

FAITH & HOPE

Part 10 of THE PURPLE BOOK. Mark 13.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. March 13, 2022.

SCARY TIMES & SERIOUS QUESTIONS

MARK 13: CONTEXT & ORIENTATION

THE TIMES OF THE SIGNS

1. The Time Before the Tribulation - verses 5-13.

- **Verses 5-6: False religion:** ... Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray.
- **Verses 7-8a: Conflict:** "And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars ..."
- **Verse 8b: Natural disasters:** "There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines."
- **Verses 9, 11-12: Persecution of Christians:** "But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness ..."
- **Verse 10: Worldwide evangelism:** "And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations."

Jesus said:

Mark 13:7b, 8b (ESV) "... the end is not yet ... These are but the beginning of the birth pains."

2. The Time of the Tribulation - verses 14-23.

The Tribulation is a seven-year period of intense suffering and judgment.

Mark 13:19 In those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be.

Signs of the Tribulation:

- **A satanic world ruler - verse 14a**

"... the abomination of desolation standing where it ought not to be."

Revelation 13:5-6, 7b (ESV) And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. 7b ... And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation ...

2 Thessalonians 2:4 (ESV) ... who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

Revelation 13:8 (ESV) ... and all who dwell on earth will worship it ...

- **War against Israel and the Church - verses 14b-20**

"... then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains ..."

Revelation 13:7 (ESV) Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. (Revelation 6:9-11; 11:7; 12:17; 17:6)

- **Deceptive Religion - verses 21-22**

22 "For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect."

Revelation 13:11-14 (ESV) Then I saw another beast ... It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. 12 It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast ... 14 it deceives those who dwell on earth,

3. The Time after the tribulation - verses 24-27.

Matthew 24:27 (ESV) "For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man."

Signs of his Return:

- **Cosmic disruption - verse 14a**

Luke 13:24-27 (ESV) "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 in the heavens will be shaken."

See: Isaiah 13:9-10; Ezekiel. 32:7, 8; Joel 2:10, 31; 3:15; Amos 8:9; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 6:12-17.

- **Jesus descends to reign on earth - verse 26**

"And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory."

Daniel 7:13-14 (ESV) "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. (See Revelation 19:11-16)

CONCLUSION: OUR CHRISTIAN HOPE

Our hope is built on the certainty of Christ's return in glory.

- Our hope helps us fight our sin - 1 John 3:2-3
- Our hope helps us stand firm in faith - 1 Corinthians 15:58
- Circumstances can't steal our hope - 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

TODAY'S BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL TERM: ESCHATOLOGY

The term eschatology comes from the Greek word *eschatos*, which means “last,” “end,” or “final.” Thus, eschatology involves the study of last things. In the context of Christian doctrine, eschatology is the study of the end times and the events associated with the return of Jesus, including the tribulation, resurrections, judgments, and the kingdom.

The Bible’s storyline has a historical flow. In the beginning God creates a wonderful universe. Then there is a dark turn as a deceiving, tempting force (Satan) arrives in the form of a serpent. God’s image bearers fall for Satan’s lie and sin against their Creator, which brings sin, death, and curses into the world. Then God implements a plan through promises and covenants by which he intends to restore the creation, including mankind, through an ultimate man and Savior—Jesus Christ (Gen. 3:15; 12:2–3). After many centuries this promised Savior and King arrives. Jesus comes to his people, but they reject him (John 1:11). The violent death he willingly suffers provides atonement as the foundation for the reconciliation of all things (Col. 1:20). He then returns to heaven, and from there he pours out the Holy Spirit on believers and builds his church.

In the future, this King will unleash divine wrath on the world in preparation for his personal and bodily return to earth (Rev. 19:11–16). When he comes again, he will resurrect dead believers and reward his followers with a kingdom reign on the earth for a thousand years (Rev. 20:4). After this successful reign, Satan and all evildoers will finally be judged and sentenced to the everlasting lake of fire (Rev. 20:11–15). Then a perfect eternal state in a new heaven and new earth will commence (Rev. 21:1–22:5). God’s redeemed and glorified people will serve him and will reign forever (Rev. 22:5). Eschatology focuses particularly on “the end or culmination” and what events will occur around it.

Adapted from *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth*, BY MacArthur and Mayhue