

Signs of the Setting Sun [Mark 13]
Draft by Steve Carr [www.houseofcarr.com/thread]

INTRODUCTION

1. What is the significance of December 12, 2012? The date the world was supposed to end.
 - a. On the Mayan Calendar (The Mesoamerican Long Count Calendar)
 - b. The calendar is non-repeating, starting with August 11, 3114 BC as its starting point.
 - c. This Mayan Calendar doesn't have a date after December 11, 2012
2. There's no shortage of people wanting to predict the end of the world.
 - a. Harold Camping of Family Radio Worldwide, claimed the Bible called it.
 - 1) Pointed to May 21, 2011, but it didn't happen.
 - 2) He also predicted Jesus was going to return in 1994 (keeps guessing)
 - b. Edgar Whisenent wrote a book *88 Reasons the World Will End in 1988*,
 - c. Oswald Smith wrote *The Antichrist at Hand*, predicting Armageddon in 1933
 - d. The Watchtower Society [publication of JW] claimed the end would come in 1914, 1915, 1918, 1920, 1925, 1941, 1975 and 1994.
 - e. Charles Wesley predicted doomsday in 1794
 - f. The church of Thessalonica predicted the end would occur soon.
 - g. According to astronomers, Earth should last for at least five billion more years before the sun becomes a red giant.

TRANSITION:

1. We're still in the passion week will examining the gospel of Mark.
 - a. This evening's teachings of Jesus are the most misused and confusing to believers.
 - b. There has been an obsession with the words of this text because it has appeared to give guidance to the end of the world.
 - c. As we unpack it this evening, we'll see what the conversation is truly about.

VERSES 1-4

As he was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!" 2 "Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down." 3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, 4 "Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?"

1. As we look at the Passion Week calendar, Jesus is in Jerusalem for Passover.
 - a. The temple itself sat on a massive base that still exists today.
 - b. Created by Herod the Great; **an architectural masterpiece**, even by today's standards.
 - c. Some stones weigh as much as 600 tons.
2. Disciples are impressed, and it's for good reason. They want Jesus to take notice.
 - a. Jesus' prediction of the temple's destruction was a **frightening for the Jewish people**.
 - b. The temple was the center of their religious and national identity.
 - c. This isn't all about the end of the world; it's applicable to us because it was THEIR END.
3. The Popular Misconception: all these events are one in the same, but it's not so.
 - a. There's a connection that we need to explore.

OVERVIEW:

Verses 5-13 (what will this event look like?)

Verses 5,6: Deception

Verse 7: Wars/Rumors

Verse 8: Earthquakes and Famine
Verse 9: Persecution
Verse 10: Preaching of the Gospel
Verse 12: Familial Breakdown
Verse 13: Hatred

VERSES 14

¹⁴ "When you see 'the abomination that causes desolation' standing where it ^(L) does not belong—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

1. Understand: The original abomination that causes desolation had already occurred.
 - a. It was prophecied about in the book of Daniel 9:27, 11:31, 12:11.
 - b. The prophet Daniel wrote this book in about 530BC, while the Jews were still in exile.
 - c. This abomination was supposed to be a watershed event in the history of Israel.
2. A quick description of this event, and it comes down to a man.
 - a. Antiochus IV Epiphanes [ruled 175-163BC] Here's his picture on the face of a coin.
 - 1) The inscription reads, "Antiochus, image of God, bearer of victory."
 - b. A ruler of the Selucid Empire, before Rome and after Alexander the Great.
 - c. He was a lunatic; The Jews referred to him as Antiochus Epimanes ("The Mad One").
 - 1) He who organized an expedition against Jerusalem.
 - 2) He destroyed a lot of it; putting many of its inhabitants to death.
 - 3) He had soldiers enter the Temple, installed a statue of Zeus.
 - 4) Declared it a temple of Zeus, and slaughtered a pig on the Altar of the Lord.
 - 5) They then took the meat and tried to make some Jewish men eat it.
 - a) The men refused and he cut their tongues out, scalped them, cut off their hands and feet, and burnt them on the Altar of the Lord."
3. This blasphemy of blasphemies was clearly an abomination.
 - a. This event triggered the violent Maccabean uprising in Israel.
 - b. So now Jesus makes a reference that once again, there would be an abomination.
 - c. And this abomination would be the sign that the end of the temple was at hand.
 - d. We're not quite sure what the incident was, but Jesus said they would know.

VERSES 15-19

¹⁵ Let no one on the roof of his house go down or enter the house to take anything out. ¹⁶ Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. ¹⁷ How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! ^(L)
¹⁸ Pray that this will not take place in winter, ¹⁹ because those will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when God created the world, ^(M) until now—and never to be equaled again. ^(N)

WHATEVER THIS WAS WAS, IT WOULD BE SCARY AND PEOPLE NEEDED TO BE PREPARED.

VERSES 30,31

³⁰ I tell you the truth, this generation ^(e) ^(V) will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ^(W) ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. ^(X)

1. Jesus' words from the beginning of the chapter came true:
 - a. Not one of the stones were left upon another.
 - b. Let's look at this timeline:

AD 50's-60's- Gospel of Mark written

AD 66- begins of the Jewish Revolt in the port town of Caesarea

AD 67- Rome sends the commander Vespasian and 50,000 soldiers to put down revolt

AD 70- Army lays siege to Jerusalem; Jews inside the city involved in their own civil war

- Zealots destroy the storehouses of food- so people will fight or starve
- Vespasian made Caesar and his son Titus takes over

Proof of the completion of the conquest: Arch of Titus in Rome

- a. Built AD82 by Domitian (Titus' brother)

VERSES 23-29

²³ So be on your guard; ^(B) I have told you everything ahead of time.

²⁴ "But in those days, following that distress, "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken." ^{(d)(S)} ²⁶ "At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds ^(I) with great power and glory. ²⁷ 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. ^(U)

²⁸ "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. ²⁹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door.

WHEN TALKING THE END, IT WOULD BE A NOTICEABLE, SINGULAR EVENT.

- a. Sidenote: No left behind.
- b. Premillennial Dispensationalism started in England in the early 17th century.
- c. The most important question: WHEN???

VERSES 32-37

³² "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ^(Y) ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! ^{(I)(Z)} You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants ^(AA) in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. ³⁵ "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. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'" ^(AB)

CONCLUSION

1. This is ultimately the point: our obsession over this text should be tempered.
 - a. But if this doesn't reveal the timeline, how then should we react. A few suggestions . . .
2. The end is like a setting sun
 - a. An event of both anticipation and fear.
 - b. We know that the night is coming, but it shouldn't paralyze us.
3. Take note of the certainties behind this text:
 - a. The world will end**
 - b. We have no idea when this will happen.**
 - c. We need to be ready.**
3. The importance of keeping the end in mind: everything is at stake.
 - a. Making YOLO count.
 - b. Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.