

SIGNS OF THE TIMES Part 2: A Time of Tribulation (Mark 13:14-23)

April 27, 2025

TEXT—Mark 13:14-23

MAIN IDEA—The LORD will preserve and complete His purposes in His people (even through sufferings) nevertheless we must remain watchful in order to glorify God and be ready when He comes.

MEMORY VERSE— [Phil. 1:6]

1)*Premillennialists* believe that, long before the final judgment, Christ will first return and establish his millennial kingdom—that is, his reign as King over all the earth for 1,000 years. Within this view there are various views of the timing of the great tribulation (whether Christians will go through it or will escape it by being suddenly removed from the earth before the tribulation begins, and of whether the 1,000 years is a literal or symbolic number.

2)*Amillennialists* believe that the thousand years in Revelation 20 is figurative language, showing that the reign of Christ from heaven is presently being fulfilled in the church age and will continue until the return of Christ. In this view, all the end-time events, such as Christ's return and the final judgment, happen at once

3)*Postmillennialists* believe the millennial reign of Christ will happen after remarkable gospel progress establishes Christ's reign on earth, not with Christ physically present but with the majority of the world obedient to him, and that at the end of that 'millennium,' Christ will return in bodily form to reign over the new heavens and new earth forever.

PROTECTED THROUGH

PROPHECY OF SCRIPTURE (Mk. 13:14-19)—Jesus tells Peter, James, John, and Andrew this prophecy in order to protect His people regarding coming events. The phrase 'ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION' comes from the book of Daniel and refers to the idolatrous pollution of the Jewish temple by the Gentiles.

Dan. 11:31

This is why many believe the context reveals Jesus is pointing towards the historical event of the Destruction of the temple in AD 70 fulfilled when Titus, the Roman general sacked Jerusalem [**Lk. 21:20-22**].

*****New Geneva Study Bible note on Mt. 24:15-21—Although some interpreters take this passage to refer exclusively to the Second Coming, there are unmistakable references to the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, as is clear from the parallel account in Luke 21:20-24. The destruction of Jerusalem was a foretaste of the Last Judgment and so is a sign of the coming wrath. It stands as a unique declaration of the end of the old age, and so is a specific and uniquely important sign. Here is***

Prov. 30:5

PROTECTED THROUGH SOVEREIGN RULE (Mk. 13:19-20)—Jesus stated that the days of suffering during this time would be so intense that the only way to survive is that God who reigns over human history will shorten this time, for the sake of His elect (**His chosen people**).

Jn. 10:27-28; Jn. 6:39-40

PROTECTED THROUGH FAITHFUL TEACHING (Mk. 13:21-23)--Once again, the Lord spoke of the increasing frequency of false prophets. Some will be so convincing that, if possible, they would deceive the elect into following them.

Books for further learning.

The Meaning of the Millennium, Four Views by Robert G. Clouse

Amillennialism by Kim Riddlebarger

Christ's Prophetic Plans by John MacArthur & Richard Mayhue