

THE RETURN Sunday School- February 27, 2011

Unifying Topic: COMING OF THE SON OF MAN

Lesson Text

I. The Abomination Of Desolation (Mark 13:14-17)

II. A Time Of Great Distress (Mark 13:18-23)

III. Christ's Return (Mark 13:24-27)

The Main Thought: And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. (Mark 13:26,KJV).

Unifying Principle: People are curious about the end-times and wonder if there is hope for the world. What would satisfy their curiosity and give them hope? Jesus said that false messiahs and prophets would give signs, but that He would return with true power to call the people to Himself.

Lesson Aim: To teach Christians about faith in troubled times and Christ's second coming.

Life Aim: To teach Christians that they can live each day knowing that Christ is coming back to receive His church, and that He gives us the faith and hope to face difficult days and troubled times.

13:14 But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:

13:15 And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter therein, to take any thing out of his house:

13:16 And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment.

13:17 But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

13:18 And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter.

13:19 For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.

13:20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days

13:21 And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not:

13:22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

13:23 But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.

13:24 But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,

13:25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.

13:26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

13:27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

HISTORY:

EVENTS THAT LED TO THE GREAT PROPHECIES: Chapter 13:1-5

In Mark 13, there are two prophecies of Jesus and all lead to the end times.

1. In regard to the temple (13:1-2).
2. In regard to the tribulation (13:3-27)

A quick glance at the first four verses will show the events that led Jesus to deal with great prophecies covered by these chapters. The disciples admired the temple's magnificence and drew Jesus' attention to its beauty. Jesus used the occasion to awaken the disciples' interest in coming events. He predicted the temple's utter destruction—**not one stone left...** Peter, James, John, and Andrew were aroused to **asked privately** two questions of the Lord: **When will the temple be destroyed and what will be the sign of destruction?** By these questions, Mark clearly shows that the disciples were thinking about the signs that would foretell the Temple's destruction. Jesus warned His disciples: **they must guard against being deceived.** This can mean one or two things. A person can be easily deceived when dealing with end-time prophecies, or a person can be easily deceived when facing the end-time events.

13:6 The **first sign** of the end-time is **spiritual deception and false messiahs**: The word says **Many** false messiahs **shall come in my name**. They shall claim to be Christ, the Messiah. They will claim they are the one who can fulfill the dreams of people, delivering them from conflict and war into a state of peace and freedom, plenty and comfort, equality or supremacy. The false messiahs are sometimes politicians and sometimes religionists, but in either case, they wield power and proclaim themselves to be the hope of mankind. They **deceive many**. They are mere men. But despite this, many will follow them believing their false promises and entrusting their lives and welfare into their keeping.

13:7-8 The **second sign** of the end-time is **wars and rumors of wars; international disturbances**: nation against nation, kingdom against kingdom. Jesus is saying the end is not yet, **not to be troubled**, but these things must happen.

13:8b The **third sign** of the end-time is **natural disasters**: earthquakes in divers places, and famines and troubles.

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These are the beginning of sorrows (birth pains; labor pains). They exist because of selfishness and greed, the sinful and depraved nature of man. Jesus was very specific when He said, **the end is not yet** (v7). We are beginning to see these things occurring now. But remember what Jesus likened these signs to? - Birth pangs. And the patterns we're seeing are just like labor pains and contractions. They start, they stop, they come again even more intensely. And this problem will not be made right until Israel accepts Christ, which she will at the Second Coming.

13:9 The **fourth sign** of the end-time is **persecution by civil and religious authorities**: they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings... Jesus wants us to **take heed**, guard yourself because He will face persecution by his fellow men, so will we. Believers shall be abused, neglected, ignored, arrested, and tried before the courts of the world and of religion. Why? - **For my sake, for a testimony against them**; demonstrating loyalty to Christ. Standing fast through the persecution is a way of witnessing. A believer shows that Christ and eternity are real when he suffers for Christ.

13:10 The **fifth sign** of the end-time is **world-wide evangelism**: Note the words of Jesus: "And the gospel must first be published among all nations." The word "*must*" assures a fact. The fact is set in God's plan for the world. It cannot be changed, the gospel will be preached among all nations before the end of the world.

13:11 The **sixth sign** of the end-time is a **supernatural witness**: take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: This is also in the time of persecution, when they shall lead you, and deliver you up. There is going to be a strong surge of spirit-led witnessing in the end-time. Multitudes of believers are going to be called upon to give an answer for the hope that is within them. Note two things.

1. The words "**take no thought**" means to worry not, be not anxious.

...but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

2. The Holy Spirit will speak through the believer.

The Lord does not mean that we are not to premeditate a careful and wise answer, seeking His face for guidance, but that we are not to be anxious about it, speaking of fear, and that it is not to beset us. Jesus is telling us what attitude we can have when we must take a stand for the gospel. We don't have to be fearful or defensive about our faith because under the pressure, disciples may take comfort in the Holy Spirit's special guidance.

13:12 The **seventh sign** of the end-time is **divided families**: brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death: Two characteristics will be especially evident.

1. There will be betrayal that leads to death. The practice will seep into the family and be widely practiced so much so that Christ says it will be a common trait of the end time. Being loyal to Christ, could mean having to choose between family and faith, friends and faith.

2. This betrayal will strike very close to the heart. We shouldn't be surprised that some in our own family would betray us if one of Jesus' handpicked apostles did the same to Him.

13:13 The **eighth sign** of the end-time is the scene of **some enduring and being saved**: Despite the terrible persecution, **And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake**. Note two points:

1. There will be intense hatred among all (the emphasis is even among the family). Why? - Because the believer stands for the name of Christ.

2. The word **endure** (*upomeinas*) means to bear up under suffering, to be courageous in suffering, to persevere and endure patiently—but actively, not passively. It is enduring, actively bearing intense suffering **to the end**. The believer is now called upon and will be called upon to stand firm through all forms of persecution and abuse, even if it leads to inhuman torture and death.

3. Jesus was talking to His disciples about enduring and being saved. Therefore, His promise of being saved was bound to mean the soul's salvation in the last days. He had just said that some (many) would be killed; **be put to death** (v12). Thus, the believer who stands firm is the one who proves that he is a genuine believer.

To believe in Jesus **to the end** will take perseverance because our faith will be challenged and opposed. These trials will sift true Christians from fair-weather believers. The assurance of our salvation will keep us going in the midst of persecution. Anyone who stays true to Jesus until death can count on eternity with God.

Jesus had said "*when you hear of such things must needs be (must come), but this is not the signal of the end and that these were the beginning of sorrows.*" It is that period that is to be distinguished from all the other troubles the world and believers will suffer throughout history but all who endure to the end without renouncing me (Jesus) shall be saved.

LESSON:

Mark 13:14-17 The Abomination Of Desolation

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13:14 We have just learned that these things must come. Jesus had said, "*When you hear of*" (v.7); Now He says, "**When you see.**" It's not if you see, but it's when you see – a resolute fact, it will come to pass. What? - **The abomination of desolation** (v.14a). The NIV says "*When you see the abomination that causes desolation.*" In other words "*abomination*" was something that was unauthorized; it described the appalling sacrilege; something repugnant to God, namely, the pollution of the temple. The "*desolation*" suggests that this "*abomination*" will cause the destruction, ruin, and total end of the holy place. This sign is so terrible that God has given it the name of "*abomination*"—"abomination of desolation." This is when the heathen and profane people shall not only enter into the temple, and defile both it and the city, but also completely destroy it; when you see wicked defilement of a holy place.

There was a complete desecration of the temple, commanded by Antiochus Epiphanies, king of Syria in 168 BC. He desecrated the Temple by offering swine's flesh on the great altar and by setting up public brothels in the sacred courts. Before the very Holy Place itself, he set up a great statue of the Olympian Zeus and ordered the Jews to worship it. As bad as this was, it did not fulfill the abomination of desolation. In Luke 21:20-"*When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies...*" It is also suggested that this prophecy was fulfilled in AD 70 when Titus invaded Jerusalem and destroyed the Temple.

¹The armies of Rome destroyed Jerusalem, when God sent Titus into that once holy city which had become an abominable house of devils, when swine's blood was offered up in the most holy place, when the temple was leveled, when the scepter of civil government departed from Judah, God's judgment upon the nation was manifest and obvious to everyone except the nation of Israel. The Jews were scattered to the four corners of the earth.

This sign still points to a future fulfillment when the Antichrist sets up his image in the Temple during the future Tribulation. Christ's words therefore look beyond the events of Antiochus Epiphanies and of the armies in AD 70 to a time of even greater global cataclysm that will immediately precede His Second Coming. **V13:14b Spoken of by Daniel the prophet:** The phrase "*abomination of desolation*" is found in three texts in the book of Daniel.

1. Daniel 9:27 (AMP) "And he shall enter into a strong and firm covenant with the many for one week [seven years]. And in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and offering to cease [for the remaining three and one-half years]; and upon the wing or pinnacle of abominations [shall come] one who makes desolate, until the full determined end is poured out on the desolator."
1. 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."
2. Daniel 12:11 (KJV) "And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days."

..., **standing where it ought not** refers to ²an idol set in the holy place of the temple in Jerusalem and as Matthew puts it, "*standing in the holy place*" (Matthew 24:15). It's standing as God; as a replacement for God. It assumes the position of God within the temple of God. It is the abomination that brings desolation. This is more than personal unbelief, even more than the corporate unbelief of false messiahs and their limited followings. It is a universal, a world-wide attempt to replace God Himself in His own temple. Mind you Daniel's prophecy was fulfilled before the time of Jesus. Some hold that the sign will be repeated in the end-times, a future fulfillment, and literally fulfilled within the temple.

Jesus answering the disciples question was saying that the same thing that happened under Antiochus Epiphanies would happen again to the holy place. He was not only answering the disciples question about when the destruction of Jerusalem would take place, but He was also answering the question about His return and the end of the world. The world would witness an increase and intensification of the signs at the end of time. As a result there will be great trials such as the world has never seen. The "*signs*" that will occur up until the abomination of desolation are called "*the beginning of sorrows*", and the "*trials*" that will occur after the abomination of desolation is called, "*Great Tribulations*". The Book of Revelation describes the outpouring of the wrath of God upon an unbelieving world (*Rev.6:17-"For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"*).

In Daniel's prophecy, the abomination of desolation will, however, also point to the future; it will be a reference to the antichrist. ³The antichrist will go into the Temple in Jerusalem and declare that he is God. Why is this such a key event? Because this is the one event that points out who the antichrist is. Up to this point, many will think that this

¹ http://www.freegrace.net/sermon/Mark_58.htm

² etterbible.org/commentaries/comm_view.cfm?AuthorID=2&contentID=7906&commInfo=31&topic=Mark

³ <http://www.calvaryfullerton.org/Bstudy/index.htm>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

man is a great guy, maybe even the Messiah. But when he walks into the Temple claiming to be God, it will be clear that this is the antichrist. The words in parenthesis, **V13:14c (let him that readeth understand,)** means there is no reason to misunderstand, because Daniel has plainly foretold this happening. **Then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains.** The sign is so terrible it is to be fled from, immediately. His rise and the war he launches against God's temple will be so quick that he takes people by surprise. At the beginning, he poses as no immediate danger for believers. However, Jesus' warning: "*when ye (believers) see...flee!*" This warning is for the Jews who are in Israel at the time that this all takes place. This will be evident with specific mention of Judea.

1. A person is to forget all comfort of home (v15).
2. A person is to forget all personal possessions (v16).
3. A person is to grieve for those who cannot flee rapidly (v17).
4. A person is to pray for good conditions in fleeing (v18).

13:15 Even on the housetops, they are not to go into the house. He doesn't have time to go down and pack his bag, but that he should come down by stairs or a ladder and flee without hesitation to the mountains. **V16 Even when in the field, don't go back** either to his own house, or rather to that part of the field where he laid down **his clothes.**

13:17 ...woe to them that are with child and to them that give suck in those days ! Why?- Because having that burden would be very unfit and they would be very incapable of fleeing with any haste.

Where is the church during the tribulation period? Jesus promised to catch His people up from the earth and meet them in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18), and told us to watch and pray always that we would be counted worthy to escape this time (Luke 21:36); and promised to keep His faithful from the time of judgment that would come upon the earth (Revelation 3:10). It is important to remember Jesus is a Jew speaking to Jews. ⁴These words of Jesus have led some to believe that all Christians - the church as a whole - will go through this time known as the Great Tribulation, and that this warning must be for us.

One view refers to the "*Rapture*" where the church is being caught up to be with Christ at the beginning of the seven year tribulation period. Other views use the word more loosely to refer to believers being caught up to meet Christ when He returns. Premillennialists often interpret the "*abomination that causes desolation*" as a reference to the time of the antichrist, immediately before Christ' return. Historical Premillennialists believe the church will go through a literal tribulation period and that the rapture will occur at the same time that Christ comes in His glorious return; leaning toward the church going through the tribulation. As you look at *13:24, "But in those days, after that tribulation...V26 ...then shall they see the Son of man coming...V27 And then shall he send his angels and shall gather together his elect..."* And although the angels will come with Him, they don't even know the day or hour of His return, only the Father (Matt.24:36). The only thing we are sure of is that the church will not go through the wrath to come (1 Thess.5:9; 1 Thess.1:10). The wrath of God is for the ungodly. There are a difference of opinion and may not be settled until Christ returns of where the church will be in this period of the Great Tribulation. That's why it behooves us to be watchful and prayerful that we be not deceived (**w21, 23**). Jesus gave this warning primarily as a specific, amazing prophecy of events thousands of years before they happened, so the Jewish people during the days of the "*abomination of desolation*" would have a unique witness to Jesus and His Word.

Mark 13:18-23 A Time Of Great Distress

13:18 Jesus says, **pray that your flight be not in winter.** That means pray for good conditions when fleeing, not bad weather. **V19 For in those days** (the last three and one half years) **shall be affliction** (TLB says horror), **such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created.** The sign is so terrible it causes horrifying, unparalleled affliction. Matthew 24:21 actually calls it "*great tribulation*" (KJV). This will be the beginning of the last half of the Tribulation period.

In 1343 the bubonic plague started to sweep across Europe. Over eight years, two-thirds of the population of Europe was afflicted with the plague, and half of those afflicted died - an almost incredible total of 25 million people. This time of tribulation will be worse.

The Book of Revelation describes that terrible time when God pours out His wrath on a God-rejecting depraved world. And it cannot be paralleled in any history, since the beginning of time, or the world was made.

13:20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days,- If the terrors of the "*Great Tribulation*" were to continue indefinitely, mankind could not survive. **No flesh should be saved** meaning that every Jew would be killed, and that could apply to the majority of the world. **But for the elect's sake,** the days will be limited. ⁵Often this word "*elect*" is

⁴ http://www.blueletterbible.org/commentaries/comm_view.cfm?AuthorID=2&contentID=7906&commInfo=31&topic=Mark

⁵ <http://www.calvaryfullerton.org/Bstudy/index.htm>

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used to describe all Christians. Here it is referring to the nation of Israel. In order to save the nation of Israel from the tremendous persecution by the antichrist, and to keep mankind from completely destroying himself, God will put an end to the Tribulation. Jesus will be coming back.

Warren Wiersbe noted that when God permits his children to go through the furnace, He keeps His eye on the clock and His hand on the thermostat.

With the nation of Israel, God will be watching them during the "*Great Tribulation*" because He does not want His people wiped out. He will bring an end to the trouble. God knows what you can take and how long you can take it. And He won't let you go past what you can't handle. The sign is so terrible, God has to intervene and shorten the days of affliction.

13:21 The sign is so terrible that it causes a frantic search for false messiahs (Deliverers). **And then if any man shall say to you, lo! here is Christ, or lo! he is there; believe him not:** Jesus now speaks of the coming of the Antichrist. This will be a time of world-wide religious deceit. **V22 For false Christs and false prophets shall arise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.** Jesus said three things:

1. False messiahs and prophets will arise. When men are oppressed and oppressed, witnessing scene after scene of death by hunger, pestilence, murder and war, they cry for deliverance. They are ever so open to a Deliverer arising on the scene. And some are always ready to assume the power and leadership for which men cry.
2. False deliverers will show great signs and wonders. It will stretch across the whole world.
3. False deliverers will be so convincing they will threaten even the elect (genuine believers).

13:23 But take heed: behold, I have foretold you all things. The sign is so terrible it requires being foretold. The "*Great Tribulation*" is to be shattering to one's spirit—so crushing and threatening that man must be foretold. He must take heed and prepare in case the event occurs in his lifetime. This is for everyone to take heed; be on guard against every deception, and temptation. Note: Jesus has not left us unprepared and in the dark. He wants us to know that God is still on the throne; which would be a proof of His Omniscience and Omnipotence. Jesus wants us to be ready for His return.

Mark 13:24-27 Christ's Return

13:24-25 The greatest event yet to happen in the history of the world will be the return of Jesus Christ—the Second Coming! The disciples wanted to know, "*When shall these things be?*" Mk.13:4, and "*What be the sign of thy coming?*" Matt.24:4. Jesus began to answer the second question about His return in this passage. Key points are underlined for the setting of His coming. There will be astronomical happenings and it is very descriptive! **But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened,** (*Temperatures will fall drastically. The earth will be plunged into utter darkness*), **and the moon shall not give her light** (*It can't give light, because it merely reflects the light given off by the sun*). When will Jesus return? – Right after the tribulation. Note that Jesus does not give a specific time, just the signs of His coming. **And the stars of heaven shall fall** (*The heavenly bodies that are so constant in their movements will show that their position in the sky can be calculated with minute precision thousands of years in advance and will careen through the universe*), **and the powers in the heavens shall be shaken** (*The heavens above will be a scene of absolute chaos*).

⁶Nothing moves anywhere without God's permission. That is why the movements of the planets and the stars can be calculated with such precision; Just as the "*star in the east*" so strategically appeared for the Wise Men at His first coming to earth. However, "*in those days, after that tribulation*", Jesus will remove His controlling hand from the universe. He will allow it to spin out of control as He sets the stage for His Return to the earth. What the present passages seem to point to is that the whole universe is going to be affected by Jesus' coming to earth. The appearance of the universe will be so profound and very noticeable! They will serve notice that this is the Creator, the Son of Man, God's very own Son who is now, coming to earth with great power and glory.

13:26 And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. Why would not everything, including the heavenly bodies, put on a display (that would be terrifying to man) when its' Creator, the Son of God returns? In that day it will be no doubt about who He is. All men and every eye shall see "*the Son of man*"—the Messiah, there in the clouds, having returned in great power and glory just as He said He would return (also as the two men [angels] had told the disciples in Acts 1:11 [He who ascended will descend in like manner]).

The word "*power*" has the idea of "*strength*." When Jesus comes, He will be coming with "*strength*"; a display of His strength in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. No power on earth will be able to oppose Him. His power will be displayed in the chaos of the heavens. It will be displayed in the darkness that surrounds the earth. It will be

⁶ http://www.sermonnotebook.org/mark/Mark%2066%20-%20Mark%2013_24-27.htm
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displayed in the fact that He is able to defeat all His enemies with just His Words, Rev.19:11-16. Now that's power!

The words "*great power and glory*" also indicate that He is coming to subject all men to His rule and reign and to execute judgment upon the earth. In Rev.6:12-17 His coming will trigger a great earthquake and astronomical happenings in the heavens above (v12-14). Men great and small will be terrified and hide themselves (v15) and cry for immediate death instead of having to face Jesus (v16). Why? – Because they will know something: The great day of God's wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand? (v17).

Picture the scene: the backdrop of heaven is pitched dark, without any major light from the sun or moon. And then, suddenly, as quickly as the flash of lightning, the most brilliant focus of light ever known to man appears. The "*Shekinah glory*" of God shines in the person of Jesus Christ as He appears to the world.

13:27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven. There are two significant points made in this verse.

1. The angels of God gather together His elect. Who are the elect? – All the Jews then alive on earth.
 - a. They are the people who cry (pray, converse, share) day and night unto God (Lk.18:7).
 - b. They are the people who are justified by God (Rom.8:33).
 - c. They are the people who are holy and beloved, who put...bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering (Colo.3:12).
2. The elect are gathered from all over the earth. They shall be gathered from the most remote spot on earth and the uttermost part of heaven.

They will be brought to the land of Israel; they will gladly come, even helped by angels, simply because they have finally accepted their Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, whom they rejected so long ago. The language of this verse: "*from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven*" makes it clear that no one will be left out. Every single living saint will be brought to Jesus and they will stand before Him redeemed and rejoicing!

SUMMARY:

This will be a very exciting and breathtaking course of events to come. It took me searching throughout the bible because of the intrigue of what, when, where, how, and why. I couldn't put everything in here, but what I could, may it be a blessing.

The main theme is that "*Jesus is Coming!*" The backdrop is the Mount of Olives, opposite the Temple. The disciples wanted to know the events Jesus was referring to in verse 1-2—when will the temple be destroyed?. In verses 5-25, He gave them a list of general signs that do not specifically predict the date of Jesus' return, but they do teach us what the world will be like before He comes. Jesus' disciples are told of the end-time events to come in Mk.13:1-13 and they are told in Mk.13:14—"when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the Prophet, flee to the mountains"—Mk.13:14-23 because these days will be days of affliction, trouble, distress, and difficulty as never seen before. There will be a "Great Tribulation" before Jesus return. It will be the most terrible time of suffering the world has ever known. You do not want to be here for that period of time. It was the will of God to shorten those days of affliction that the elect might not be entirely cut off.

Even when the false christs or false prophets arise, don't be misled. There are events to occur "*in those days after the tribulation (following that distress)*"—Cosmic disturbances – Mk.13:24-25. -1) The sun will be darkened. 2) The moon will not give its light. 3) The stars of heaven will fall. 4) The powers in the heavens will be shaken. Jesus is telling them everything. He is not leaving anything out. That's why He's saying take heed!

At the end of the "*Great Tribulation*" Jesus Christ is coming back to this world. "*They will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory*"- Mk.13:26, to gather the elect from the uttermost part of earth and heaven – Mk.13:27.

APPLICATION:

If you have never trusted Jesus Christ for your soul's salvation, you are playing a dangerous game. You are gambling with your soul. You need to come to Jesus today, ask Him to forgive you of your sins and save your soul. I pray that you will do that. Also, those who are saved will you carry a burden for those who are not? I pray that we would pray for them; that they would be saved from the wrath to come.