

Mark 13:24-27 The Coming of The Son of Man Falls Ch. PM 5/26/2024

Many people have predicted that Jesus will return on a specific date, only to be proven incorrect. Many other people have gone in a completely different direction – saying that there will not even be a second coming. Also incorrect.

Jesus Himself clearly declared that He is coming again!

**Watch out! By listening to what Jesus revealed, His disciples know that The Son of Man will come to gather His people.**

As far as predicting the day and time, it is a waste. Look at verse 33, where Jesus Himself said, “*you do not know when the time will come.*”

Jesus was telling us to stop trying to predict when He will return, and to not listen to people who do predict when He will come.

Although we don’t know the exact moment when Jesus will return a second time, we do know with certainty THAT Jesus will return, and therefore, we must remain alert. In other words, watch out! Take to heart the lesson of Jesus here.

Chapter 13 shows the passing of one era and the establishment of another era. The glory of God would no longer be concentrated in the temple area, but rather the glory of God would be concentrated not on a place at all, but rather on a person - on the Son of Man, who will one day come in power and glory.

Remember that Jesus is so genius that He was teaching about the near event of the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem like a near mountain, and behind that mountain, off in the distance, another mountain, and that being the return of Jesus from heaven to earth a second time. First mountain, second mountain. Jesus was teaching about both at the same time! So, which mountain is it in verse 24?

### **1. His signs. (v.24-25)**

Up until this point, everything Jesus said can be fitted to the time around AD 70, when the Roman armies ravaged Israel and emperors fought for the throne. But from verse 24 onward, the end of the world is being described. Let us confirm that.

First of all, we need to notice that the word *Jerusalem* is not mentioned in our passage, verses 24, 25, 26, and 27.

Secondly, we need to notice how Jesus began this passage. Jesus began by teaching about when! It is not a when that specifies a day and hour, but rather a when that specifies in relationship to the destruction of the temple. Verse 24 started with a reference to the days “*after that tribulation.*” So, verse 24 reads, “*But in those days, after that tribulation...*”

That statement ends debate about whether these next verses could apply to the AD 70 destruction of the temple. These verses cannot refer to the temple. What days was Jesus here starting to talk about? The days AFTER THE TRIBULATION of the destruction of the temple.

Okay, we see that whatever Jesus next said, cannot be talking about the destruction of that beautiful temple, and those white stones, across from which

Jesus and His disciples were sitting. Instead, whatever Jesus said next, would be referring to the end of the world. Remember: the end of the temple, and the end of the world are two separate events!

What did Jesus teach would be the indications of the end of the world?

Indication #1. From the trusted words of our trusted Savior Jesus in verse 24, “...*the sun will be darkened...*” Now we know why the apostle John wrote in Revelation 6:12, “...*I looked and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth...*” Now we understand why ancient Christians got concerned during solar eclipses!

Indication #2. The next trusted words of our trusted Savior Jesus in verse 24, “...*and the moon will not give its light...*” Now we know why the apostle John next wrote in that same verse, Revelation 6:12, these words, “...*the full moon became like blood.*”

Indication #3. The very next trusted words of our trusted Savior Jesus in verse 25, “...*and the stars will be falling from heaven...*” Now we know why the apostle John next wrote in the very next verse, Revelation 6:13, “...and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale.” The stars will be falling!

Indication #4. The following trusted words of our trusted Savior Jesus in verse 25, “...*and the powers in the heavens will be shaken...*” The word ‘shaken’ means caused to wave or totter, in reference to structures being shaken. The significance of the first 3 indications was summed up in this fourth indication – the powers in the heavens being shaken! Jesus the true prophet and the genuine Christ seems to be speaking in contrast to the false Christs and false prophets he just mentioned in verse 22 “*For false Christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect.*” Since the false prophets will perform signs and wonders, Jesus is responding with very large and unmistakable signs that could not be faked. Now we know why the apostle John next wrote in the very next verse, Revelation 6:14, “*The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up...*”

What have we seen in these 4 indications of the end of the world, when Jesus will come a second time to earth? We have seen the sun will be dark, the moon will not give its normal light, the stars will be falling, and the sky or heavens will be shaken.

What does it all add up to? Ultimate cosmic upheaval. Universal cataclysmic judgment will show that the end of the world has come! That is why Mark wrote this. And the apostle John wrote more. I was just quoting John in Revelation 6:14, about the sky being rolled up, and we understand it as a natural follow-up that the next thing John was describing was what John saw in a future vision and wrote about his vision in the past tense with these words, “...*and every mountain and*

*island was removed from its place.*” It clearly shows that in addition to the signs in the sky, that also things will happen on the ground and even in the oceans. Namely, that every mountain and island will be removed from its place! Mountains falling, islands moving or sinking. In sky, land, and sea there will be evidences of the coming of the LORD Jesus. In the heavens and on the earth, the entire cosmos will be shaken and rocked as God Himself prepares to judge everything through the person of His Son.

The apostle Luke reminds us that it is Jesus who is the judge, and we know this because Jesus rose from the dead. Luke wrote in Acts 17:31, “...*because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead.*” The resurrection of Jesus was a sign of His eventual second coming!

## **2. His powers. (v.26)**

Verse 26 begins with these two words, “*And then...*” What a wonderful word of anticipation. Anticipation of what? Aha. That is the greatness and the gold, the whole reason that end time studies attract our interests. It is fascinating. What are we anticipating? When the end will come, we do not know, but can we know WHAT will happen? Yes, we can. Oh good, so Jesus, please tell us, ‘What will happen *then?*’ Verse 26, “...*they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.*”

Who is the Son of Man? The Son of Man is Jesus, of course, the great figure who will be prominent in the end of the world. The Son of Man is the person described in the vision of the prophet Daniel in Daniel 7:13-14, “*I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. 14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.*”

Mark was aware of this prophecy of Daniel, of course, and Mark wrote what Jesus said with the prophecy of Daniel also in mind. What Mark also had in mind was what Jesus said earlier, and what Mark himself wrote back in Mark 8:38, where Jesus said, “*whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.*”

With that as a background Mark has in mind the aspect of us giving account to Jesus for our conduct. Here comes Jesus, fulfilling the role of Son of Man, and He is the main person and central figure in the coming of God at the end of the world.

Verse 26 says, “*they will see the Son of Man coming.*” Who is they? Who will see the Son of Man coming? The answer must be all mankind will see the Son

of Man coming. We know this by comparing Scripture with Scripture, and with this verse we read Revelation 1:7, “*Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him. Even so. Amen.*”

It is a miracle that every eye can see Him. It is part of His glory. Some will be ashamed. Some from every tribe will wail on account of Him. Others from every tribe will rejoice on account of Him. What will shine forth brilliantly is His glory, namely, His characteristics of wisdom, power, holiness, love, kindness, righteousness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and authority.

### **3. His gathering. (v.27)**

In verse 27, we again have the two-word introduction as a wonderful anticipation of what Jesus will do once he arrives. The first two words make us appreciate having more information provided, “*And then...*” What will Jesus do then? Jesus will gather!

Let’s read all of verse 27, “*And then He will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.*”

The angels will be sent out in order to harvest the work previously done by suffering saints who have done the work around the globe that was spoken by Jesus in verse 10, “*...the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations.*” Everywhere that missionaries have gone, and everywhere that churches have been established and grown, to those places Jesus will send the angels to gather the people of Christ.

In Jesus touching on this theme of gathering, in the context of the last days, the end times, Jesus reinterpreted the hope of the people of God in a profound way. Up until that time, the temple of Jerusalem had been the visible center for the gathering of the scattered and chosen people of God. However, the prospect of the destruction of the temple would not result in the permanent dispersment of the people of God. No. God’s people would not remain scattered. Rather, the destruction of the gathering point would be followed by the re-gathering of the new people of God around the Son of Man, that is, around Jesus. The natural consequence and counterpart to the destruction of the ancient temple and sanctuary is the future salvation of the elect, and their gathering together. The lost unity of the nation of God’s people through being scattered will be recovered through Jesus, the triumphant Son of Man. To be gathered by the Son of Man is to be identified with Him and to participate in the new and future community of the Lord’s people and to experience the blessings of the Messiah. How far can the Son of man reach to gather His own? The scope of the reach and activity of the Son of Man through His angels is universal. Mark’s written formula is shared here as the formula spoken by Jesus Himself, who “*...will send out the angels and gather His elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the earth.*”

Jesus is the One commanding the angels. Jesus is the One commanding the gathering. Jesus is the person to whom all will be gathered.

Gather from where? Basically, gathered from everywhere! Jesus, through His angels will gather “...*from the four winds...*” ‘winds’ = directions, four directions, we might say North, South, East, and West, but also Northwest, and north, northwest, and South east, and Southeast, hey, just think all directions, all cardinal points, Another way to say it is Jesus will send His angels to gather “*from the ends of the earth...*” ‘ends’ = end, high point, in a geographical aspect, this is the extreme limit, the end, which can be applied to vertical things or to horizontal things, the extremity, the farthest point. Such as the top of a staff or the tip of a finger, or the edge of the field. What does all this mean? It means the scope of activity is global! Christians will be gathered from every spot on the globe. The phrase “ends of the earth” comes from Isaiah 45:22, in which the Lord God said, “*Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth!*” *For I am God, and there is no other.*”

What adds to our interest is the very last phrase of our passage in Mark 13:27. Not only will believers be gathered from every place on the globe, but also from “...*the ends of heaven.*” Let me read verse 27 in the King James Version of the Bible, “*then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.*” A beautiful way to say it is from the four quarters of the skies, or from the four corners of the heavens. This was spoken by Jesus, written by Mark, and comes from Zechariah 2:6, where the LORD says, “*I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heavens, declares The LORD.*” The same idea was later picked up and also written by the apostle John in his incredible vision of the resulting gathered group in heaven, and what they will do once they have been collected in Revelation 7:9-10, “*After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’*”

What it means is that all missionary work for the Lord is not in vain. From the most faraway smallest place to the largest and closest city church in our own country, all of our labors of love for our Lord will bear fruit. One fine day, Jesus will come to gather His people. People whom we have loved and helped. People whom we have visited and taught. The sheep of the Great Shepherd, for whom we have cared. What a day of celebration it will be when all of the people of the Lord will come together to cry out in a loud voice the news of salvation to our victorious King on His throne.

Acts 1:11, when our risen Lord Jesus ascended into heaven, angels appeared

and said to the disciples that Jesus will come back again “*in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.*” So, we know that Jesus will return visibly, bodily, in clouds.

**Conclusion:**

1. Because Christ will come gloriously, give him highest honor today! The second coming of Christ will be entirely unlike the first coming of Christ. He came the first time, as we celebrate during Christmastime, in weakness, as a tender infant, born of a poor woman in the manger at Bethlehem, unnoticed, un-honored, and scarcely known. He shall come a second time in royal dignity, with the armies of heaven around Him, to be known, recognized, honored, respected, and feared by all the tribes of earth.

2. Because Christ will come victoriously, invest in His kingdom today! He came the first time to suffer, to bear our sins, to be considered a curse, to be despised, rejected, unjustly condemned, and to be slaughtered. He will come a second time to reign, to put down every enemy beneath His feet, to take the kingdoms of this world for his own inheritance, to rule over everyone with righteousness, to judge all men, and to live forevermore.

3. Because Christ will come to judge, do not fear enemies of God today! The enemies of Jesus, who have long despised and rejected Him, will find themselves under His preeminence. The very same Christ whose gospel they refused to believe, will appear as their Judge. The enemies of Christ will be helpless, hopeless, and speechless before Him.

4. Because Christ will come to gather, change how you live today! Our own King will soon be here. Our safety will be provided, while judgment falls upon the whole earth. First, He will place us beyond the reach of harm. With Him, we will reap what we have sown. We shall receive a rich reward for all that we have endured for Christ’s sake. We will exchange our own crosses for a crown. We may well bear patiently the partings and separations of this present time. We will have joyful reunions by and bye with all of our brothers and sisters in the faith, from every age, every country, every people, every tongue. One we gather, we will part no more. 2 Thessalonians 2:1, “*Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to Him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed...*” Wherever God’s people are scattered and however they are being treated, or however lowly they perceive themselves, God will gather them all in the end.

**Place all your hope in the coming of the Son of Man, and change how you live today!** The coming and triumph of the Son of Man is the core of the Christian’s hope. His coming is the one event in the light of which the problems of the present are illumined and resolved.