

13 THE KING'S
RETURN



A STUDY OF
Mark

**“Wait until your father gets
home!”**

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RETURN



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Mark

The Olivet Discourse: Mark 13

Apocalyptic Literature (Donald English)

Future battle between good and evil

Pessimistic view of things working out well in natural terms

Conviction that things will end in crisis

Belief that God will put everything right in and through the crisis

Full of vivid imagery often ascribed to visions



“Chapter 13 records what is called the Olivet Discourse, by far the most difficult passage in the book of Mark. This is so because of the rich nature of the prophetic language that Jesus used and because of the nature of prophecy itself having multiple fulfillments culminating in a final fulfillment.”

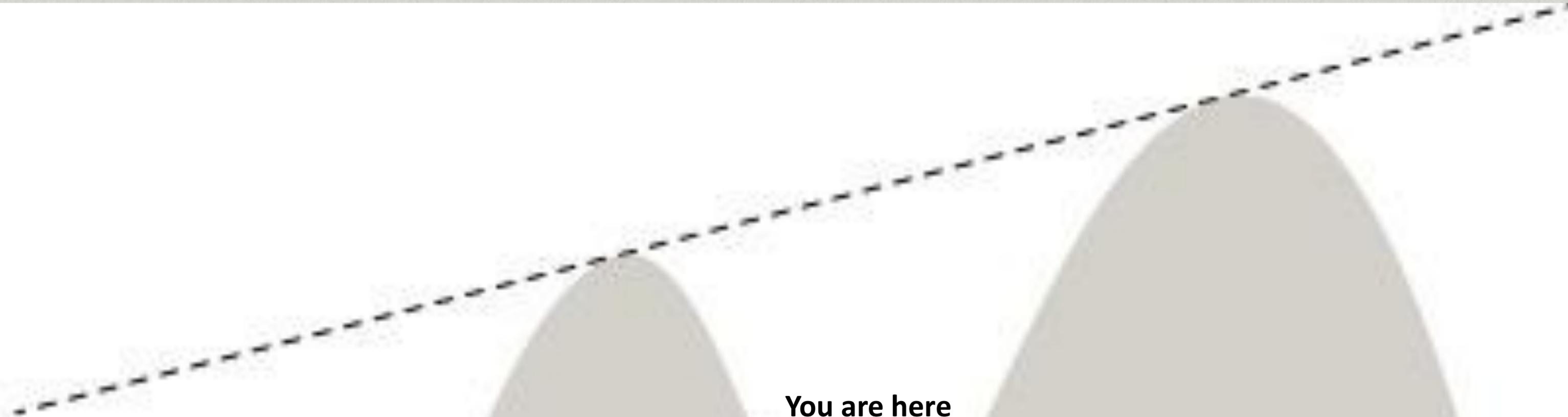
- Kent Hughes, Mark: Jesus, Servant and Savior



“The fact is, we have yet to find a scholar who can perfectly unravel the knotty problems of the Olivet Discourse. Study of it requires proper humility and a willingness to admit that we do not know everything.”

- Kent Hughes, *Mark: Jesus, Servant and Savior*





Destruction
of Jerusalem

You are here



Return
of Christ

Mark 13:2-4 ^{NIV}

“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?”





Destruction
of Jerusalem

You are here



Return
of Christ

Mark 13:14-37

Days of distress v. 14-20

Time of confusion v. 21-25

Return of Christ v. 26-27

Unidentified date/time v. 28-34



Days of distress

Time of confusion

Return of Christ

Unidentified date/time

Mark 13:14 ^{NIV}

“When you see ‘the abomination that causes desolation’ standing where it does not belong—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”



Daniel 9:27 ^{NIV}

“He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an **abomination that causes desolation**, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”

Daniel 11:31 ^{NIV}

“His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the **abomination that causes desolation.**”

Daniel 12:11-12 ^{NIV}

“From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the **abomination that causes desolation** is set up, there will be 1,290 days. ¹² Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.”



“The abomination of desolation’ would be something associated with idolatry that defiles or profanes the temple, resulting in its desertion by the godly.”

- C.E.B. Cranfield



Days of distress

Time of confusion

Return of Christ

Unidentified date/time

Mark 13:15-20 ^{NIV}

“Let no one on the housetop go down or enter the house to take anything out. ¹⁶ Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. ¹⁷ How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! 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, until now—and never to be equaled again. ²⁰ “If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive. But for the sake of the elect, whom he has chosen, he has shortened them.”



Days of distress

Time of confusion

Return of Christ

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Mark 13:21-23 ^{NIV}

“At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it. ²² For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²³ So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time.



Days of distress

Time of confusion

Return of Christ

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Mark 13:24-25 ^{NIV}

“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.’”



Days of distress

Time of confusion

Return of Christ

Unidentified date/time

Mark 13:26-27 ^{NIV}

“At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds 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.”



Days of distress

Time of confusion

Return of Christ

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Daniel 7:13-14 ^{NIV}

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”



Days of distress

Time of confusion

Return of Christ

Unidentified date/time

Mark 13:28-32 ^{NIV}

“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. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. ³² But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”



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Acts 1:6-7 ^{NIV}

Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority."



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**“These things”
within a generation.**

**“That day”
only the Father knows.**



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Mark 13:33-37 ^{NIV}

“Be on guard! Be alert! 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 in charge, each with their 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!””



“The premium of discipleship is placed not on predicting the future but on faithfulness in the present, especially in trials, adversity, and suffering.”

- James Edwards, *The Gospel According to Mark*



Be ready!
Live this day as though it is
THAT DAY.



**“Wait until your father gets
home!”**