

Mark 13:9-13 – The Jews’ Final Attempt to Destroy Christ’s Church

TSK, Henry, GreekLexicon, Clarke, JFB, Rienecker, DeMar, Geneva, Robertson, Trapp, PNT, Vincent, Poole, FFG, Barnes, Calvin, INT, Family Brothers and Sisters in the Lord: The Lord prophesied that he would destroy the Jewish nation. **The Lord had to destroy the Jews** because they had **continually rejected him**. They **killed his prophets** from Abel to Zechariah. They **hindered others** from coming into the kingdom by making difficult demands. And they **tried to kill the Son of God**. But **they would not repent**. So Christ pronounced judgment on them –severe judgment - judgment they likely did not believe would come on them. Why would they not believe it? They thought **they were too special** for God to destroy them. They thought they were special by virtue of **their blood relation to Abraham** and the **covenant sign they had on their bodies**. So being confident of their position, **they tried to destroy God’s people**, even with judgment at their door. Today you will hear of **the Jews final attempt to attack and destroy God’s people**.

Our headings are:

Jewish Leaders will attack the church

Jewish Laity will attack the church

Our goals are: **That you will be encouraged knowing that God will preserve his church from threats from inside and outside the church, and that you will then preach the Gospel so Christ’s kingdom can expand.**

Jewish Leaders will attack the church

9 "But **watch out** for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, **for a testimony to them**.

1. Christians would experience danger from Jewish religious councils.

First, the Jewish leaders would threaten Christians to try to stop them from speaking God’s Word.

Acts 4:1 Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, 2 being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 And **they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day...**

Acts 4:17 "But so that it spreads no further among the people, **let us severely threaten them**, that from now on they speak to no man in this name."

If that didn’t work, they would arrest and beat them with 39 lashes across the back.

Acts 5:40 And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles **and beaten them**, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

If that didn’t work, they would eventually kill Christians.

Even Apostle Paul, before he was converted, did this.

Acts 9:1 Then Saul, still **breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord**, went to the high priest 2 and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Even the half-Jewish leaders did this.

Acts 12:1 Now about that time **Herod the king** stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. 2 Then **he killed James** the brother of John with the sword. 3 And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, **he proceeded further to seize Peter also...**

Even outside of Jerusalem the Jews continued this assault...even agreeing to murder.

Acts 14:19 Then **Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there**; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and **dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead**.

And then there are historical records...many, many, that confirmed this type of attack. Jewish synagogue usually had 3 magistrates with the ability to physically punish.

2. The Jewish leaders would instigate violence against Christians in other countries, dragging them before leaders as Gallio (Acts 18) Felix (Acts 24), Festus and Agrippa (Acts 25), and Nero.

Acts 16:22 Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates **tore off their clothes** and **commanded them to be beaten with rods**. 23 And when they had **laid many stripes on them**, they **threw them into prison**, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.

Apostle John wrote to the Christians, warning them that they would suffer because of the Jews but that God would keep them.

Revelation 2:10 "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to **throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested**, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Apostles Peter and Paul were executed by the Roman authorities.

And yet, God used the enduring of suffering by Christians as a testimony of his work of grace to the authorities.

And God used these attacks to disperse Christians to preach everywhere so others might hear and believe the Gospel.

10 "And the gospel must first be **preached to all the nations**.

3. But even with the attacks from Jewish and other leaders, Christians would preach the Gospel to all (civilized) nations before the destruction of Jerusalem.

“Nations” referred to “civilized nations,” not every nation. The other Gospels use the word οἰκουμένη – a Greek word that means “the Roman world.” This is not the normal word for world (cosmos). Look how this word is used. In Luke 2:1, Caesar decreed that “**all the world**” should be registered. That was not the whole world, but the entire Roman world.) So, no, this was not referring to North and South America. See Rom 1:8. Paul wrote to the Colossians in 63AD, 7 years before Jerusalem fell.

Colossians 1:5 because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, 6 **which has come to you, as it has also in all the world...**

2Timothy 4:17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and **that all the Gentiles might hear**. And I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

Romans 10:18 But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "Their sound has **gone out to all the earth**, And their words to **the ends of the world**."

Apostle Paul was planning to visit Spain, likely to visit a church there! History confirms that the Gospel was preached in Egypt, Idumea, Syria, Marmorica, Mauritania, other parts of Africa, Ethiopia, Pontus, Galatia, 7 Asian countries, Scythia, northern and western Asia, Persia, Illyricum, France, and Britain.

11 "But when they arrest you and deliver you up, **do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak**. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

4. But even with the attacks and false charges, arrest, and trials, the Holy Spirit would give Christians words to speak.

John 14:26 "But the **Helper, the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. 27 "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. **Let not your heart be troubled**, neither let it be afraid.

The Holy Spirit would give them the right words to speak in their trials...as with Peter and John before the Sanhedrin and Moses before Pharaoh. Read the sermon Stephen preached when he realized the Jews were going to kill him. See his boldness!

5. Lessons:

a. Do not be afraid of any authority who might threaten or attempt to destroy the church.

Andrea Horwath said that those who believe it is wrong to teach the perverted things the government wants to teach your children are radical extremists with no place in modern society. Ostracism is just the beginning! This is real. It is coming. But Christ has overcome the Devil. Christ had guaranteed victory. The church will not become obsolete as some perverts recently argued! The Lord will keep you.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, **but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;**

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? **Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?**

We are just like the church in the 1st century when there were social, political, and religious upheavals, but God preserved his church then and will preserve it again. So cast all your worries on the Lord, especially when you share the Gospel! If you are evangelizing, don't be afraid or ashamed.

b. While the Holy Spirit will give you the right words to speak when you are challenged or when you evangelize, this does not take away responsibility to study and prepare. Study hard to preach well.

c. The Gospel is unpleasant to many, so the church must expect objection, opposition, and rejection.

d. How you endure persecution and what you say in suffering will be a testimony to the world. Suffer with grace.

Jewish Laity will attack the church

12 "Now **brother will betray brother to death**, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them **to be put to death**. 13 "And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. **But he who endures to the end shall be saved.**

1. Fellow Jews would hate and betray Christians and put them to death...like they and Saul did to Stephen.

Acts 7:57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and **ran at him with one accord**; 58 and **they cast him out of the city and stoned him**. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. Acts 8:1 Now **Saul was consenting to his death**....

Matthew (Mt 24:12) confirmed that many who professed to be Christians would **grow lax in their faith**, become lawless, hate, and murder true believers. Look at Apostle Paul's suffering...even from false brethren.

2Corinthians 11:24 **From the Jews five** times I received forty stripes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned... 26 ... **in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles**, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils **among false brethren;**

2. Fellow Christians in the church would betray and hurt Christians.

2Timothy 1:15 This you know, that all those in Asia have turned away from me, among whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.

2Timothy 4:16 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me... Tacitus confirmed that many believers were betrayed so that they were "barbarously executed."

3. But even with attacks from the laity, Christians who would remain faithful (endured through trials) would be saved.

The word "end" is often used to describe an "end to something soon" - something in that generation.

1Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom **the ends of the ages have come.**

Many ignore the context and try to force this to mean **the end of the world.** But you have seen that Jesus was leaving the temple and prophesied that it would be destroyed. **The disciples then asked him when the temple would be destroyed** and Jesus gave them these signs.

Further, Jesus said that these things **would take place in that generation.** **Jesus said many alive there would see it.** (Matthew 16) So the meaning is clear: The one who endures to the end of the suffering that was coming would be preserved. Also, Apostle Paul in 2Corinthians 3:12-13, pointed to the "end" of the Old Covenant **when** the temple was destroyed.

History confirmed (by Josephus) that no Christian died in the siege of Jerusalem. They obeyed the Lord's command to leave when they saw the Romans coming.

4. Lessons:

a. There will always be outsiders who want to persecute the church, but the hardest persecution of all is the one that comes from fellow believers. This one hurts the most because you expect support and encouragement from fellow believers. But consider how many churches have reinterpreted Scriptures **to make you who faithfully hold on to truth look as if you were abusing Scriptures.** There are pastors in the US who are praying that women will always have a right to abort their babies. There are preachers who mock you if you don't believe that all men are to be rich and to be in perfect health. **I predict that when the church becomes more persecuted in Canada that it will be the testimony of so-called Christians that will put us in jail.**

b. Even so, do not fear. Let your faith be bolstered. No enemy, try as he might, can stop God's kingdom. Believe and speak the truth!

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, **for He who promised is faithful.**

Exodus 4:12 "Now therefore, go, and **I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.**"

c. Keep serving the Lord in spite of what you see around. Go where he sends you!

Jeremiah 1:7 But the LORD said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' **For you shall go to all to whom I send you,** And whatever I command you, you shall speak.

Hebrews 3:6 but Christ as a Son over His own house, **whose house we are if we hold fast** the confidence and the **rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.**

Conclusion:

The Devil will attempt to attack the church from outside AND inside the church. But do not panic. Know that the Lord will preserve his people even through their greatest distresses.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus:

1. Graciously endure threats and taunts. That is just the reality of the Christian life. If you are not being threatened or taunted, ask yourself: **"Is my Christianity visible...or am I hiding?"**

2. While God opened up the kingdom to you who are Gentiles, let me warn you not to treat the Lord with contempt. Yes, he loves you. Yes, he saves your soul. But if he removed the Jews, his beloved people who treated him with contempt (and were careless about worship and life), out of his kingdom, he will surely remove Gentiles if you treat him with contempt.

3. What will make you, the people of God, treat the Lord with holy awe and then worship him? You have to see him on Calvary's cross dying for you. Without the cross there is only contempt for Christ.

4. Why not tell the world that God's kingdom is now opened for all-people of every nation, tribe, and tongue?

Finally: If you are not a Christian, without believing in Jesus there is no hope for you. Why not ask him to open your eyes to see how he died on the cross for sinners? Why not ask him to accept you as his own because you are a sinner in need of a Savior?