

1) Let's quickly talk about the question regarding our dealing with the Shema.

In the LABC, the questions begin with this statement:

Jesus taught that love for God involves every aspect of our being. As you consider your devotion to God, does he have all of you?

Your heart

- Is he the focus of your affections?
- Is your love for him warm and real?
- Do you take pleasure in his ultimate worth?

Your soul

- Are you willing to give him your life itself?
- Does your worship genuinely reflect your inner desires and intentions?
- Do you love him with your total being?

Your mind

- Does your commitment fully involve your intellectual capabilities?
- Is your faith fully informed or based on blind trust?
- Is your mind trained to think of his moral perfection?

Your strength

- Do you strive to love and serve him energetically?
- Have you devoted all your physical and material capabilities to him?
- Can you sustain intense love for him even under pressure or when doubts arise?

Anyone stand out as *impossible*?

Which one if any stand out as particularly *difficult*?

Which one if any stand out as *easiest*?

- 1) Jesus has now spent the entire day in the temple being accosted by the religious leaders, answering questions, and teaching.
- 2) He now leaves the temple and enters into a chain of events that will culminate in what has become known as the Mount Olivet Discourse.

Mark 13:1-4 (NIV)

Gospel of Mark – NOTES

- 3) As Jesus leaves the temple, part of the crowd follows Him and, as we will see later they are listening to what He is saying.
- 4) This innocent comment by one of His disciples and Jesus' response will be turned against Him.
 - a) In a later chapter we will see it twisted into a lie and given as false testimony.
- 5) Perfect end to a perfect day – right?
- 6) The mount of Olives is about 0.2 mi from the temple and somewhat above it so, you are looking down on the temple.
- 7) The question that the four – Peter, James, John, and Andrew – ask is as we see in the parallel passage in Matthew, far more reaching than just the destruction of the temple.

“Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

- 8) These men were likely thinking things would be happening very, very, soon.
 - a) After all, it was only a few days before that Jesus had been ushered into the city as a hero of the people.
 - b) And, by the way, we must always keep in mind that this was a deliberate act on the part of Jesus. He knew exactly what this meant and what the results would be.
- 9) He has also dispatched all the questions and attempts to discredit Him by the religious leaders.
- 10) He has also displayed what they probably considered super human strength in ousting all the money changers and merchants from the temple.
- 11) In this first section of the discourse, Jesus will lay to rest any hope of an immediate return.
- 12) One could take from this that there is a possibility that they were finally coming to understand what was about to happen.
 - a) They might just be beginning to fully understand the Lord's departure and return as he had been teaching them.
- 13) With that backdrop, we begin to hear His words...

Mark 13:5-8 (NIV)

- 1) The disciples asked two questions:
 - a) Tell us, **when** will these things happen?
 - b) Tell us, **what** will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?
- 2) Jesus begins addressing the second question first.
- 3) He knows that if the disciples are looking for signs, they can be deceived so He begins with a warning.

Watch out that no one deceives you. 6 Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many

Gospel of Mark – NOTES

- 4) Note the ‘I am he’ – according to one commentator, this is a direct reference to the use of the ‘I am’ phrase indicating that the person would be God in the flesh.
 - a) εγω ειμι
- 5) Every generation has had and will have those claiming to be the “Christ returned” – Sun Myung Moon, David Koresh, Jim Jones ...
- 6) There are probably many more who haven’t made the national headlines but have deceived folks anyway.
- 7) Jesus then describes basically life going on as mankind moves toward God’s ultimate end to it all and the establishment of the new heaven and new earth.
- 8) Wars, rumors of wars, kingdom against kingdom, earthquakes, famines – all of these things will happen and continue to happen but they do not signal the end of the age.
- 9) Though it is difficult, we as Christians should not be alarmed by these happenings.
- 10) Everything will happen according to God's divine plan.
- 11) Our responsibility as God’s people is to be prepared, to endure, and to continue to take the Good News to all nations.
 - a) Not to be concerned about whether the end is now or 1000, 100,000, or even 1,000,000 years from now.
- 12) He concludes these remarks about signs by saying that the things He has warned them about would be “the beginning of birth pains”.
- 13) In other words, He was telling the disciples the end would not happen today, this week, at the resurrection, or even right after the destruction of Jerusalem which they were not aware of beyond His comments that started this conversation.
- 14) Instead, much suffering would occur as a part of life on earth, while history is moving toward a single, final, God-planned goal – a new heaven and new earth and the restoration of our ultimate relationship with Him.

How do you feel this applies to us today?

Do you see events that cause you to think of what Jesus was saying here?

War in Ukraine, global warming, unrest in many countries, natural disasters, ...

Mark 13:9-13 (NIV)

- 1) At first glance, it appears that Jesus switches gears here and begins talking about a different subject but not really.
- 2) Though this is framed as a warning (and rightly so), it still gives the disciples a piece of the puzzle regarding their questions.
- 3) If they are to experience all that Jesus indicates here, it would be obvious to them that the end is not imminent.

Gospel of Mark – NOTES

- 4) If nothing else, the statement He makes “And the gospel must first be preached to all nations” tells these men they (or someone) has a lot of work to do before they can even consider looking for the end.
- 5) One thing that really struck me about Jesus’ comments in this section is the surprise the disciples must have experienced as they listened to His words.
 - a) handed over to the local councils
 - b) flogged in the synagogues
 - c) stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them
 - d) arrested and brought to trial
 - e) see families torn apart – perhaps even their own
 - f) be hated

What would you have done if you were told these things about your future when you were baptized?

What about 3 years after you were baptized?

What about today?

Mark 13:14-23 (NIV)

- 1) Welcome back to Revelation????
- 2) There is, as you might expect some debate among scholars as to the meaning and specifically the timings of the events Jesus describes here.
- 3) There is one key thing we need to look at in this passage.
- 4) First, “the abomination that causes desolation” quote from Dan 9:17.
 - a) The reference is to something that takes place in the temple that is so horrific that it will render the temple abandoned for all practical purposes.
 - b) Most agree that there have been thus far, two instances where this can be applied.
 - c) **First**, in 168BC, Antiochus Epiphanes sacrifices a pig to Zeus on the sacred temple altar.
 - i) This act incited the Maccabean wars.
 - d) **Second** was of course, in 70AD when the temple was destroyed by the Romans.
- 5) However, what many scholars believe Jesus is referring to here is the incident referred to in Rev 13 and 2 Thess 2.

Rev 13:14-16 (NIV)

2 Thess 2:4 (NIV)

Gospel of Mark – NOTES

- 6) Again, the remainder of this passage we just read in Mark **and** what we read next (vs. 24 to 37) are Jesus' description of the remainder of the days leading up to His second coming.

Mark 13:24-31 (NIV)

- 1) I'm sure you all recall from the Revelation study the events that fit what Jesus is speaking of here.
- 2) In verses 24 to 27, Jesus completes His answer to the second question of:
“what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”
- 3) Beginning in vs. 28 He answers the first question:
“when will these things happen?”
- 4) One very important thing for us to get a grip on here is the word generation.
 - a) As we discussed in the beginning of the Revelation study, there are three possible meanings that can be attached to this phrase in Mark 13:30
 - i) (1) Refers only to those alive at this time who would be alive also at the destruction of Jerusalem
 - ii) (2) Refers to the end times only
 - iii) (3) Refers both to the destruction of Jerusalem and the end times.
- 5) Jesus explained here that many of those alive at that time would witness the destruction of the temple in 70AD.
- 6) But, He also refers here to the Jewish people – they will be preserved and remain on earth to witness the end times.
- 7) To conclude with confidence His answer, and to assure no doubt in their minds, He assures them.
 - a) While heaven and earth as we know them would eventually come to an end, Jesus' words (including all his teachings during his time on earth) would never pass away into oblivion.
 - b) They were true and would remain for all eternity.
- 8) And, then, as the final answer to their first question – no one knows!
- 9) It was true the day He spoke the words to the disciples and it is true for us today! – NO ONE KNOWS!