

Mark 13:24-27 – God will Save his people

TSK, GreekLexicon, Gaebelein, Rienecker, Barnes, Robertson, Geneva, Vincent, Trapp, Poole, DeMar,

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: The Lord Jesus graciously gave specific **warnings and signs** to his people so they would be motivated to leave Jerusalem before it was destroyed. He told them the **Jews would persecute** them, **false teachers would try to lure them** away from God, and the **Romans would invade Jerusalem with their flags and idolatrous images** and desecrate the temple.

In the Lord's next encouragement for Christians to leave Jerusalem, **God described his judgment on the Jews in Jerusalem** and God **described how he would protect Christians who were willing to leave Jerusalem.**

Our headings are:

The Stars will fall

The Son will come

The Saints will be gathered

Our goals are: **That you will learn that a nation that rejects the Lord will be rejected by the Lord, and that you will be encouraged to go where God's people are and stay close to the God's love so you won't reject him.**

The Stars will Fall

24 "But in those days, **after that tribulation**, the **sun will be darkened**, and the **moon will not give its light**; 25 "the **stars of heaven will fall**, and the **powers in the heavens will be shaken**.

1. When will the sun be darkened, the moon not give its light, the stars fall from heaven, and the power of heaven be shaken?

Matthew specifically said that these things would happen "immediately after those days." So look back to what was in the previous verses regarding those previous days.

Mark 13:7 "But when you **hear of wars and rumors of wars**, do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet. ¹⁴ "So when you see the '**abomination of desolation**,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not" (let the reader understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ²² "For **false christs and false prophets** will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 23 "**But take heed**; see, I have told you all things beforehand.

V24 picks up immediately after these events...as Jerusalem fell. These events do not refer to the 2nd coming of Jesus. Having already proved the initial events of V1-23 referred to the fall of Jerusalem, "**immediately" could never mean after 2000 years.**

2. Are these (what seems to be) cosmic activities, literal events?

These events can't be literal. If a star falls from heaven on the earth, where would the earth be? Stars are thousands of times larger than the earth! Earth can fit into the sun – a small start - 1,300,000 times. Rather, **this was apocalyptic language.**

3. Since these events can't be literal, to what were these things referring?

The sun, moon, stars, powers were pictures of the Jewish religious, political, and economic leaders. These **leaders were all going to fall** when God judged Jerusalem and destroyed the whole Jewish system.

4. Are there Biblical proofs that the falling sun, moon, stars, and powers of heaven refer to Jewish leaders who were about to be destroyed? Yes, many proofs!

a. Sun, moon and stars referred to people. Remember what Joseph dreamed!

Genesis 37:9 Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, **the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.**"

b. This was the same language describing God's judgment on Babylon, an insignificant city in God's redemption plan.

Isaiah 13:9 Behold, the **day of the LORD comes**, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will **destroy its sinners from it.** 10 For the **stars of heaven and their constellations Will not give their light; The sun will be darkened** in its going forth, And the **moon will not cause its light to shine.**

God brought the mighty Babylonians to their knees...destroying their leaders.

c. This was the same type of language God used to describe his judgment on Egypt, insignificant in God redemption plan.

Ezekiel 32:7 When I put out your light, **I will cover the heavens, and make its stars dark**; I will **cover the sun** with a cloud, **And the moon shall not give her light.** 8 All the **bright lights of the heavens I will make dark** over you, **And bring darkness upon your land,** " Says the Lord GOD.

What was once the world's greatest empire was humbled! Their leaders were destroyed.

d. The same language was used to describe God's judgment on Tyre, a small, less significant city, than Jerusalem.

Isaiah 24:21 It shall come to pass in that day That the LORD will **punish on high the host of exalted ones,**

And on the earth the kings of the earth. **23 Then the moon will be disgraced And the sun ashamed;** For the LORD of hosts will reign On Mount Zion and in Jerusalem And before His elders, gloriously.

e. This was the same type of language God used for the taking away of the kingdom from the Jews and opening it to the Gentiles. Peter used the words of the prophet Joel to describe the events of Pentecost – present activities. So this was not “end of the world” language. The Gentiles would get salvation...even as the Jews were destroyed.

Acts 2:16 **"But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh... 19 I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. 21 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.'**

With absolute clarity you can see that sun, moon, and stars were referring to human leaders whom God destroyed! (In Malachi 4, Jesus is called the Sun of Righteousness!)

5. The point was that the Jews would be left devastated with no country and no leaders; it would be a dark time for them.

Zephaniah 1:15 That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, **A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness,**

6. Lessons:

a. A people that insist on ignoring God and becoming complacent should not be surprised that God would reject them.

b. A fish rots from the head. So watch out for leaders that are corrupt. They will destroy the whole body of the church. Yes, good Christians will suffer when leadership is lacking.

c. Those who insist that this is literal language must review their science books and learn that it is impossible to take this literally. This was just common judgment language from God.

The Son will Come

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

1. Many people who read of the “Son of Man coming in the clouds with great glory and power” assume that this is referring to the end of the world when Jesus will return in full glory.

And this does sound like a “once in a lifetime event.” but this type of language was also very commonly used. It is ignorance to think this way.

2. So what does this phrase “Son of Man coming in the clouds of great power and glory” mean?

God showed himself to be present in the clouds. (Exodus 13:21; 14:24, 19:9, 20:21; 24:15; 33:9; 34:5; 1Kings 8:12.) God describes himself as **living in the clouds.** (Psalm 97:2). **God described himself as traveling on clouds.** (Psalm 104:3. But more common, is that **God described himself as coming in clouds of justice.**

Ezekiel 30:3 For the day is near, Even the day of the LORD is near; **It will be a day of clouds,** the time of the Gentiles.

Joel 2:2 A day of darkness and gloominess, **A day of clouds and thick darkness,** Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will **there ever be any such after them,** Even for many successive generations.

Nahum 1:3 The LORD is slow to **anger and great in power,** And will not at all acquit the wicked. The LORD has His way In the whirlwind and in the storm, And **the clouds are the dust of His feet.**

Isaiah 19:1 The burden against Egypt. **Behold, the LORD rides on a swift cloud,** And will come into Egypt; The idols of Egypt will totter at His presence, And the **heart of Egypt will melt in its midst.**

Matthew 26:64 Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, **from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”**

Daniel 7:11 "I watched then because of the sound of the **pompous words** which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. 12 "As for the rest of the beasts, **they had their dominion taken away,** yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. 13 "I was watching in the night visions, **And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven!** He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. 14 Then to Him was **given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.** His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, **And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.**

Daniel’s prophecy pictured the spread of Christ’s kingdom to fill the whole earth after God came in the clouds and crushed all other empires that stood in the way. This rapid expansion of the kingdom would begin during the time of the 4th beast, the Roman Empire. (Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece were before.)

And let us not forget that Jesus was the cloud over the Israelites as they traveled from Egypt to Canaan so they were not killed by the sun. That cloud became a pillar of fire to stop Pharaoh’s army.

3. So in our text we see Jesus coming in glorious judgment on the Jews who had rejected him and he protected his people.

Christian became free and safe to go about their work of spreading the kingdom!

And remember Jesus said that **these things would take place in that generation**. So when you combine it with the **common language of God coming in the clouds of judgment**, you can be sure this **describes God's judgment on the Jews in AD70**.

4. Lessons:

a. The Lord Jesus came in glorious judgment during the Roman Empire and took the kingdom away from the Jews and established it in the hand of Gentiles. You are privileged to be a part of the kingdom that can never be destroyed. You did not earn this. You did not have right to it. This is the gift of God. And this was a gift you badly needed!

b. But be warned about complacency! If God would rip out the original olive branches that refused to bear fruits of obedience, he certainly will remove wild olive branches (Gentiles) if you won't produce fruits. Read the Word. Live the Word.

The Saints will be gathered

27 "And then He will send His angels, and **gather together His elect from the four winds**, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of (the) heavens.

1. God would send his messengers to gather his elect together so they would be safe when he judged Jerusalem.

2. Some argue that this must refer to the end of the world when Jesus comes to take his children home.

They see words like "angel" and "farthest part of the earth," and think for sure this referred to the end of the world.

a. But "angels" just means messengers. (Hebrews 1:14, Revelation 1:1; 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14. **Men were called angels** when they delivered message. **Jesus is called "The Angel of the Lord."** **Haggai was the "Messenger (angelos) of God."** (Haggai 1:13) **The Priest in Malachi 2:7) was the messenger (angelos) of God. John the Baptist was an "angel" of God** (Mathew 11:0; Mark 1:2). The **messengers Jesus sent** (Luke 9:52) were angels. The **spies Joshua sent to Jericho** (James 2:25) were angels...messengers of God. Because the translators thought this was referring to the end of the world, they used "angels" instead of messengers. But remember the context. This was something **that was happening in "that" generation.**

b. "Earth" was not only referring to the whole planet. (The word translated "earth" is often translated as **land, country, ground, soil, countryside, Canaan, or Israel.** Because the translators assumed this passage referred to the end of the world, they chose to translate it "earth." But context must determine how the word is to be translated. And since Jesus said that **these things would take place in that generation**, it is reasonable to assume this was speaking of the gathering of the saints in Israel. He wanted to keep them safe from the Romans, so he would use the **"four winds" that come from the four corners of the land**, to gather his people together. **And the "wind" is the same word for "Spirit,"** so he was **using the messengers to speak** and the **Holy Spirit to work...just like today...to keep his people safe.**

3. Lessons:

a. Preachers are the ones who are called to rescue those who are in danger of hell fire. They are the messengers of God. Pray for your preachers. Support his work. And most of all, listen to them. Don't be a hindrance to their work.

b. Preachers have the duty now to go the farthest part of heaven to do this work. Support your missionaries. Write them a letter. Pray for them. Visit them. **Pray for God's Spirit to blow as they speak!**

c. Gather with the saints and support the saints...regardless of which corner of the earth they come from. They may look different from you. They may eat different foods. It is the only way of your own safety!

Conclusion:

The **Jewish leadership would be destroyed by** God. **Jesus would come in judgment.** And through his Word and Spirit, God would gather together his children so they would be safe. They gathered together and were safe across the Jordan River.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Stay close to God so that you do not stray from him and end up the way the Jews ended up – being put out of the kingdom and destroyed.

2. Stay close to God's people so you can be of mutual encouragement to each other. If you don't do this you will find yourself fight in detached parties...a very unsafe place to be.

3. Jesus wants you to be safe because you are precious to him. He gave his life on the cross for your sins.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, know that life apart from God and his people is hell...sadness, shame, and suffering. But life in Christ is heaven with salvation, strength, and singing! Choose life.