

Living with the End in Mind

Pastor David Uth

Passage: Mark 13:1-13; 2 Timothy 3:1-7

Mark 13:1-13

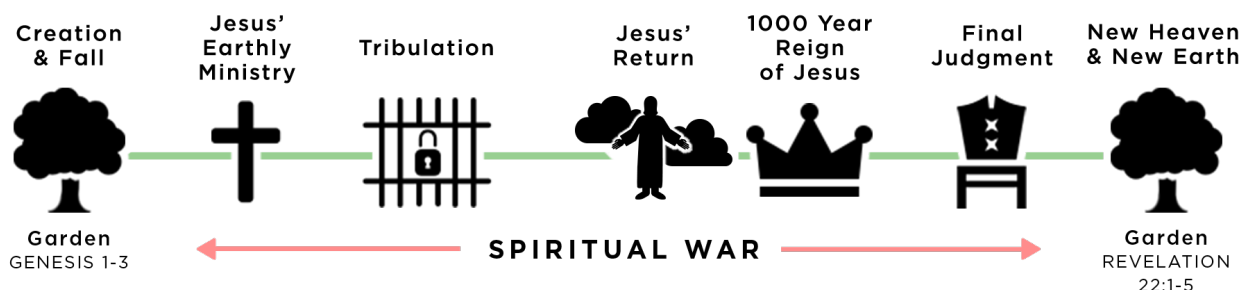
1And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” 2And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” 3And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, 4“Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?” 5And Jesus began to say to them, “See that no one leads you astray. 6Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. 7And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. 8For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains. 9“But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. 10And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. 11And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. 12And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. 13And you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

2 Timothy 3:1-7

1But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, 4treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. 6For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, 7always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.

Background

In week two of our series on the “end times,” Pastor David will help us recognize the signs of the times. So many people want specific names, dates, and places when thinking about the “last days.” But in his teachings, Jesus consistently focuses on how His followers will respond to the escalating challenges in the world. Will we be watchful, faithful, and hopeful as we wait for His return?



August 21, 2022

Instructions

Since we believe we are BETTER TOGETHER, this discussion guide serves as a conversation guide with your small group. The “Belong” section offers an ‘ice-breaker’ or reflection question to start your time together. In the “Believe” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Become” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life and to pray for one another.

Belong

- Since kids (and teachers) went back to school this week – who was your favorite teacher (at any level) and why? What is your favorite memory from elementary school?

Believe

In today’s message, Pastor David walks through what is known as the Olivet Discourse – one of the final teachings of Jesus with His disciples. As the disciples marvel at the Temple structure, Jesus refocuses their attention on what is the highest priority, namely His kingdom, not an earthly structure. What He was teaching them then and reminding us today is that as we wait for His return, followers of Jesus do not need to FEAR the future. Instead, as we see “signs” of the “end times,” we can confidently and faithfully follow Jesus as those who “endure to the end.”

- **Read Mark 1:1-13.** What stood out to you the most in the message? Why do you think Jesus responded the way He did about the Temple building? What would eventually happen to fulfill His words? What are some of the “signs” Jesus describes (vs. 6-12)? In what ways do we see some of these signs today? What are all the different ways Jesus instructs His followers to respond to these “signs” (vs. 5, 7, 9, 11, 13)? How should this bring us hope? What does Jesus say *must* happen before the “end” comes (vs. 10; see also Matt. 24:14)? How should this promise shape the way we live NOW? Throughout the passage, what words of comfort/assurance does Jesus give His followers? What do you think the MAIN purpose of Jesus’ teaching here is for His first followers and us today?
- **Read 2 Timothy 3:1-17.** According to Paul, what are some of the ‘internal’ attitudes that will be ever-increasing in the world (and church) in the last days (vs. 1-9)? What surprises you? In what ways do we see these attitudes now? How does Paul warn His audience (vs. 5)? What can we learn from this? In what ways have any of these attitudes crept into your own life? What should we do if we see these attitudes/actions in *our* lives? How does Paul encourage Timothy to avoid these things (vs. 10-17)? How can God’s Word help us?

Become

- Where do you need to “be on guard” more diligently this week in your life? Why? What needs to change so that you can be?
- PRAYER POINTS: How can we pray specifically for one another this week? Pray that God will help each of us stay “be on guard.” Pray that God will reveal any ungodly attitudes and help us turn to Him. Pray that we will focus our lives on the spiritual kingdom, not physical.