



*First Baptist Church of Cypress*  
**THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES (part 1)**  
*Mark 13:1-13*

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Good morning church! Have you ever wondered what the future holds? Human beings themselves cannot know the future even though some try & others don't. Unbelievers make reasonable predictions about the future events based on patterns of past occurrences. But Christians who believe the Bible are in a different situation. God knows everything about the future and has told us in Scripture about the major events yet to come in the history of the universe. We can have absolute confidence because God is never wrong and never lies. Here in Mark 13, Jesus teaches his disciples Signs of the Times concerning the destruction of the temple, future persecutions, and his Second Coming.

**Mark 13:1-13**

*And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" **2** And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." **3** And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, **4** "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?" **5** And Jesus began to say to them, "See that no one leads you astray. **6** Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. **7** And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. **8** For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains. **9** "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 before them. **10** And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. **11** And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. **12** And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. **13** And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.*

## 1. What we know about JESUS CHRIST

- Jesus Christ is God Eternal.
- Jesus Christ is the Heavenly Messiah.
- Jesus will Return.

*Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."*

**John 8:58**

*"And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." **Philippians 2:8***

## 2. What we know about The TEMPLE (v 1-4)

As Jesus leaves the temple, the disciples are marveled by its magnificence. Herod the Great began rebuilding the temple in 19 B.C. using marble and gold as decorative materials. The outer court measured five hundred by three hundred yards.

- The Temple was outwardly BEAUTIFUL but inwardly BARREN.
- The Temple belongs to an OLD order, whose builders will reject the stone that will become central to God's NEW Temple.
- The Temple is not the basis of SANCTITY or SECURITY.

*To reverence the temple means to disavow (deny) trust in Jesus and his commands. His followers should not allow themselves to become entangled in the fate of the doomed nation and its temple. Jesus' disciples must **watch** because evil will materialize in proud nationalism, false religion, and sacrilegious symbols that will threaten the elect "who are believers".*

## 3. What we know about SIGNS of the TIMES (v 5-23)

- The Signs reveal WHAT will happen.
- The Signs do not reveal WHEN things happen.
- The Signs can distract us from God's MISSION for the church - to preach the GOSPEL.

*"It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply. Without doubt we of this generation have become too soft to scale great spiritual heights. Salvation has come to mean deliverance from unpleasant things. Our hymns and sermons create for us a religion of consolation and pleasantness. We overlook the place of the thorns, the cross and the blood."*

**A.W. Tozer**

## 1. **DECEITFUL Teachings of False Leaders (v. 5, 21)**

- Jesus commands us to WATCH!

See that no one leads you astray. Do not be deceived by events or by false prophets. These events should not cause chaos or dread for the believer's life or distract them from their calling. Avoid false hopes from false prophets that arises, who will exploit catastrophes for their own ends and add to the miseries of the people. We must guard against religious leaders who appeal to false hopes and want to exalt themselves and expand their influence. **Jesus is our true Messiah!**

## 2. **FALSE FEARS of Wars & Earthquakes (v. 7-8)**

Jesus warns us about international wars and natural disasters. This sign was for original audience and us. Earthquakes, warfare, and famines are always happening - *When one stands in the middle of history, one can easily misjudge the importance of events on God's scale.*

- Jesus warns us to NOT BE ALARMED

*"For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now."* **Romans 8:22**

## 3. **PERSECUTIONS that can Break Resolve (v. 9-13)**

This is a specific persecution that targets Christians because they are Christians. Suffering and hatred come to Christ's followers because they preach the gospel faithfully. So intense that family members will turn on other family members because they passionately hate the gospel or desperate to escape persecution themselves. It is not simply a time of suffering and persecution, but a time of grace and of evangelism.

- Jesus gives warns us to BE ON YOUR GUARD!
- Jesus warns us to NOT WORRY!
- Jesus commands us to STAND FIRM!

If we knew when Jesus would return we would most likely be lazy in our watchfulness. Undoubtedly these scriptures reference the days of the apostles but our days as well. May we be encouraged as believers and followers of Jesus by his words today *"If we endure to the end, we will be saved"*. This is the proof that true salvation has already taken place in your life. Can you have hope and encouragement today if you place your life in Jesus; making him Lord and Savior of your life. There is much uncertainty in this world, but Jesus has given us signs to be ready for anything including death. Trust in Jesus today! Ask for forgiveness of your sins and he will change your life.