

Mk series pt 54

- What is the second coming going to look like?
- Are these cosmic signs literal or symbolic?
- What theological implications are in it?
- What's the gathering of the elect?
 - Does this support a post-trib rapture?
- What's the main lesson for us?

Mark 13:24–27 (NASB95)

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.

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.

- Before this
 - Not signs
 - Abom of desol
 - A tribulation
 - THEN
 - MUCH MORE AGREEMENT
 - That this is future still
 - Even many preterists

Mark 13:24–27 (NASB95)

²⁴“But in those days, after that tribulation,

- What tribulation
 - Last week
 - That which follows the AofD
 - 3-1/2 years
 - Dan 9:27, 11:31 & 12:11
 - Rev 13:5 “42 months”
 - Some preterists say this has been ongoing from 66AD (or 70) until now
 - 42 months almost 2,000 years
- How long after?
 - “Immediately”
 - Because “in those days” refers, in context, to the days right after the AofD
 - *Mark 13:14–23 (NASB95)*
 - 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.

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.***

- Claims of Christ being on the earth can be ignored, because everyone will see Him.
- Because the coming of the Son = destruction of man of sin
 - **2 Thessalonians 2:8 (NASB95)** *“Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;*
- Seems to be a connected chronology
 - AofD
 - Man of Sin
 - 42 months – 3-1/2 years
 - Coming of Jesus

the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light,

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

- Different views on how we take this
 - Super Literal
 - Symbolic
 - Flexibly literal with symbolic meaning
 - Stars = meteors
 - Shooting stars
 - Darkness = from earth’s perspective
- Symbolic
 - Because it appears in the OT that way.
 - Darkness is often used metaphorically
 - The sun going down on the prophets in Mic 3:6
 - Deuteronomy 28:29 (NASB95) and you will grope at noon, as the blind man gropes in darkness
 - David describing God’s deliverance from Saul and all his enemies
 - **2 Samuel 22:8 (NASB95)** *“Then the earth shook and quaked, The foundations of heaven were trembling And were shaken, because He was angry.*
 - BUT this is worded differently
 - Lists of similar prophetic passages are given
 - Not generally expanded on (even in commentaries)
 - Ezekiel 32:7 (NASB95) ⁷“And when I extinguish you, I will cover the heavens and darken their stars; I will cover the sun with a cloud And the moon will not give its light.
 - Symbolic
 - This passage (32:1-10) is in parable form and the whole thing is symbolic
 - Egypt is described as a sea monster who will be caught in a net, dragged to shore and left for the birds to eat. The part about the heavens getting dark is connected to this parabolic language and can rightly be taken to be symbolic and not literal.
 - Walvoord says it was fulfilled in 663 and 571 BC
 - Joel 2:10 (NASB95) ¹⁰Before them the earth quakes, The heavens tremble, The sun and the moon grow dark And the stars lose their brightness.
 - Literal – but local – locusts
 - France says this is the locust-plague on Judah.

- The problem with that is that it seems to be a literal fulfillment since locusts of that number could block light.
- Joel 2:31 (NASB95) ³¹“The sun will be turned into darkness And the moon into blood Before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.
 - Debatable
 - Either it is preterist and symbolic or futurist and could be either symbolic or literal
 - Your previously held beliefs may guide your view on this one.
- Joel 3:15 (NASB95) ¹⁵The sun and moon grow dark And the stars lose their brightness.
 - Debatable
 - This will follow your views of 2:31 (if it’s about events following Acts 2 or our still future) or 2:10 (if it’s about the immediate threat of locusts)
- Amos 8:9 (NASB95) ⁹“It will come about in that day,” declares the Lord God, “That I will make the sun go down at noon And make the earth dark in broad daylight.
 - Symbolic – sun going down at noon is destruction at the height of power?
 - France says this is about the fate of Israel (though he didn’t identify any historic fulfillment)
 - Woolvard says it is fulfilled in the captivities
 - My view – could be symbolic because of surrounding terminologies about baldness on every head, and a famine of the word of the Lord
- **Isaiah 13:10 (NASB95)**

¹⁰**For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not flash forth their light; The sun will be dark when it rises And the moon will not shed its light.**

 - This one is the closest to Jesus’ words when you compare Mk 13:24 to LXX.
 - Symbolic
 - Because it was about the Medes taking Babylon and seems to have been fulfilled (I hesitantly think) in the 6th century BC.
 - If so, these images seem symbolic
 - Sun dark, constellations not giving light, the heavens trembling, the earth shaken out of it’s place (these last two in vs 13)
 - See further notes below in small print

Walsord sees this as never fulfilled in history.

- if he's right it's hard to say if it is symbolic or literal because this may yet be about the same future event Jesus speaks of. Without a fulfillment you will have a hard time assigning literal/symbolic to it.
- BUT it look like it should be –
 - Vs 16 says their wives will be ravished
 - Vs 17 says the Medes will do it
 - Vs 22 says it will happen soon
 - This can't be the second coming

- Mk 13:25 is closest to LXX Is 34:4
 - **Isaiah 34:4 (NASB95) ⁴And all the host of heaven will wear away, And the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; All their hosts will also wither away As a leaf withers from the vine, Or as one withers from the fig tree.**
 - **LXX has – “And all the powers of the heavens shall melt, and the sky shall be rolled up like a scroll: and all the stars shall fall like leaves from a vine, and as leaves fall from a fig-tree¹**
 - Compare - Mark 13:25 (NASB95) ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken.
 - What’s the connection?
 - stars falling = their hosts will also with away (ESV has “fall”)
 - powers in heavens shaken = host will wear away (LXX powers of heavens melt)
- N.T. Wright suggests a connection with Is 14 “daystar fallen from heaven”

¹ Brenton, L. C. L. (1870). [The Septuagint Version of the Old Testament: English Translation](#) (Is 34:4). London: Samuel Bagster and Sons.

- Interesting because, on Wright's view this is the king of Babylon whereas on my view it is Satan.
 - An allusion can remain and have it refer to the final victory over Satan as PART of what happens. Since Jesus' arrival leads to the binding of Satan for 1,000 years.
 - Also – the “powers that are in the heavens” can refer to spiritual forces
- OR, it is literal
 - Mk 15:33 says “there was darkness over the whole land” during the crucifixion.
 - And seems to mean it literally.
 - Not only does this establish literal darkness as possible and known to Mark (giving context to Mk 13)...
 - It ALSO gives a precedence of literal darkness at a climactic moment in Jesus first coming and could easily be paralleled in His second.
 - There's a symmetry to it.
 - Jesus is suffering our judgment and it is dark
 - Man suffers judgement apart from Jesus and it is dark again
 - Several of the above passages may yet be for the future
 - Three examples in Joel will go with your eschatology
 - Preterist = Joel proves my point
 - Futurist = Joel proves my point
 - 1 Peter
 - **2 Peter 3:10–13 (NASB95)**

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

¹¹Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

¹²looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

¹³But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.
 - Logic – eschatology DOES intend a literal cosmic change
 - Revelation
 - A number of places!
 - Sun darkened, sun scorches with heat, 1/3 of the day darkened
 - The nature of Jesus' victory and Lordship is COSMIC and not merely local
 - So it makes sense to see cosmic signs of it
 - Rom 8 – creation groans
 - A literal darkness can embrace the symbolism even BETTER than purely symbolic darkness
 - If sun, moon and stars represent false gods, pagan beliefs and human powers..
 - Their literal darkening represents the loss of the power and influence of these things.
 - The darkness seems to be a sign
 - **Luke 21:25–26 (NASB95)**

²⁵“There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves,

²⁶men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.
 - See fig tree next time
- Conclusion about cosmic signs
 - Unsure – further study
 - I lean flexibly literal with symbolic meaning

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

- Some say:
 - Merely coming in judgment
 - 70 AD
 - Josephus – “the son is coming”
 - NOT all preterists say this
 - “in clouds” as different from “to the earth”
 - But we gather with him.
 - Everyone sees Him... not secret
- What will this look like?
 - **Acts 1:6–11 (NASB95)**

***6*So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”**

***7*He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;**

***8*but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”**

***9*And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.**

***10*And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.**

***11*They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”**

 - Literal and physical
 - Coming in clouds but not staying there. He touches down.
 - Other texts
 - Sign of the Son of Man
 - **Matthew 24:30 (NASB95) ³⁰“And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.**
 - VISIBLE
 - Josephus quotes are far too weak
 - What is the sign?
 - Cross, lamb, bright light, etc.
 - Do we see Him or a sign?
 - Or both? – Mt 24:30 “sign appear” + “they will see the Son of Man”
 - What does it look like?
 - A visual we all “see” like a vision?
 - A procession?
 - Is the sign AS the Son
 - Physically at Jerusalem but His sign is seen everywhere.
 - What are the clouds?
 - Actual clouds or people?
 - Hebrews 12:1 – cloud of witnesses
 - Acts 1 – real clouds
 - Dan – clouds of heaven – real clouds

Different constructions of the Olivet Discourse

- Preterist
 - One option
 - Mk 13:14-22 starts pre-70 AD and continues to the present time
 - Mk 13:24-27 is just prior to the 2nd coming. It's "after those days, after that tribulation"
 - Mk 13:28-31 references just the stuff from Mk 13 through verse 22. Mk 13:24-27 is parenthetical.
 - Mk 13:32-37 is back to the parenthesis about when Jesus returns.
 - Futurist
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- Notes for the future
 - France said that nobody knows what Jesus meant when he instructed those who were on rooftops to flee without going inside the house. Many think this seems like nonsense because you have to go inside the house to get on the roof.
 - v People on their flat-roofed Palestinian houses must flee by the outside staircase without going inside (v. 15; see the discussion of Palestinian houses at 1:29 and 2:1)²
 - I might add to this the fact that the paralytic was obviously brought onto the roof apart from going inside the home. The whole reason he used the roof is because it had access apart from going inside. In fact, the roof did not have ANY direct access to the inside of the house, which is why they had to dig through it.

² Edwards, J. R. (2002). [*The Gospel according to Mark*](#) (p. 397). Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: Eerdmans; Apollos.

