

Mark Series: *Let the Gospel Tell the Gospel*

DON'T BE MISLED

Birth pangs are calls to stay faithful 'til the birth.

5 And Jesus began to say to them, “See to it that no one misleads you....⁷ ...do not be frightened;

8 These things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs.

9 “But be on your guard; for they will deliver you to...

11 ...do not worry beforehand...

13 ...but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

Covenant Presbyterian Church

MARK 13:1-13

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How believers have used Mark 13 and similar passages provides a good example of not listening to Jesus.

Mark 13:1-2

The Crucial Context is the Temple & Jesus' Cross

Everything in Mark 13 is influenced by what comes before it in Mark 11-12 regarding the Temple

Mark 13:2 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 Temple was indeed a glorious building—an incredible human accomplishment. Yet Jesus has condemned it.

Don't miss the centrality of Temple to the whole of the Bible:

The Garden: God's presence with Adam & Eve

God with Moses on the mountain and with the wilderness Tabernacle

The Ark of the Covenant in the land of Promise and then the Jerusalem Temple

People into Exile and Temple furnishings as well.

Ezra rebuilds the Temple and Herod expands it.

John the Baptizer and Jesus fulfill the prophecies of Malachi 3:1-3 & 4:4-6)

Jesus as the Temple

Matthew 12:6 ⁶ I tell you, something greater than the temple is here.

Matthew 23:16, 24 ¹⁶ “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’...²⁴ You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

Mark 14:55–58 ⁵⁵ Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. ⁵⁶ For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. ⁵⁷ And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, ⁵⁸ “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’”

Mark 15:29–30 ²⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!”

John 2:18–22 ¹⁸ So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?” ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰ The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹ But he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²² When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

See also **Acts 17:24–31**

The end of the Temple is at hand both because of Israel’s unfaithfulness & because Jesus’ death will be the last sacrifice.

Mark 13:3-4 Discern the Near (*these things/all these things*) from the Far (*those days/that day*)

On the next two Sundays we’ll say more about how Mark 13 speaks both the near and the far. If you want to do some thinking ahead you might look at how Mark seems to use the key words to talk about the nearer and further events.

these things/all... Mar 13:2, 8, 29, 30

those days/that... Mar 13:17, 19, 20, 24, 32

Mark 13:5-8 Deem Jesus’ bigger than Distractors or Distractions

Jesus gives them no single sign (see 8:11 – 12) but instead a flustering hodgepodge of signs, some true and some false, but none useful for predicting the time of the end. The true signs of the end come so fast that they will provide no warning at all (13:24 – 27). *David Garland, NIV Applic. Comm., Mark, 491*

13:5 Don’t be misled

13:6 Others will come as usurpers (nationalism/religious zealots/prophets) *Jeremiah 14:14-16*

13:7 Wars and rumors of wars

13:8 Conflicts, disasters and famines will increase

Birth pangs are but signs the birth is on the way—and these are but the beginning of birth pangs!

7–8 Other threats will come from international affairs, wars, and natural calamities that will befall non-believers as well as believers. The litany of woes in these verses could summarize every age perhaps, but they fit the first generation of Christians particularly well. There were fears of war in A.D. 40 when Caligula (Roman emperor, A.D. 37–41) attempted to erect a statue to himself in the temple of Jerusalem. Josephus uses a phrase very similar to 13:7 to describe the rumors of war circulating in Caligula’s day. The rumors of Caligula’s day turned out to be only that, but twenty-five years later total war broke out in A.D. 66 when the Zealot revolt plunged Palestine into a catastrophic defeat by Rome. There were famines during the reign of Claudius (Roman emperor, A.D. 41–54; see Acts 11:28). Earthquakes struck Phrygia in A.D. 61 and leveled Pompey in A.D. 63. The language of vv. 7–8 finds striking parallels in Tacitus’s description particularly of the last years of Nero’s megalomania and the civil wars that followed his suicide in A.D. 68. Not surprisingly, toward the end of the first century Revelation 6 contains a similar list of wars, famine, earthquakes, and persecutions. *J. R. Edwards, Pillar Comm., Mark, 391-392*

Mark 13:9-13a Jesus’ aim supersedes our short-term anguish

Mark 13:10 The gospel must first be preached to all the nations.

Be on your guard! You’ll be treated like me!

William Temple: Not all that the world hates is good Christianity, but it does hate good Christianity and always will.

Mark 13:13b Those on the path are those who arrive at the destination.

Mark 13:13 “You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

1 Peter 2:4–5 ⁴ And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

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