as we wait and watch for Jesus to come back...**

[Slide-Hebrews 10:23-25]

***<sup>23</sup> Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.***

Jesus is coming back. Are we ready?

Let’s pray...

*Faithful Father, we thank you for the sure promise that Christ will come in glory. Help us to live watchfully and faithfully, trusting your word, serving you with hope and perseverance, until that day. Come Lord Jesus, come! In Jesus Name, we pray. Amen.*