



“The Return of Jesus”

December 14, 2025

Mark 13:14-27



“The Return of Jesus”

December 14, 2025

Mark 13:14-27



Introduction:

As we read the passage, what does the Holy Spirit initially bring to your attention?

Why do think He is highlighting this to you?

The Abomination of Desolation (Mark 13:14):

“But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”

1. Who, or what is the abomination of desolation?

- Abomination = a foul odor, something that is detestable
- Desolation = means to destroy or lay waste
- Seems to be a **person** and an act of **defiant idolatry**.
- In Daniels’s prophecies, it is desecration of the Temple. (See Daniel 9:27,12:31)

Hold All Things Loosely (Mark 13:15-19):

Let the one who is on the housetop not go down, nor enter his house, to take anything out, and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! Pray that it may not happen in winter. For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be.

1. Don’t Turn Back

- Reminiscent of Lot’s wife when fleeing from Sodom - she turns back and is turned to a pillar of salt. (Genesis 19:26)
- Jesus’ focus is on spiritual preparedness over material possessions.
- Do we trust for God to provide what we have to abandon?

2. PRAY

- This simple instruction “pray that it might not happen in winter” illustrates the power and mystery of prayer.
- God sees and cares about the struggle of daily living
- “Staying Awake” = Spiritually prepared = PRAYER

Introduction:

As we read the passage, what does the Holy Spirit initially bring to your attention?

Why do think He is highlighting this to you?

The Abomination of Desolation (Mark 13:14):

“But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”

1. Who, or what is the abomination of desolation?

- Abomination = a foul odor, something that is detestable
- Desolation = means to destroy or lay waste
- Seems to be a **person** and an act of **defiant idolatry**.
- In Daniels’s prophecies, it is desecration of the Temple. (See Daniel 9:27,12:31)

Hold All Things Loosely (Mark 13:15-19):

Let the one who is on the housetop not go down, nor enter his house, to take anything out, and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! Pray that it may not happen in winter. For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be.

1. Don’t Turn Back

- Reminiscent of Lot’s wife when fleeing from Sodom - she turns back and is turned to a pillar of salt. (Genesis 19:26)
- Jesus’ focus is on spiritual preparedness over material possessions.
- Do we trust for God to provide what we have to abandon?

2. PRAY

- This simple instruction “pray that it might not happen in winter” illustrates the power and mystery of prayer.
- God sees and cares about the struggle of daily living
- “Staying Awake” = Spiritually prepared = PRAYER

The Father of Mercy (Mark 13:20):

And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days.

- God, being rich in mercy, will cut short the days of tribulation. (Luke 18:7-8)
- Jesus' words here also bring out a theological tension between God's sovereignty and human free will as it relates to salvation.

Beware of Impostors (Mark 13:21-23):

"And then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.

1. Not Everything Is As It Seems....

- One of the consistent signs of the end is the rise of false teachers/prophets
- Part of "Staying Awake" is being knowledgeable about the scriptures and prophecies.

2. Be on Guard:

- Jesus reiterates his command and warning to "stay awake"
- He has told us these things so that we might be prepared (John 16:1)

What Does This All Point To?

The Return of Jesus (Mark 13:24-27):

1. Jesus' return will be marked by cosmic, celestial disruption

- V23: the sun/moon darkened, stars falling, heavens shaken

2. Jesus' return will be with great glory and power

- Jesus first came as a suffering servant, but His second coming will be different (13:26)

3. Jesus will gather His people

- V27: He will gather His people from the "ends of the earth"

What Does This All Mean?

Jesus warns His followers to "Stay Awake"

1. This can be understood through *Waiting, Watching, Working and Worshiping*
2. Don't Be Prayer-less
 1. 1 Peter 4:7-11 - *Because* the end is at hand
 - We are soberminded, prayerful (watch)
 - We serve in the power of the Holy Spirit (work)
 - All for the glory of God (worship)

The Father of Mercy (Mark 13:20):

And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days.

- God, being rich in mercy, will cut short the days of tribulation. (Luke 18:7-8)
- Jesus' words here also bring out a theological tension between God's sovereignty and human free will as it relates to salvation.

Beware of Impostors (Mark 13:21-23):

"And then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.

1. Not Everything Is As It Seems....

- One of the consistent signs of the end is the rise of false teachers/prophets
- Part of "Staying Awake" is being knowledgeable about the scriptures and prophecies.

2. Be on Guard:

- Jesus reiterates his command and warning to "stay awake"
- He has told us these things so that we might be prepared (John 16:1)

What Does This All Point To?

The Return of Jesus (Mark 13:24-27):

1. Jesus' return will be marked by cosmic, celestial disruption

- V23: the sun/moon darkened, stars falling, heavens shaken

2. Jesus' return will be with great glory and power

- Jesus first came as a suffering servant, but His second coming will be different (13:26)

3. Jesus will gather His people

- V27: He will gather His people from the "ends of the earth"

What Does This All Mean?

Jesus warns His followers to "Stay Awake"

1. This can be understood through *Waiting, Watching, Working and Worshiping*
2. Don't Be Prayer-less
 1. 1 Peter 4:7-11 - *Because* the end is at hand
 - We are soberminded, prayerful (watch)
 - We serve in the power of the Holy Spirit (work)
 - All for the glory of God (worship)