

## Living with the End in Mind

Pastor David Uth

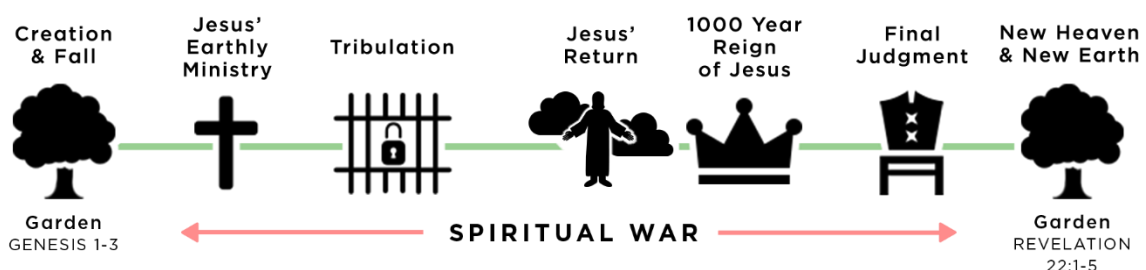
### Passage: Mark 13:14-23

[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. [15](#)Let the one who is on the housetop not go down, nor enter his house, to take anything out, [16](#)and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. [17](#)And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! [18](#)Pray that it may not happen in winter. [19](#)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. [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. [21](#)And then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it. [22](#)For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. [23](#)But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.

### Background

One of the most talked about, questioned, studied, and debated aspects of the “end times” centers on “tribulation.” What or who was Jesus describing as the “abomination of desolation?” What would Jesus’ disciples and the first readers of Mark’s gospel associate with a great “tribulation?” Will believers even be here for a great persecution? Although there will be many questions we will not be able to answer, Jesus did give clear instructions for His disciples -- be on guard! May each of us continue to live with the end in mind as we faithfully follow Jesus, even when (or especially when) we don’t have all the answers we wish we had.

### Sermon Notes



September 11, 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

- Where were you when you first heard about the events on September 11, 2001? How did that one day impact your life?

## Believe

- What stood out to you the most in the message today? What was something *new* you learned about God, the Scripture, or yourself? What challenged you? What questions did the sermon raise in your mind? What was your biggest takeaway from the message?
- **Read Mark 13:14-23.** While there is no discussion about a “rapture” in this passage, what do you believe or have been taught this topic? How did Pastor David describe the various views? How does this connect to “tribulation?” What does the word translated “tribulation” mean? How does this passage describe an increasingly difficult time for believers? Have you ever heard of the “abomination of desolation?” If so, what did you think it meant? How did Pastor David describe the “abomination of desolation?” What are we to make of this strange phrase? To whom (or about whom/what) could this phrase be referring? What do you think Jesus meant for the disciples to “be on guard?” What does that look like for us today? What is the most important lesson from this passage for our lives today?
- **Read Matthew 5:10-12; 2 Corinthians 4:1-12; 1 Peter 3:14-17.** Since it is a matter of *when* not *if* believers will face tribulation or persecution, how can we best prepare ourselves for those times right now? How does the Gospel give us hope in the midst of suffering? According to Jesus, how should we respond to persecution (Mat. 5:10-12)? How can this happen? What does Paul tell the Corinthians about withstanding persecution (2 Cor. 4:7-8)? What encouragement should that give us? Where else in Scripture can we draw hope and confidence that God is with us even when we suffer? How does Peter encourage his readers to respond to persecution (1 Pet. 3:14-17)?

## Become

- What is one way you can better prepare yourself *right now* for any type of affliction, persecution, or tribulation that may come for following Jesus?
- **PRAYER POINTS:** How can we pray specifically for one another this week? Pray for all of our military personnel and first responders (past and present). Pray for our missionaries working in dangerous regions of the world? Pray for the lost people living in countries with little to no access to the Gospel. Pray for those blinded by false religions to hear and respond to the Gospel.