

Preparation for Enduring Discipleship ~Mark 13:1–13~

- Abraham Kuruvilla, “Not a treatise on eschatology, this chapter, then, is a call to faithfulness to Jesus on the basis of the foreboding events he has predicted.” (284)
- James Edwards, “The premium of discipleship is placed not on predicting the future but on faithfulness in the present, especially in trials, adversity, and suffering.”¹

Further, he writes, “This admonition, as well as the concluding admonitions in the chapter to “watch” (vv. 33–37), indicates that the purpose of the eschatological discourse in Mark 13 is not primarily to provide a timetable or blueprint for the future so much as to exhort readers to faithful discipleship in the present.”²

- James Brooks, “The purpose of the discourse was not to give details about the future but to provide assurance of Christ’s return and thereby to promote faithfulness in the present. In its application to the contemporary church, the discourse warns against both fanaticism and skepticism and against both preoccupation with the future only or with the present only. The discourse encourages balance and perspective.”³
- R.T. France, “The repetition of βλέπετε in vv. 9, 23, and 33, together with the related imperatives ἀγρυπνεῖτε (v. 33) and γρηγορεῖτε (vv. 35, 37) in the latter part of the discourse, sets the tone as one of warning, requiring of the disciples not so much an intellectual grasp of the future timetable (as their question might imply) as an attitude of careful preparedness.”⁴

Four preparations for enduring discipleship:

1. Understand the judgment against Jerusalem (vv. 1–4).

Abraham Kuruvilla summarizes that Mark 13 is “an account of the fulfillment of Jesus’ prophecy that the old temple will be destroyed and replaced with the new “temple,” the community of disciples, founded on Jesus, the corner stone.” (283)

Mark 13:32–33
Revelation 19:11–19

2. Watch out for false Messiahs (vv. 5–6).

3. Don’t be distressed by international turmoil (vv. 7–8).

4. Anticipate atrocious persecutions (vv. 9–13).

Revelation 14:6–8

¹ James R. Edwards, *The Gospel according to Mark*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: Eerdmans; Apollos, 2002), 386.

² James R. Edwards, *The Gospel according to Mark*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: Eerdmans; Apollos, 2002), 384.

³ James A. Brooks, *Mark*, vol. 23, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1991), 205–206.

⁴ R. T. France, *The Gospel of Mark: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, New International Greek Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Carlisle: W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press, 2002), 509–510.