

Mark 13
Interpreting The Olivet Discourse
Part 1
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Interpretive Issues

Is the timing of Christ's return known or unknown?

1. Mark 13:29 ESV So also, when you see these things taking place, **you know** that he is near, at the very gates.
2. Mark 13:32 ESV But concerning that day or that hour, **no one knows**, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

The diagram shows a horizontal timeline. On the left, a blue arrow labeled 'Church Age' points to the right. On the right, a blue arrow labeled 'Christ's Kingdom' points to the right. A vertical line marks the transition between the two. A red arrow labeled 'unknown' points to this transition line. A blue double-headed arrow labeled '7 year tribulation' spans a period starting after the transition line and ending at a second vertical line. A red arrow labeled 'known' points to this second vertical line.

Interpretive Issues

What time period is Jesus referring to in Mark 13:5-23?

1. 70 A.D. destruction of Jerusalem
2. The church age in general
3. The final 7 years of this age (Daniel's 70th week)
4. A combination of the above

Focus of Jesus' Olivet Discourse

Matthew 24 = Final 7 years
Mark 13 = Final 7 years
Luke 21 = 70 A.D./Church age/Final 7 years

Evidence for Mark's Focus on the Future

Mark's setting: Mount of Olives

Mark 13:1-4 As He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!"² And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down."³ As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew were questioning Him privately, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?"

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Evidence for Mark's Focus on the Future

Ezekiel 11:23 The glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood over the mountain which is east of the city.

Ezekiel 43:1-4 Then he led me to the gate, the gate facing toward the east;² and behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the way of the east. And His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory.³ And it was like the appearance of the vision which I saw, like the vision which I saw when He came to destroy the city. And the visions were like the vision which I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell on my face.⁴ And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate facing toward the east.

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Evidence for Mark's Focus on the Future

Zechariah 14:1-4 Behold, a day is coming for the LORD when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you.² For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city.³ Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle.⁴ In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split

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Evidence for Mark's Focus on the Future

There are several "clues" in Mark 13 that point to Daniel's 70th week and future events in Revelation.

Mark 13:5-8 And Jesus began to say to them, %See to it that no one misleads you. 6 %Many will come in My name, saying, ‡ am He!qand will mislead many. 7 %When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be frightened; those things must take place; but that is not yet the end. 8 %For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will also be famines. These things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.

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Parallel Between Revelation 6 and Mark 13

Revelation 6

- 1st Seal: False Christ(s) (6:2)
- 2nd Seal: War (6:3-4)
- 3rd Seal: Famine (6:5-6)
- 4th Seal: Death (6:7-8)
- 5th Seal: Martyrs (6:9-11)
- 6th Seal: Earthquake (6:14)

- ▶ ¼ of Earth's population dies
- ▶ This has never happened
- ▶ This must be future

Mark 13

- 13:5-6
- 13:7-8a
- 13:8b
- 13:8b
- 13:9, 11-13
- 13:8

- ▶ ¼ of Earth's population dies
- ▶ This has never happened
- ▶ This must be future

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Evidence for Mark's Focus on the Future

Mark uses "birth pangs" which is a technical term for the future day of the Lord.

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Birth Pangs = ὥδιν

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Evidence for Mark's Focus on the Future

Isaiah 13:6-10 Wail, for the **day of the LORD** is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. 7 Therefore all hands will fall limp, and every man's heart will melt. 8 They will be terrified, **Pains** and anguish will take hold of them; They will writhe like a woman in labor, They will look at one another in astonishment, Their faces aflame. 9 Behold, **the day of the LORD** is coming, Cruel, with fury and burning anger, to make the land a desolation; and He will exterminate its sinners from it. 10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not flash forth their light; The sun will be dark when it rises And the moon will not shed its light.

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Evidence for Mark's Focus on the Future

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 For you yourselves know full well that **the day of the Lord** will come just like a thief in the night. 3 While they are saying, **Peace and safety!**+then destruction will come upon them suddenly like **labor pains** upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.

Mark 13:8 For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will also be famines. These things are merely the beginning of **birth pangs**.

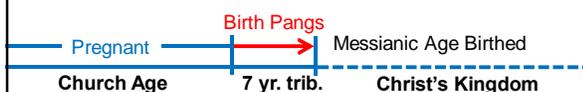
10

Two Views on Birth Pangs Compared

1. Typical View: Birth pangs happen in the church age.



2. Biblical View: Birth pangs happen in the last 7 years.



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Our Need for the Gospel

Romans 2:5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us.**

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**1 Thessalonians 5:1-7 and
 The Olivet Discourse**

Kairos = %time, epoch+	1Thess. 5:1/Mark 13:33
Gregoreo = %watch, alert+	1Thess. 5:6/Mark 13:34-35
Hemera Ekeine = %that day+	1Thess. 5:2/ Mark 13:32
Katheudo = %sleep+	1Thess. 5:7/Mark 13:36
Aiphnidios = %suddenly+	1Thess. 5:3/Luke 21:34
Kleptes = %thief+	1Thess. 5:2/Matt.24:43
Methuo = %be drunk+	1Thess. 5:7/ Matt.24:49
Ekpheugo = %escape+	1Thess. 5:3/Luke 21:36
Ephistemi = %come+	1Thess. 5:3/Luke 21:34
Odin = %labor pains+	1Thess. 5:3/Matt 24:8; Mk. 13:8

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