

## SERMON NOTES & BIBLE TEXTS

You have a special insert in your bulletin that contains sermon notes, as well as Bible texts from the Gospel of *Mark*.

We shall *closely* follow both of them for economy of time.

So, welcome back to the teachings of Jesus during that special Tuesday of Holy Week.

Today, we treat Lessons 15-17 in your booklet, entitled “The Holy Week Journey.” This moves us to the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 12<sup>th</sup> lessons of 17 that Jesus taught on that first Holy Tuesday!

In all three texts from *Mark*, we shall be dealing with Christ’s predictions covering the whole New Testament Period—from His First Coming to His Second Coming.

Therefore, this takes us to the subject of “eschatology,” *the study of last things*.

The great eschatological portions of the synoptic Gospels are Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 17 & 21.

In these various chapters, Jesus makes predictions that would be *fulfilled* both in the “near,” as well as in the distant or “remote” future. Matthew & Luke extensively cover the “near, ongoing, and the final” events of world history.

Mark, does the same; yet, he *primarily* emphasizes those predictions which reach their *fulfillment* in AD 70, some 40 years after Jesus spoke His prophetic words.

So, in the Name of our **Savior**, let’s get going with the interpretation of today’s texts.

Last Sunday’s sermon ended with Jesus predicting that not one stone of

the Jerusalem Temple would be left on top of another when that building would be destroyed by the Romans in AD 70. Our *first* text today picks up right where we left off last Sunday. We read from **Mark 13:3-8**.

**March 6, 2024—11am & 7pm**

**Day 15—Signs of the Close of the Age—Part 1:**

**13:3** As [Jesus] was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the Temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew were questioning Him privately,  
**4** “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?”

**5** Jesus began to say to them, “See to it that no one misleads you. **6** Many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He!’ and will mislead many. **7** When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be frightened; *those things* must take place; but *that is* not yet **the** end. **8** For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will *also* be famines. These things are *merely the beginning* of birth pangs.”

First, let’s deal with the term: “**the** end.”

Next, we note—in line with Christ’s prediction that **many would claim to be the Messiah**—well, since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, more than 40 notable people have claimed to be the Christ and have misled many. Example: Korean Pastor Sun Myung Moon and his Moonies of the Unification Church.

Also, recalling the words of Jesus as to “wars and rumors of wars,” right now, there are at least 32 conflicts in the world.

Finally, in reference to Jesus’s noting of “earthquakes,” in 2023 alone, there were 15,600 earthquakes of 4.0 or higher in magnitude.

And you and I know of famines all over our present world.

**Was Jesus right? He was. May we, His followers, trust His words and**

predictions as they come true right up to this very day.

**March 6, 2024—11am & 7pm**

**Day 16—Signs of the Close of the Age—Part 2:**

**13:9** “But be on your guard; for they will deliver you to the courts, and you will be flogged in *the* synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them. **10** The gospel must **first** be preached to all the nations.

**11** When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but *it is* the Holy Spirit. **12** Brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; children will rise up against parents and have them put to death.

**13** You will be hated by all because of My Name, but the one who endures to **the** end, he will be saved.” **(All these details span the whole NT period. The early *fulfillments* of these details in the days of the Apostles are just a “type” of the ongoing persecutions that will continue right on down to the RETURN OF CHRIST ON THE LAST DAY!)**

First, let’s deal with the term: **the “end”!**

“Persecution is worsening: More than 365 million [one in seven] Christians face high levels of persecution for their faith—and persecution is becoming dangerously violent in countries on the World Watch List. Attacks on churches and Christian properties sky-rocketed in 2023, as more Christians than ever recorded faced violent attacks”

(<https://www.opendoors.org/en-S/persecution-trends/>).

It is vital to endure to the end; *God will help us! Trust in Him!*

**A post-script to Christ’s words about “betrayal” by those close to us:**

You remember the statement, “Keep your friends close and your enemies even closer. The text tells us the opposite: Keep those you love and trust even closer; watch out for traitors, even those that exist in your forever church family. There will always be those who will turn on you to save their own hides. **AN EMPTY BOX FULL OF LOVE!**

**March 6, 2024—11am & 7pm**

**Day 17—“The Abomination of Desolation”—Part 3:**

**13:14** “But when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. **15** The one who is on the housetop must not go down, or go in to get anything out of his house; **16** and the one who is in the field must not turn back to get his coat. **17** But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! **18** But pray that it may not happen in the winter. **19** For those days will be *a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation* which God created until now, and never will. **20** Unless the Lord had shortened *those days*, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom He chose, He shortened the days. **21** And then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ’; or, ‘Behold, *He is there*’; do not believe *him*; **22** for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, *if possible*, **the elect**. **23** But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance.”

Jesus announced a new desolation, the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple, which was carried out by the Romans in AD 70. That event ended all Temple worship and sacrifice. But those desolations are but a taste of what lies in the future (**TLSB**).

**AD 70:** Many ignored Jesus. But the **Christian listeners** fled to Pella!!!

**Are YOU listening to Him today?**

Remember, in the midst of these *scary* predictions of Christ, we can find comfort in the hymn words:

“**\_Because He lives\_ , \_I can face tomorrow\_**”!

“**\_Because He lives\_ , \_I can face tomorrow\_**”! **AMEN.**