

Jesus Is Coming Back!

Mark 13:19-27

August 23, 2026

Pastor Francis Bezzam

¹⁹ “For 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. ²⁰ And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days. ²¹ And then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it. ²² For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. ²³ But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.

²⁴ 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. ²⁶ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. 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”

My sermon title this morning is “Jesus Is Coming Back!”.

As we journey through the Gospel of Mark, we come to the passage where Jesus predicts his future return even before he is rejected, tried, sentenced to death, crucified, rises from the dead on the third day, appears to his disciples and ascends into heaven.

Jesus did predict his own death and resurrection at three times in the Gospel of Mark. We saw that in chapters 8, 9 and 10 of Mark.

Before Jesus ascended in heaven, he blessed his disciples. And as they were gazing into heaven in Acts 1:11, an angel tells the disciples “*Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven*”

Why is Jesus coming back?

Jesus is coming back for his elect. The elect are his disciples. Jesus chose his disciples.

If you are a disciple of Jesus, you are his elect. Jesus chose you before you chose him.

When you repented of your sin, and put your faith to Christ as your Savior and Lord, it is because God made that possible. There was a time when the Holy Spirit convicted you of your sin and your heart turned from self to Christ. You became a new creature.

You and I would’ve never turned to Jesus by ourselves except for the grace and election of God.

And being a disciple of Jesus, is a lifelong commitment. But before you committed to Jesus, Jesus commits to love you till the end. Your love maybe cold, indifferent and apathetic at times but Jesus' love never fails. Jesus loved his disciples to the end. So, the Gospel is Good News because it promises a glorious future after death for those whose follow Jesus Christ. Jesus will return one day to take his own people home.

However, before Jesus comes back, it will not be without some great upheaval, distress, disturbance or tribulation.

So, as we look at chapter 13 called the Olivet Discourse, look at it as both historical *and* eschatological. Eschatology means the study of end times. The historical view informs the eschatological view. From the perspective of the early disciples and the first century Christians, they very likely had a near future view, and a far future view.

And as we have been looking at our passage on Jesus answering the questions of his disciples, we saw that Jesus predicted the destruction of the second Temple in the first century. And Jesus gave warnings about how to conduct their lives in light of the impending distress and destruction in their own time. Jesus told his disciples to stay alert, to not be anxious, to not alarmed, be dependent on the Holy Spirt and last week, we saw Jesus telling his disciples to flee from Jerusalem when they see desolation near. Today, in our passage Jesus tells his disciples to expect a tribulation, warns them to be on guard and expect his future return.

I have two major implications:

First implication: When distress arrives, do not abandon Christ.

Verses 19 through 23.

¹⁹“For 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. ²⁰ And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days. ²¹ And then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it. ²² For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. ²³ But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.

When Jesus says, “in those days”, there will be a great tribulation, was he talking about the first century or the end times? I believe he’s talking about both historical and end times. Here’s why. Number one – Jesus is answering the question about the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. Second – in verse 8, Jesus said “these things” (false Christs, wars, earthquakes, persecution and Temple destruction) are only the beginning of “birth pains”.

Josephus the historian writes the distress the Jews had to undergo when they laid siege to Jerusalem in 70 A.D. He describes how the Romans crucified so many Jews, that they literally ran out of wood for crosses. He writes about extreme violence, murder, famine disease, and even cannibalism then. Josephus claims that more than 1 million Jews died and about 100,000 taken into captivity. Some say that these are exaggerations. Nevertheless, the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem was a time of great distress. What happened in 70 A.D is a preview of future times.

There are some who say this tribulation refers *only* to the past. Others say this tribulation *only* refers to the future. Some say the tribulation in the first century won't exceed the end times tribulation in scale and intensity. Others say the opposite. When Jesus says there will such a tribulation the earth had never seen, he probably refers to the end times with the first century tribulation in view.

Regardless of any view, the main two warnings Jesus gives are the following – “Do not believe false Christs” and “Be on guard”. Why be on guard? Because even the elect can be led astray if possible. The elect will be safe but can be deceived. That is why the warning.

And after this time of upheaval, Jesus tells his disciples that signs in the heavens will occur. What are those signs?

Verse 24.

²⁴ 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.

Notice what Jesus says here again in verse 24. “But in those days, after that tribulation”. What days and what tribulation?

Jesus is talking, I believe, about the end times with 70 A.D in perspective. But these signs specifically point to the end times.

The language of “the sun darkened, the moon not giving its light, the stars falling and the powers of heaven shaken” is all prophetic language.

Consider these *three* prophetic passages that describe end time signs:

1. Isaiah 13:10 – “Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it. ¹⁰ For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light. ¹¹ I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless.”

2. Joel 3:15-16 – “The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. The LORD roars from Zion, and utters his voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth quake”
3. Isaiah 34:4 – “All the host of heaven shall rot away, and the skies roll up like a scroll. All their host shall fall, as leaves fall from the vine, like leaves falling from the fig tree”

So, after the tribulation, the signs that will accompany the arrival of Jesus Christ will be rather extraordinary. This may very well be God, re-creating the Earth and the heavens. And then the most extraordinary of events will happen.

Verses 26-27

²⁶ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. 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”

This is not the only passage Jesus predicted his future return. When we expounded Mark 9, on the transfiguration passage, Jesus gave a preview of his return by taking three of his disciples, Peter, James and John to a mountain. There he was transfigured - meaning he was changed into a glorious bright form. But before Jesus took his disciples, he told them that they would not see death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power. We saw that in Mark chapter 9 verses one and two. In Matthew’s Gospel however, Jesus specifically mentions the phrase “the Son of Man”.

“Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom” Matthew 16:28

The phrase ‘Son of Man’ is Jesus’ self-designation.

After all these things take place, *then* he will return in great glory and power.

How do we know Jesus is coming in the future? (Some claim Jesus was talking about only about 70 A.D including his return)

Look at verse 26. Jesus switches his pronoun usage from the second person plural to third person plural.

He told the disciples - “when you *see* the abomination of desolation” leave Jerusalem. Now he tells the disciples (in verse 26) “*they will see*” (not “when *you see*”) when he returns in power and glory.

Who are *they* who will see Jesus at his return?

'They' are all. All will see Jesus when he returns.

Whether some like it or not. Whether some accept it or not. All will see.

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations.." Matthew 25:31-32

The return of Jesus Christ will be one glorious global event.

And what should be expected when Jesus returns?

The Elect gathered to him.

Verse 27:

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"

Wherever his disciples are, they will be gathered to Jesus and it going to be glorious.

I have *five* observations as to what is to be expected when Jesus returns.

1. When Jesus returns, some will see the *wrath* of God and some will get *relief* from God.
 - a. This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant *relief* to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting *vengeance* on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 2 Thessalonians 2:5-8
2. When Jesus returns, some will *suffer* and some will *marvel*.
 - a. They will *suffer* the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,¹⁰ when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be *marveled* at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10
3. When Jesus returns, some will *wail* and *weep* and some will *rejoice* and *shine*.
 - a. 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. Revelation 1:7
 - b. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers,⁴² and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Matthew 13:41-43
 - c. They will look on him whom they have pierced. John 19:37
4. When Jesus returns, some will be sent into eternal *punishment* and some into eternal *life*.

- a. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. Matthew 25:32
 - b. What will happen to the goats and sheep? “And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” Matthew 25:46
5. When Jesus returns, some will receive a glorious new body.
- a. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Philippians 3:20-21

So, who are these who will marvel, rejoice, find relief, eternal life and get a new glorious body? These are the *elect* of Christ.

Second implication: Be unashamed of Jesus and be eager to see Christ again.

When we saw Mark 8, in verse 38 Jesus said, “*For 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*” Mark 8:38

Application: There may times in your day-to-day living when Christ is mocked, disparaged and treated with contempt by others and you may feel that you are in the minority. But in those times, trust in Holy Spirit, let him guide your lips and let your life be a witness for Christ. Do not be ashamed of Jesus Christ. He will be with you always.

Also, when Jesus comes back, we must be eager to see him.

“*So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him*” Hebrews 9:28

In conclusion, how should you live in light of Jesus’ return?

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones (elect), holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:12-17

----- Discipleship Questions-----

MESSAGE SUMMARY: Jesus Is Coming Back. Mark 13:19-27

HEAD: These questions help you examine the truth of God's Word.

1. What are the signs Jesus describes that will lead to his return? Who is Jesus coming back for?
2. HEART: These questions help you wrestle with what you believe.
 - What warnings does Jesus give for his disciples to prepare for his return?
 - What is God convicting you of and to believe in light of this message?

HANDS/HABITS: These questions help you bring the truth into your everyday life and develop behaviors that change your habits.

3. HANDS For personal reflection: In what way are you to prepare for Jesus' return?