

## Mk series pt 52

### THUMB –

Title – Why Pandemics and Earthquakes DON'T Signal Christ's Return  
You Can't Sherlock Holmes the Second Coming.  
Dear Christians, Please Stop Embarrassing Us

- Humility and openness
  - Calvary – got this wrong.
    - To great confusion and embarrassment.
- Different views
  - Just 70 AD
  - Just future second coming
    - But it's the destruction of the temple that prompts the question
      - And Lk in particular focuses on that.
  - Both
    - Why?
      - I see long periods of time and “breaks” indicated in all Mt, Mk and Lk.
      - It seems the most consistent way to take it.
      -
- IN HOUSE discussion.

Interpretation	View	Notes
Preterist	Jesus is a 1st cent. AD figure	
Dispensational	Jesus is the Messiah and perhaps the reestablishment of Temple and sacrifice. They are accused of even making this an essential part of the salvation of men. That seems like an unnecessary thing for the view but I don't know if I'm not sure what I think about this.	
Amillennial	Symbolic millennium we are in NOW	Jesus is reigning from heaven (not earth) Satan is bound now Jesus comes back at the end
When does Jesus come back?	Preterists see Jesus as Satan is unbound and deceives the world They're quick to say Jesus comes back to earth Jesus comes back	
Postmillennial	No future for Israel as a nation. Only if they are part of the Church.	
Like and not	We are heading INTO the millennium but it now Things get better and better Golden age? Church's own things, what's Christian Jesus come back at the END of that time	Post.

- I want to be cautious.
  - I could change my mind.
  - But, I'm convinced.

Jesus' prophecy

Read it – just be aware of your preloaded interpretation.

### Mark 13:1–13 (NASB95)

**<sup>1</sup>As He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!”**

**<sup>2</sup>And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down.”**

**<sup>3</sup>As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew were questioning Him privately,**

**<sup>4</sup>“Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?”**

**<sup>5</sup>And Jesus began to say to them, “See to it that no one misleads you.**

**<sup>6</sup>“Many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He!’ and will mislead many.**

**<sup>7</sup>“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.**

**<sup>8</sup>“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.**

**<sup>9</sup>“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.**

**<sup>10</sup>“The gospel must first be preached to all the nations.**

<sup>11</sup>“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.

<sup>12</sup>“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death.

<sup>13</sup>“You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

### Mark 13 (NASB95)

<sup>1</sup>As He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!”

- This begins with admiration of the temple.
  - It was glorious
  - PIC – Herodian stones
- Jesus’ response is shocking
- It’s natural for them to make a big deal about it
  - Travelers today do and all we have is the platform.

<sup>2</sup>And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down.”

- Jesus is speaking of the destruction of the temple
  - Josephus records it
    - And today it is as Jesus described.
    - A pile of stones
  - 40 years ahead of time
    - Talmud – 40 years the sash, the goat
- A theme in Mark
  - The Church as the new temple of the Holy Spirit
  - Recap
    - JtheB preaches forgiveness apart from the temple and with no mention of sacrifice!
      - Jesus, however is the Lamb.
        - The temple’s real function is being fulfilled in Jesus
    - JtheB says Jesus will baptize us with the Holy Spirit
      - But the dwelling of the Holy Spirit was the temple!
    - Mk 11 epic moment where Jesus comes to the temple
      - Foreshadowed in Mk 1:2
        - Which quotes Mal 3:1
          - About JtheB “preparing the way”
          - But the rest of the verse says “the LORD, will suddenly come to His temple”
    - And something happens that shows it will be replaced
      - Mk 11:17 “My house shall be a house of prayer”
      - Then He inaugurates prayer in His name, not through the temple.
      - We are the new temple

<sup>3</sup>As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple (perfect spot to view it), Peter and James and John and Andrew were questioning Him privately,

<sup>4</sup>“Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?”

- Are they asking about the temple or about more?

- It seems clear that they are asking about the temple.
- But there is more... implied in the question
  - Vs 4 “all these things are going to be fulfilled”
    - Not only “all these things” – end time stuff related to Messiah
    - Also, “fulfilled”
      - According to RT France the word used here, suntelew is “often a technical term for the end time”
  - This is supported by their view of messiah as doing everything at once.
    - In their mind, it’s one event.
    - But Jesus has been laboring to show it is more than one event
      - By speaking of His future coming
        - In parables (long delay), in teachings.
- Is Jesus answering about one season of time or more?
  - What they think of as ONE is more.
    - He gives indications of delay to suggest it.
- BIG DEAL
  - What comes next is regularly and radically mistaught and misunderstood.
    - It took me time to realize this.
    - It was upside down
- My belief is...
  - Vs 5-13 are NOT signs of Jesus’ coming.
    - They are things that DON’T mean Jesus is coming.
  - A warning against premature expectations.
    - We need this
      - It’s going to get worse!
        - In 9 years!

**<sup>5</sup>And Jesus began to say to them, “See to it that no one misleads you.**

- It’s safe to say that Jesus knew many would be misleading people about the second coming
  - What follows is to help safeguard us.

**<sup>6</sup>“Many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He!’ and will mislead many.**

- False Christs
  - Pervasive in the 1<sup>st</sup> century
  - Even more today
    - Groups that claim Christ has returned
      - WMSCOG
      - JWs
      - Mexico
      - Church of Almighty God
        - Chinese “female Jesus” cult
          - Baptist churches in India have raised the alarm
      - Cult in Siberia - Vissarion
      - No surprise
        - Will mislead many
- An accurate prediction
  - How likely is it?
    - There have been a lot of “messiahs” but nobody impersonates them!
- They will say “I am He”

- In the Greek it's just "I am"
  - The "he" is implied
  - But it's the same as God's name in OT
  - And it's claimed by Jesus in 14:62
    - In response to "are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed"
      - "I am"
- How do you know it's a false Christ?
  - 2 things
    - 1 - Jesus gives a list of things that DON'T mean he's coming.
    - 2 - The nature of the real second coming rules out EVERY false Messiah.
      - Every eye will see
      - Everyone on earth. Every religious group.
    - Today we focus on 1

**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.**

- "not yet"
  - Wars and rumors of wars
    - NOT YET
    - WWI
    - WWII
  - Earthquakes
    - Earthquake app?
    - Statistical rise....
      - Sherlock Holmes
    - Nope
- Pushback – vs 8 "beginning of birth pangs"
  - That means it's coming!
    - No – "merely"
      - ***Romans 8:22 (NASB95) <sup>22</sup>For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.***
        - Since Adam!

**9"But be on your guard; for they will deliver you to the courts, and you will be flogged in the synagogues, (which is where Jewish rulings and punishments were done) 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.**

- "be on guard"
  - No utopian fantasies.
    - Not doom and gloom, but right perspective.
- Rulers persecute
  - "courts," "synagogues," "governors and kings"
    - Resists temptation to call everything persecution
- "as a testimony to them"
  - Paul did this.
- This is the mission of the church now
  - Not just maintain... preach

- that doesn't describe the Sunday service

**<sup>11</sup>“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.**

- Notice how persecution is opportunity
  - This is a priority to Jesus
  - And again with Paul – Phil 2
    - ***Philippians 1:12–14 (NASB95)***

**<sup>12</sup>Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel,**

**<sup>13</sup>so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else,**

**<sup>14</sup>and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.**
  - Beautiful perspective
    - The gospel of Christ should matter that much.
  - When persecuted – witness.
- God's enablement at that moment
- The HS speaks, not you.
  - There are those who think that the Holy Spirit won't give us words to say after the Scripture is finished.
  - Some say that if you are speaking from the Holy Spirit then it MUST be written down and become Scripture.
    - I disagree
    - But it occurs to me that this really pushes against that view.
      - A blanket encouragement that the HS will give us words to witness at those times.

**<sup>12</sup>“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death.**

**<sup>13</sup>“You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.**

- Indications that it's not soon
  - MANY false Christs
  - 13:7 “wars and rumors of wars” = “that is not yet the end.”
  - Persecution, earthquakes,
  - They expected a messianic kingdom now.
    - Instead they had a mission to go out as sheep among wolves.
      - Same today.
        - Until Jesus HIMSELF comes and establishes His kingdom.
- Same in Mt
- ***Matthew 24:4–14 (NASB95)***

**<sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you.**

**<sup>5</sup>“For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many.**

**<sup>6</sup>“You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end.**

**<sup>7</sup>“For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.**

**<sup>8</sup>“But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.**

**<sup>9</sup>“Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.**

**<sup>10</sup>“At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.**

<sup>11</sup>*“Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.*

<sup>12</sup>*“Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold.*

<sup>13</sup>*“But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.*

<sup>14</sup>*“This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.*

- **Luke 21:8–9 (NASB95)**

<sup>8</sup>*And He said, “See to it that you are not misled; for many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not go after them.*

<sup>9</sup>*“When you hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end does not follow immediately.”*

- You embarrass the name of Christ
  - Blood moons
  - Calendar calculations
    - MORE COMING
  - Format –
    - Excitement – attendance – falling away - spin

- STOP IT!

- Challenges to my view

- But there are earthquakes and famines in Revelation
  - Yes... but
    - They aren’t the sign
    - They are like NEVER before
      - ***Mk 13:19 “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.***
    - They are all in short succession
    - Jesus specifically warned against using them as indicators

- Fig tree coming soon.

- Major app –

- Not golden age... hardship
  - Two concerns – pleasure and pain.
- Are you really ready for rejection and persecution?
- Really?
  - Let’s admit it. This is a temptation
    - The reason why the seed on rocky soil failed.
    - Jesus warns us for a reason.
      - It’s amazing how powerful peer pressure is.
        - I want acceptance – peace
- “he who endures to the end will be saved”
  - Revelation 2:10c (NASB95) Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.
- This is a major concern!
  - Don’t bow to persecution/disapproval
  - Don’t make the mistake of predicting things based on non-signs
  - Be ready to serve God in a world that punishes you for it.

- Next week –

- What sign SHOULD we look for – what ARE signs of the soon second coming.
  - Abomination of desolation.
  - What it means

**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;**

**16and 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.**

- Literal or expressive of the hard time coming?
  - Can you actually pray and have the time change?
- Perhaps it highlights the uncertainty of the when

**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;**

**22for 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.**

**24“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light,**

**25and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken.**

**26“Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.**

- Vs 27 – the second coming

**27“And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven.**

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

**29“Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door.**

**30“Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.**

- “this generation”
  - Not those alive at the time.
    - Indications of time passing are abundant
      - In this chapter
        - Multiple wars
        - Famines (plural)
        - An encouragement to be faithful to death
        - “endure to the end”
      - In other places

**31“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.**

**32“But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.**

<sup>33</sup>“Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come.

<sup>34</sup>“It is like a man away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert.

<sup>35</sup>“Therefore, be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—

<sup>36</sup>in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep.

<sup>37</sup>“What I say to you I say to all, ‘Be on the alert!’ ”

- Why is this different in Luke/Mt?
  - Mt tracks right along with Mark
    -
  - Luke doesn't mention the abomination of desolation. Instead it says that when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies you should flee.
    - Luke, in particular, seems very focused on the destruction of the temple in 70 AD. However, there is still a big shift that fits a long time delay

**Pic of the Temple from mount of olives.**

**Pic of the Herodian stones showing their size.**