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Mark: The Servant Gospel, NT352

Part III. The Servant Presented as King and Rejected. Chapters 11-13

Class 11

Chapter 13

-Lots of getting into the DeLorean Tonight!

John: **Mark 13:1-8: The Servant's Understanding of the Future Starts with Not Being Deceived Now**

-We must keep in mind what Jesus said at the end of chapter 23 of Matthew, that Mark does not record.

-**23:38 See! Your (Jerusalem's) house is left to you desolate (without inhabitant); 'ended' as it is translated 3 other times)?"**

-In the OT it would be said of the Temple: 'Ichabod': The Glory has departed from Israel

39 for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' "

1 Then as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!"

2 And Jesus answered and said to him, "**Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down.** (not: 'blown down' but 'thrown down')"

3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple (Mark putting emphasis on 'opposite the Temple!'), Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately,

4 "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled (or - **Matt. 24:3 adds ... And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"**

-This quote from Matthew is on the heels of His great lament over Jerusalem in 23:37 and specifically his declaration in 23:38: 'your house is left to you desolate'

-Jesus leaves the temple for the last time- He abandons it, it is desolate.....

-BUT that is not the last word. **V. 39 of Matt. 23** says: **for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'**

-There are two questions here in Mark (Matthew's three read this way:

24:33 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, 1-when will these things be? 2-And what will be the sign of Your coming, 3-and of the end of the age?"

Mark's Questions read: 1-when you said 'not one stone left upon another', when will that happen?

2- when will these things be 'fulfilled' or 'come to an end' or 'be finished'? What things?

-In their mind these are one and the same, but Jesus takes them beyond this Temple to a 3rd one and to His second coming.

-He does not answer them in the order they are asked in Matthew.

-He answered the **third question** first, the **first question** second, and the **second question** third.

- And as we shall see the 'next thing' after the destruction of the second Temple, will be the Desolation of Abominations of the third temple!
- Which assumes there has to be a Temple to desolate.
- In between will be the church age and it will have certain characteristics that are not signs per se.
- The key to understanding the Olivet Discourse is to understand what He is saying about the 12, this second Herod's Temple versus the third Temple, and the Desolation of Abomination.
- It will have to be rebuilt and that probably will happen within the first 3.5 years of the covenant between Israel and the Anti-Christ, Dan 9:27

-**2Thes. 2:3-4** helps us understand this

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day (day of Christ per v.2) will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, (the third temple) showing himself that he is God.

-This is the Abomination that makes Desolate!

-**The Stones:** Josephus says in one place that they measured twenty-five cubits (*cubit prox. 18 inches*) in length, eight in height, and twelve in width (*Ant. 15.392*)

-The Temple itself was:

After Herod's work, the temple was huge—nearly 500 yards long and 400 yards wide. Herod's rebuilding started in 19 b.c., and was not completed until 63 a.d., taking more than 80 years. The magnificent temple compound was finished only seven years before it was destroyed.

-**Hebrews 8:13** is a follow up to this with the added dimension of covenant change from the old to the new covenant: **Heb. 8:13: In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old (though probably recently finished) is ready to vanish away (in the way Jesus described in Matt. 24:2).**

-The great symbol of the Old Covenant under Judaism would be the Temple

-Josephus commented that a person visiting the site after the destruction could not believe that anyone had ever inhabited the place, much less that one of the most magnificent structures of the ancient world had stood there only a short while before.

-**BUT** Before He answers their questions He gives all disciples a warning about deception and what not to focus on when contemplating the end of the temple.

The personal warning ...

5 And Jesus, answering them, began to say: "Take heed that no one deceives you.

-Instructive verses on 'Deception'

-**See** Matt. 22:29, which is the word 'deceive' or any of its derivatives?

-**See** Heb. 3:10, 'astray'

-**See** 1Cor. 15:33, 'deceived'

-**See** Gal. 6:7, 'deceived'

-**See** Titus 3:3, 'deceived'

6 For many will come in My name or using my name, saying, 'I am He,' Matt. adds I am the Christ and will deceive many.

-Jesus as a good teacher equips them to beware of the counterfeits, they will come and they will appear right away, even in the days of the twelve!

Not only beware of counterfeits but do not be alarmed about war-like conditions.....

When the following happens, they are sorrows but not a sign that the end is imminent ...

7 But when you hear of (not necessarily experience) wars and rumors of wars (not necessarily where you are for you will hear of them elsewhere), do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet or 'still is not yet'.

-These are general age characteristics, not a specific sign.....

-Jesus knowing that there is an age beyond His death and resurrection,

-even beyond the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple, an extended period of time.

-He talks about this age's characteristics first before answering their questions and giving the accompanying sign

-It is as if they need to know that the general characteristics He describes are not signs of the end of the age, though others will declare these general characteristics to be signs of the end of the age.

-Two general characteristics given:

-**First:** The church age according to these verses will be marked by deception from False Messiahs

-Many will come in the name of Jesus saying they are the 'I Am' or they are 'the Christ'

-Also they will say the Time has drawn near.

-**Second:** Do not be troubled by wars and rumors of wars, these things will be, but these are the not the sign of the end of the age.

-In other words, the rise of false messiahs, leaders and long periods of local wars must come first.

-But neither of these things would in any way, shape, or form or be signs that the end has begun.

8 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These are the beginnings of sorrows (the greater sorrows would be in the seven year tribulation)

-Beginning of the end of the age, not the tribulation but the age before it.

-This expression '**nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom**' is a Hebrew idiom here for a world war or more precisely 'points to a total conflict of the area specified'. Jesus' statement here is that when a world war occurs, rather than merely a local war, that world war would signal that the end of the age (not the beginning of the tribulation) had begun.

-In **Is. 19:1-4** this phrase is used encompassing the whole area of Egypt. In **2Chron. 15:1-7** this phrase is used again of the Middle East. In our passage the area in view is the whole world: **Matt. 24:14, 21, 30 and 31.**

-The rabbis clearly taught that a worldwide conflict would signal the coming of the Messiah.

-In Jesus' day, the expression of 'nation against nation, kingdom against kingdom' was a Jewish idiom of a world war preceding the coming of the Messiah. The **Bereshit Rabbah (3rd century)** states:

'If you shall see kingdoms rising against each other in turn, then give heed and note the footsteps of the Messiah are near.'

-**Earthquakes:** In the first 1000 years after Jesus, there were approximately 5 recorded major earthquakes (although we are sure more occurred in remote locations). However, the trend has been on the increase:

14th century, there were 157 major earthquakes.

15th century, there were 174 major earthquakes.

16th century, there were 253 major earthquakes.

17th century, there were 278 major earthquakes.

18th century, there were 640 major earthquakes.

19th century, there were 2119 major earthquakes.

20th century over 900,000 earthquakes have been recorded thus far. An earthquake every hour!

-So we see an increase in recorded earthquakes; we have nation rising against nation in a context of World War, troubles and famines

-These are all within and towards the end of the current age!

-**Matthew** adds here: **24: 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.**

-Jesus corrected this Jewish idea of the 'near footsteps of the Messiah' slightly, for He said that when the world war occurs, while it does not signal the coming of the Messiah, it will signal that the end of the age has begun, not his second coming or the end of the tribulation that leads to His 2nd coming.

-The sign that the end of the age has begun is the worldwide conflict could be fulfilled by World War I and World War II (which was a continuation of WWI in the minds of many)

-Furthermore, both world wars had a decisive impact on Jewish history.

-World War I gave impetus to the growth of the Zionist movement, and World War II led to the reestablishment of the Jewish State, officially so on May 14, 1948

-Just as a woman goes through a series of birth pangs before giving birth to a child, even so the closing days of this age will go through a series of birth pangs before giving birth to the new age of the Kingdom on the earth.

Thus **The Servant's Understanding of the Future Starts with Not Being Deceived Now**

Matthew's Account, 24:1-8

Joey: Mark 13:9-13: Servants Must Find Outer Endurance from Within

-Specific Warnings to the twelve with principles for us

-The Luke account clearly states that what is about to be described is going to occur *before* the sign that the end of the age has begun, Luke 21:12 **But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake.**

Here is the Harmony of **Matthew Mark** and **Luke**:

12 But before all these things (*'end of the age' sign*) **watch out for yourselves, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up, to councils, to the synagogues and you will be beaten in the synagogues and prisons and they will kill you. You will be hated by all nations for My name's sake and you will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake for a testimony to them and it will turn out for you as an occasion or opportunity for testimony.**

But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, Do not premeditate on what you will speak but whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speaks, but the Holy Spirit. (And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations.) 14 Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; 15 for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.

16 And many will be offended, you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents then they will deliver you up and cause them to be put to death and they will put some of you to death. 17 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. 18 But not a hair of your head shall be lost. 19 In your patience possess your souls.

11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved (or delivered, not speaking of eternal salvation).

- In Luke, the passage begins with the phrase, **But before all these things**. Or 'before all these things will happen'.
- So before there is the sign of the end of the age, before the sign of "nation against nation, kingdom against kingdom" ever comes, the Apostles themselves will undergo certain tribulations that come with opportunities.
- this account of the personal experiences of the Apostles parallels Matt.10:17-23 where Jesus predicts their personal experiences and that they will not complete their visitation of every Jewish city before the Lord returns. That mission will not be completed by them. They will be driven out of the land by persecution. And He ends **Mark 13:13** with the same phrase as He used in Matthew 10:22: **But he who endures to the end will be saved.**

Nine Experiences (listed from **Luke**, except where noted):

1st, they will be rejected by the Jews (v. 12a);

12a they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to councils (courts of 23 Jewish Men), **to the synagogues and you will be beaten in the synagogues and prisons.... But when they arrest you and deliver you up,**

2nd, they will be rejected by the Gentiles (v. 12b); **You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake**

3rd, they will undergo persecutions, but these persecutions will provide opportunities for testimony (v. 13); **for a testimony to them and it will turn out for you as an occasion or opportunity for testimony....**

4th, the Apostles will succeed in proclaiming the gospel everywhere (Mk. 13:10), **(And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations.)**

-verified by **see** Romans 10:18 and **see** Colossians 1:6, 23;

5th, they need not worry about preparing defenses before their trials, because they will be given divine utterance when they are brought before judgment (vs. 14-15); **do not worry beforehand, Do not premeditate on what you will speak but whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speaks, but the Holy Spirit.**

6th, they will be rejected by their own family members (v.16); **16 You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death and they will put some of you to death.**

7th, they will be hated by all men to the point that some will be martyred (Mark 13:12); **and cause them to be put to death and they will put some of you to death.**

-they were not to expect the end of the age to come too soon. In fact, Jesus predicted that many of them would be martyred before the end of the age ever begins.

8th, nevertheless, their salvation is assured (v. 18); **18 But not a hair of your head shall be lost.**

-Meaning everything about you will be under the Father's control and care

-A similar phrase is used in **see** Luke 12:7.

9th, thru *the* patience (as a resource from the “God of ‘patience”, **see** Ro. 15:5) they will succeed in securing their own souls to the end (v. 19). **See** James 1:3-4
-(Note: Dr. Arnold translates ‘possess’ as *win*, thus by your patience you will win many souls)
-In your patience possess your souls. But he who endures (*bears up under the persecution*) **to the end shall be saved.**

When all that is outward seems against us ... **Servants Must Find Outer Endurance from Within**

Matthew’s Account, 24:9-13

John: Mark 13:14-20: Servants Who See this Abomination Must Obey and Flee

Matt. begins with: **24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.**

Mark picks up here: **14 “So when you** (*the reader who sees it*) **see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not** Matt. adds **in the Holy Place”** (let the reader understand),

-What kind of reader would be reading Matthew or Mark?

“then let those who are in Judea (*because it is in Judea where it will occur*) **flee to the mountains** (*which will be to the east*).

-The desolation of abominations is the key to understanding the timing of the rest of this chapter.

-**First:** The Abomination of Desolation will involve two stages:

-The first stage will be when the Antichrist will take over the Jewish Temple, sit down in the Holy of Holies, and declare himself to be god (2 Thes. 2:3-4).

-The second stage of the Abomination of Desolation will be when the False Prophet will make an image of the Antichrist and stand it up in the Holy of Holies and give life to it (Rev. 13:11-15; Dan. 12:11).

-This act of the ‘Abomination of Desolation’ will signal that the second and the worse half of the Tribulation has begun.

There is an extreme urgency

15 Let him who is on the housetop not go down into the house, nor enter to take anything out of his house.

16 And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

17 But woe to (*as in I feel sorry for*) **those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!**

18 And pray that your flight may not be in winter (*harder to travel quickly*).

Matt. adds here in **24:20 or on the Sabbath.**

19 For in those days (*of the abomination of desolations*) **there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be.**

-the reason for this flight (v. 21) is because at this time worldwide anti-Semitism will break out in all its fierceness. Satan’s attempt to annihilate the Jews once and for all will have begun in earnest.

20 And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake, whom He chose (*Israel*), **He shortened the days** (*of great tribulation to 3.5 years*).

-Israel will survive this terrible period, though greatly reduced in number (v. 20).

Dr. Arnold

-The breaking of the seven-year covenant marks the beginning of a worldwide persecution of the Jews.

- Two key passages describe what will happen to the Jewish people during the Tribulation.
- The first passage is Matthew 24:15–28. In this passage, Christ provided a warning sign to those Jews living at the time the covenant is broken and the Abomination of Desolation occurs, which commences the persecution of the Jews (vv. 15–20).
- They are warned that as soon as they hear of that event happening, they are to get out of Israel and to do so quickly.
- The emphasis is on a speedy flight.
- The Abomination of Desolation will be the signal for the Jews to flee out of the Land (vs. 16–20); this flight is also recorded in Revelation 12:13–17.
- This emphasis is especially evident in the Messiah’s listing of the three difficulties that may be encountered in this flight:
 - The first difficulty is for women who are pregnant or have infants. In both cases, this makes quick flight difficult as any woman in that condition can certainly verify.
 - The second difficulty is in relation to the winter, when weather conditions can also limit a speedy escape especially through wadis such as the one leading to Petra.
 - The third difficulty is in relation to the Sabbath, a day when all public transportation closes down. For these two reasons, they are advised to pray that this Abomination of Desolation, which will indeed come to pass, will not come on the Sabbath day or during the winter months, during the rainy season.
- The worldwide persecution of the Jews begins and will continue for the next three and one-half years (v.20).

- Verses 23–28 of Matt. 24 contain a special message directed to the believing remnant within Israel,
- Warning them not to heed any rumor that the Messiah has returned and so come out of hiding.
- When the Messiah does return, all will be able to see Him and it will be known by all. While all Jews are persecuted, a special emphasis of deception is aimed against the believing remnant.
- here are those verses in **Matt. 24:**

23 “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it.

24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

25 See, I have told you *(whoever reads this at the time of the Desolation of Abomination)* **beforehand.**

26 “Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out *(from where you fled);* **or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it.**

When He comes it will be and look like this

27 For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

28 For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

As to where they will flee ... Dr. Arnold

- Earlier, mention was made of the Jews in flight, particularly the Faithful Remnant. Thus far, no particular spot has been pinpointed. Up to now, three clues have been provided.
- One clue was in **Matthew 24:16: Then let them that are in Judea flee to the mountains.**
- According to this text, the place of flight and refuge is to be the mountains in the east.
- The second and third clues were given in Revelation 12:6. Not only must the place of refuge fulfill the requirement of being in the mountains, it must also fulfill this second requirement of being in the wilderness.
- Thirdly, the place in the wilderness was prepared by God in advance, which indicates a very adequate place of refuge.

-These are the three clues found in passages examined earlier. Although inconclusive, another passage which may have a bearing on the question of “where” is found in **Isaiah 33:13–16**. Since the context is dealing with end-time events, this passage also points out a distinction between the apostates and the Faithful Remnant as far as their protection and preservation is concerned. The means by which protection for the remnant will be accomplished is given in verse 16:

16 He will dwell on high;
His place of defense will be the fortress of rocks;
Bread will be given him,
His water will be sure.

-This passage gives some insight as to the nature of the hiding place itself.

-First, it is stated that it will be on high; that is, in the mountains, thus reaffirming the Matthew passage.

-Second, it adds that the place of defense will be the fortress of rocks, that is, the very nature of the place will make it easy to defend.

-This brings the total to four clues. The refuge will be:

1. In the mountains;
2. In the wilderness;
3. A place prepared in advance;
4. A very rocky defensible place.

-Another passage, **Micah 2:12**, pinpoints the place exactly:

12 “I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob,
I will surely gather the remnant of Israel;
I will put them together like sheep of the fold *literally* **Bozrah** (aka Petra),
Like a flock in the midst of their pasture;
They shall make a loud noise because of so many people.

-The remnant is gathered together as the sheep of Bozrah.

-Since the sheep of Bozrah are not any different than other sheep, this gathering together as the sheep of Bozrah simply means that they are to be gathered in Bozrah.

-The ancient city of Bozrah was located in the region of Mount Seir. Mount Seir is a very rocky range of mountains, and its name means the “hairy mountains.”

-This fulfills the requirement of the Matthew passage.

-It is located in the wilderness section of ancient Edom and so fulfills the requirement of the Revelation passage.

-The very nature of the chain of mountains of Mount Seir makes it quite defensible, fulfilling the requirements of the Isaiah passage.

-Mount Seir is located on the western side of ancient Edom, extending from southeast of the Dead Sea down to the city of Akaba.

-It towers over the Arabah, part of the rift valley from the south shore of the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Eilat.

-Today the area is in southern Jordan. The city is now known as Petra.

-Another reason this city was chosen is revealed in the context of **Daniel 11:40–45**.

-This passage concerns the conquests of the Antichrist in the middle of the Tribulation as he begins his world political takeover.

-The key verse which bears upon the discussion here is in verse 41:

He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall he overthrow; but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.

-The passage states that while the Antichrist will conquer the whole world, three nations will escape his domination: Edom, Moab and Ammon.

-All three of these ancient nations currently comprise the single modern state of Jordan.

- The city of Bozrah in Mount Seir is located in ancient Edom or southern Jordan.
- Since this area will escape the domination of the Antichrist, it is logical for the Jews to flee to this place.
- Thus, God will provide a city of refuge outside the Antichrist's domain for the fleeing remnant.
- It will be a very defensible city located in Mount Seir.
- Furthermore, as they flee and while they are living there, food and water will be miraculously provided.

We pray that future ... **Servants Who See this Abomination Must Obey and Flee**

Matthew's Account, 24:14-22

Joey: Mark 13:21-27: 'The Servant' Will Be the Only Light on Earth and Heaven

21 Then if anyone says to you (*the reader of v.14*), **'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'Look, He is there!' do not believe it.**

- The time period spoken here in v.24 is the Tribulation period of the Abominations of Desolations
- the second half of the Tribulation will be characterized by a false messiah, as typified in the counterfeit son, the Antichrist (v. 23).
- the latter half of the Tribulation will be characterized by many false signs, miracles and wonders, for the purpose of worldwide deception. These false signs will be performed by both the Antichrist (2 Thes. 2:8-10) and by the False Prophet (Rev. 13:11-15).
- No matter what he says or what signs he will work- I command you-Do not believe it!
- Why?

22 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect (*Israel*).

23 But take heed; see, I have told you (*the readers of v.14*) **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 the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken (*there will be total darkness!*).

- In the Matthew account, Jesus stated that just preceding the sign of the Second Coming of the Messiah, there will be a total blackout of the earth.
- No light will penetrate to the earth from the sun, the moon, and the stars (Mat. 24:29).
- Luke adds that there will be a great amount of 'perplexity' on the earth as both physical and non-physical things are shaken in 'expectation' of His return (Lk. 21:25-26).

26 Then they (*those remaining on earth*) **will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory** (*The light of His Shekinah Glory*).

- the Messiah warned that there will be people saying that the Messiah has returned here or that the Messiah has returned there, and that the Second Coming has secretly occurred (Matt. 24:25-27).
- The Messiah warned the Jews of that day not to believe any such rumor or statement and come out of hiding because, unlike His First Coming, the Second Coming will not be in secret.
- When the Messiah returns the second time, all men will see it, for it will be like a flash of lightning surrounding the world.
- the Messiah gave a hint as to the place of His Second Coming in verse 28 of Matt. 24.
- He said that where the body is, there will the eagles (in context better translated as "vultures") 'be gathered together'.
- The "body" refers to Israel, while the "vultures" refer to the Gentile nations coming against the body of Israel in Petra or Bozrah.
- The place of the Second Coming of the Messiah will be in that place where the body of Israel is located, and where the Gentile nations are 'gathered together'.

- The exact place is known as *Bozrah* (in Hebrew) or *Petra* (in Greek). That is where the “body” will be (Mic. 2:12–13); that is where the “vultures” will be gathered to come against them (Is. 34:1–7; 63:1–6); and that will be the place of the Second Coming (Hab. 3:3).
- At this point, Matthew states that the sign of *the Son of man* will appear (v. 30a).
- As this sign is coupled with God’s glory, it is obviously the *Shekinah* Glory light that will signal the Second Coming of the Messiah.
- The answer to the second question, “What will be the sign of the Second Coming?” is: the *Shekinah Glory*: But immediately after the tribulation of those days, there will be a total blackout with no light penetrating at all, followed by a sudden, glorious, tremendous light that will disperse the blackness.
- This ‘Shekinah’ light** will be the sign of the Second Coming of the Messiah. The light will be followed by the return of the Messiah Himself (v. 30b), as the angels said He would in Acts 1:11

27 And then (*when He returns in glory*) **He will send His angels, and gather together His elect** (*Jews scattered from around the world*) **from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.**

How terrifyingly awesome will it be when ‘The Servant’ Will Be the Only Light on Earth and Heaven

Matthew’s Account, 24:23-31

John: Mark 13:28-31: Servants Always Learn from Nature When Tied to Revelation

28 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree, (Luke adds: **and all the trees**): **When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is** (Luke adds: **know that the kingdom of God is** **near**).

29 So you (*that read this*) **also, when you see these things happening** (*abomination of desolation*), **know that it is near-at the doors!**

30 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation (*that sees the abomination of desolation*) **will by no means pass away till all these things take place.**

31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

- This section has often been misused by those who have attempted to date the Rapture or the Second Coming of Christ.
- The ‘fig tree’ is often taken to mean the reestablishment of the State of Israel in 1948.
- For example, since 1988 (40 years after nationhood, May 14, 1948) has now come and gone, the new focus is to start the forty years (assuming that it is a generation’s length) with the Six-Day War in 1967.
- There are two errors in this type of reasoning and its exposition:
 - First**, the Bible nowhere limits the period of a ‘generation’ to simply forty years. The one place where the term “generation” is given a specific length of time, it is reckoned to be one hundred years (**see** Gen. 15:13–16).
 - Keil and Delitzsch**: The calculations are made here on the basis of a hundred years to a generation: not too much for those times, when the average duration of life was above 150 years, and Isaac was born in the hundredth year of Abraham’s life.
 - Actually, the term “generation” can mean twenty, forty, seventy, eighty or one hundred years.
 - Sometimes it simply means ‘contemporaries’, as in ‘the generation of your contemporaries’ much as that term is used today.
- The **second** mistake made in this reasoning is assuming that the ‘fig tree’ is a symbol of Israel and that this passage is speaking of the reestablishment of the Jewish State in 1948.

- This has not been mentioned anywhere in the entire Olivet Discourse.
- The reestablishment of Israel has merely been assumed and presupposed in the passage, but it has never been dealt with specifically.
- Furthermore, the usual scriptural symbol for Israel is the 'vine'. Is. 5:3-5, Jer. 12:10.
- However, the real point of this passage is that the 'fig tree' is being used literally as an 'illustration', not as a symbol for Israel.
- This is clearly seen from verse 29 of the Luke 21 passage, which reads: Behold the fig tree, **and all the trees.**
- If the 'fig tree' represents Israel, what, then, do all the other trees represent?
- The point of the illustration is this: When the 'fig tree' and all the other trees begin to blossom, it is a sure sign that summer is on its way, because the blossoming occurs in the spring.
- Then, in application of the illustration, Jesus said: **Even so you also, when you see all these things, know that He is nigh, even at the doors.**
- Just as a blossoming fig tree means that summer is on its way, in the same way, when these events that Jesus spoke about occur, then they can know that His return is near, is how this is usually interpreted.
- Rather, the event that He was speaking of was the Abomination of Desolation. When the Abomination of Desolation occurs, it will signal or 'sign' of the soon return of the Messiah, namely, only 3½ years later.
- More specifically, from the Prophet Daniel, whom Jesus specifically named, they would know that it will be exactly 1,260 days from the Abomination of Desolation until the Second Coming.
- The point of verse 34 is not that the 'generation' that sees the reestablishment of the Jewish State will still be here at the Second Coming, but rather, the Jewish 'generation' that sees the Abomination of Desolation will still be here at the Second Coming.
- The "coming" referred to in this passage is not the Rapture, for which no signs are promised, but the Second Coming itself.

Therefore Servants Always Learn from Nature When Tied to Revelation

Matthew's Account, 24:32-35

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Mark: The Servant Gospel, NT352

Part III. The Servant Presented as King and Rejected. Chapters 11–13

Class # 11

Chapter 13... Jesus' Farewell Prophecy

During the previous days, Jesus had made his Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, prophesied destruction for Israel in cursing the fig tree, cleansed the Temple and entered into debates with the religious establishment which he repeatedly won. Then, in exalting the poor widow and her offering, he passed judgment on the religious leadership of Israel. Now Jesus left the Temple for good. The Cross awaited Him. The Olivet Discourse formed a fitting bridge to Jesus' final days. It was His final address, His farewell prophecy.

John: The Servant's Understanding of the Future Starts with Not Being Deceived Now

1 Then as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!"

Herod had been doing a remodeling project on the temple that impressed Jesus' disciples.

The refurbishing of the temple was begun by Herod the Great in 19 B.C. and was completed in 63 A.D. by Herod Agrippa II. The rabbis had a saying: "Whoever has not seen the temple of Herod has never seen a beautiful building" (*quoted from the Talmud*). They also said that Herod built it of yellow, white, and perhaps blue marble; and that he intended to cover it with gold, but the rabbis advised him not to because it was beautiful just as it was, looking like the waves of the sea.

The gates were 150 feet high and made out of brass and the stones were 40 feet long and 20 feet thick weighing tons

2 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

- It speaks of a gradual demolition of the Temple

The temple Jesus is talking about had not been finished. Construction began in 19 B.C and finished in 63 A.D. It will be destroyed by Roman general Titus and his army, who thoroughly devastated Jerusalem in 70 A.D after only 7 short years after its completion. Over 80 years to build and about 80,000 workers to build it. Built on 36 acres. A massive structure that took your breath away. Jesus tells His disciples...see all this, it will be destroyed. It's not going to last.

- What impresses us doesn't always impress Jesus

3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately, *only gospel that tells who asks these 2 questions*

4 "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?"

1. When is this breath-taking structure going to be destroyed?
2. What is the sign of your 2nd coming?

5 And Jesus, answering them (Peter, James, John, and Andrew), began to say: "Take heed that no one deceives you.

- The rest of the chapter answers the 2 questions that Peter, James, John and Andrew asked Jesus. The longest answer to any questions that Jesus was asked

1. When is this breath-taking structure going to be destroyed?
 - Mark does not record Jesus' answer to this first question, but Luke does in Luke 21:8-23.

2. What is the sign of your 2nd coming?

6 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and will deceive many.

7 But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars (reports of wars in other places), do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet.

- Don't take every war that you hear about as a sign that this is the hour of my coming
 - Why? There have been wars going on forever

8 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These are the beginnings of sorrows.

These are the beginning of birth pains" (v. 8b).

- Natural catastrophes will continue as they always have, but with more frequency and intensity.
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Matthew's Account, 24:1-8

Jesus just warned his disciples about what would be happening in the world, now He informed them about what would happen to them personally

These are specific warnings to the twelve with principles for us

- Jesus describes what His disciples must expect to happen during the time between His Ascension and Second Coming.

Joey: Servants Must Find Outer Endurance from Within

Luke's account clearly states that what is about to be described is going to occur *before* the sign that the end of the age has begun, Luke 21:12 says...**But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake.**

Here is the Harmony of **Matthew Mark** and Luke: *Notes are color coded*
12 But before all these things ('end of the age' sign) watch out for yourselves, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up, to councils, to the synagogues and you will be beaten in the synagogues and prisons and they will kill you. You will be hated by all nations for My name's sake and you will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake for a testimony to them and it will turn out for you as an occasion or opportunity for testimony. But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, Do not premeditate on what you will speak but whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speaks, but the Holy Spirit. (And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations.) 14 Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; 15 for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.

16 And many will be offended, you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents then they will deliver you up and cause them to be put to death and they will put some of you to death. 17 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. 18 But not a hair of your head shall be lost. 19 In your patience possess your souls.

11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved (*means delivered, not talking about eternal salvation*).

In Luke 21:12, the passage begins with the phrase, **But before all these things**. Or 'before all these things *will* happen'.

- So, before there is the sign of the end of the age, before the sign of “nation against nation, kingdom against kingdom” ever comes, the Apostles themselves will undergo certain tribulations that come with opportunities.

This account of the personal experiences of the Apostles parallels Matthew 10:17-23 where Jesus predicts their personal experiences and that they will not complete their visitation of every Jewish city before the Lord returns. That mission will not be completed by them. They will be driven out of the land by persecution. And He ends **Mark 13:13** with the same phrase as He used in Matthew 10:22: **But he who endures to the end will be saved.**

Mark 13:9 “but watch out for yourselves”

Emphatic... you guys **must continually be aware of or watching carefully**
Speaks of a constant practice...a habit if you will

- Their context is to be aware of or watching carefully for these external adversities that are going to happen to you as the sign of what they asked Jesus about.
- A principle for us is...Are we continually aware of or watching carefully
 - Over our own attitudes
 - Our own thought life
 - What we're pondering in our own hearts

We want to **continually be aware of or watching carefully** how we live our lives

Nine Experiences (most are from **Luke 21**, except where note differently):

1st...They will be rejected by the Jews (Luke 21:12a)

12a they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to councils, to the synagogues and you will be beaten in the synagogues and prisons.... But when they arrest you and deliver you up, (hand over or betray)

There were local **councils** (religious courts) made up of 23 Jewish men to exercise disciplinary powers.

- They were the local courts of discipline. A verdict was given in the local councils and the sentences were carried out in the synagogues. Usually beatings with a rod; not the Romans scourging's.

This is what will the disciples will go through for the sake of following Jesus.

- People today think it's cool to follow Jesus today?
 - Would they still think it's cool if this was their reality?
 - If this is what picking up your cross and following Him daily looked like?
- Experiencing rejection and physical punishment because of their association with their loyalty to Jesus.

2nd...They will be rejected by the Gentiles (Luke 21:12b); **You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake**

3rd...They will undergo persecutions, but these persecutions will provide opportunities for testimony (Luke 21:13); **and it will turn out for you as an occasion or opportunity for testimony** (witness)

4th...The Apostles will succeed in proclaiming the gospel everywhere (Mark 13:10), **(And the gospel must first be preached** (become known publically and loudly) **to all the nations.)**

- This is verified by Romans 10:18 and Colossians 1:6, 23
 - Are you and I preaching it?
 - We are called to do the work of an evangelist

5th...They don't need to worry about preparing defenses before their trials, because they will be given divine utterance when they are brought before judgment (vs. Mark 13:14–15); **do not worry beforehand, Do not premeditate on what you will speak but whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speaks, but the Holy Spirit.**

- Don't stay up all night sweating about what you are going to say
 - God will do the speaking for you...He will give you the words to say

A.T. Robertson said...

Jesus spoke of the inspiration that comes at a moment of persecution, not of teaching in the church. "There is no excuse for the lazy preacher who fails to prepare his sermon out of the mistaken reliance upon the Holy Spirit."

- This is a promise for persecuted believers not lazy pastors, bible study facilitators or Children's ministry teachers who don't want to study.
 - If there were more perspiration in study, there would be more inspiration in the pulpit or classroom...wresting with the bear

It has been said about teaching God's Word...

- All inspiration without perspiration is irresponsibility
- Perspiration without inspiration is B.O. (body odor) ☺

6th...They will be rejected by their own family members (Luke 21:16); 16 You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; (Mark 13:12) brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death and they will put some of you to death.

It's gets real personal... persecution because of following Jesus will negatively affect even the closest family relationships

- You thought getting together for Thanksgiving was tough ☺

An environment of hostility will meet you when you take a stand as a light in a dark world, even with your family.

- You're going to lose some relationships when you take a stand for Jesus, but you are going to gain some really good one's as well.

7th...They will be hated by all men to the point that some will be martyred (Luke 21:16b); and they will put some of you to death.

The disciples were not to expect the end of the age to come too soon. Because Jesus predicted that many of them would be martyred before the end of the age ever begins.

8th...Nevertheless, their salvation is assured (Luke 21:18)

18 But not a hair of your head shall be lost.

-A similar phrase is used in Luke 12:7

Luke 12:7 ...Jesus teaching about the Fear of God

But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

9th...Luke 21:19 says...

By your patience (a strong endurance, not a passive waiting) possess your souls. thru *the* patience (as a resource from the "God of 'patience'", read Romans 15:5) they will succeed in securing their own souls to the end

- Dr. Arnold translates 'possess' as *win*, thus by your patience you will win many souls

James 1:3-4 says...

knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Mark 13:13b...But he who endures (*bears up under the persecution*) **to the end shall be saved.**

Servants Must Find Outer Endurance from Within

- That endurance comes from The Holy Spirit

In our next section, Jesus is going to answer Peter, James, John, and Andrew 2nd question

- What's the sign that would tell them that the Temple's destruction was imminent?

Matthew's Account, 24:9-13

John: Servants Who See this Abomination Must Obey and Flee

14 "So when you see (has not occurred yet) **the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not"** (let the reader understand), **"then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.**

Predicted 3 times in the Book of Daniel

- Taking away daily sacrifices and replacing it with abomination

15 Let him who is on the housetop not go down into the house, nor enter to take anything out of his house.

16 And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

17 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

18 And pray that your flight may not be in winter.

19 For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be.

20 And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.

Matthew's Account, 24:15-22

Joey: Mark 13:21-27: The Servant' Will Be the Only Light on Earth and Heaven

21 Then at that time **if anyone says to you** (*the reader of v.14*), **'Look** (Behold), **here is the Christ!' or, 'Look, He is there!' do not believe it.**

Believers' shouldn't be deceived about the nature of Jesus' 2nd coming. The exact timing (vs. 32) we don't know, but we do know what will unfold before He comes again. It will not be secret or private, because Jesus gave us the information in advance, so that we know the signs of His 2nd coming and therefore we will not be deceived by people trying to point us to someone else.

- Charles Manson proclaimed to be the Messiah
- In my notes...I provided you a link to people who have claimed to be Jesus from the 18th – 21st century
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_people_claimed_to_be_Jesus
 - Also google it...It's crazy how many people have already claimed to be Jesus and these events haven't even unfolded yet.

The time period spoken of in this section is **vs. 24** is the Tribulation period of the Abominations of Desolations

- The second half of the Tribulation will be characterized by a false messiah, the **Antichrist**, which means not just against, but instead of...a counterfeit Christ
 - People don't want to receive the real Christ, so they set up all kinds of **instead of Christ's** around them

- People will turn to anyone or anything whom they believe has the answers

The latter half of the Tribulation will be characterized by many false signs, miracles and wonders, for the purpose of worldwide deception. These false signs will be performed by both the Antichrist (read 2 Thessalonians 2:8–10) and by the False Prophet (read Revelation 13:11–15).

- No matter what The Antichrist and False Prophet says or what signs they will satanically work, Jesus says, I command you...Do not believe it!
 - Why?

22 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show Matthew adds “great” signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

23 But take heed; see, I have told you (*the readers of v.14*) all things beforehand.
Why?

- In order to prepare them and us!
 - We have the information in advance, so we won’t be deceived.
- This is a call is for us to maintain the same watchfulness as we observe the flow of history.

GUZIK: Jesus has reasons why He wants you to take heed, anticipating and being ready for His soon return:

1. Has a purifying effect in our lives.
2. It gives us a sense of urgency.
3. It makes us bold in speaking to the lost.
4. It helps us keep a light touch on the things of this world.

Jesus prepares his people for the end times by describing his triumphal return as the Son of Man.

24 "But in those days, after that tribulation`, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; 25 the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken (*there will be total darkness!*).

- We freak out when the power in our house goes out...what’s the first thing we want to do when that happens?
 - Get a flash light or light a candle
 - Imagine total darkness...terrifying suckville!

In the Matthew account, Jesus stated that just preceding the sign of His Second Coming, there will be a total blackout of the earth and possibly in the universe

- No light will penetrate to the earth from the sun, the moon, and the stars (Matthew 24:29).
- Luke adds that there will be a great amount of perplexity on the earth as both physical and non-physical things are shaken in expectation (Luke 21:25–26)
 - Cosmic disorders will precede Jesus' 2nd coming

26 Then they (*those remaining on earth*) **will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory** (*His shekinah Glory light*).

The Messiah warned that there will be people saying that the Messiah has returned here or that the Messiah has returned there, and that the Second Coming has secretly occurred.

The Messiah warned the Jews of that day **not to believe** any such rumor or false statement and come out of hiding because, unlike His First Coming, the Second Coming will not be in secret.

- When The Messiah returns the second time, everyone on earth will see it, it will be like a flash of lightning surrounding the world.

At this point, Matthew states that the sign of *the Son of man* will appear (Matthew 24:30a).

- As this sign is coupled with God's glory, it is obviously the *Shekinah* Glory light that will signal the Second Coming of the Messiah.

The answer to the second question, "What will be the sign of the Second Coming?" is: the *Shekinah* Glory: But immediately after the tribulation of those days, there will be a total blackout with no light penetrating at all, followed by a sudden, glorious, tremendous light that will disperse the blackness.

○

-This 'Shekinah' light will be the sign of the Second Coming of the Messiah. The light will be followed by the return of the Messiah Himself (Matthew 24:30b), as the angels said He would in Acts 1:11

27 And then (*when He returns in glory*) **He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect** (*Jews scattered from around the world*) **from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven. From one end of heaven to the other**

The Servant, Jesus Christ, Will Be the Only Light on Earth and Heaven

Matthew's Account, 24:23-31

John: Servants Always Learn from Nature When Tied to Revelation

28 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.

29 So you also, when you see these things happening (*abomination of desolation*), know that it is near--at the doors!

30 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation (*that sees the abomination of desolation*) will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Matthew's Account, 24:32-35

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Name: _____

Mark: The Servant Gospel, NT352

Homework for Class #11

List at least one personal application not mentioned in class under each of our paragraph headings.

Mark 13:1-8: The Servant's Understanding of the Future Starts with Not Being Deceived Now

Mark 13:9-13: Servants Must Find Outer Endurance from Within

Mark 13:14-20: Servants Who See this Abomination Must Obey and Flee

Mark 13:21-27: 'The Servant' Will Be the Only Light on Earth and Heaven

Mark 13:28-31: Servants Always Learn from Nature When Tied to Revelation

Mark 13:32-37: Servants Who Don't Know: Watch, Pray, and Work Until the Appointed Time