

LIFE OF A SERVANT**Signs of the End of the Age****Mark 13**

“So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time.” Mark 13:23

Day 1: Read Mark 13:1–2.

1. What are the disciples thinking about as they look at the Temple? What is Jesus thinking about?

2. The historical event Jesus foresees (vs. 2) is the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. Though the Roman Emperor Titus will have his own political reasons for this military act, what is God’s reason for this event in history? (Luke 19:41–44)

3. The destruction of Jerusalem by Rome is the particular fulfillment of Jesus’ words in verse 2, but in the typical manner of prophets, Jesus in this discourse blends prophecy of the near future with that of the long-term future. What is the destiny of all great buildings and of the whole created universe? (1 Peter 1:24–25)

4. What would be the benefit to you of seeing all the world and its glory through Jesus’ eyes? (1 Cor. 7:29–31)

Day 2: Read Mark 13:3–37.

5. When the disciples ask Jesus, “when will these things happen?”(vs. 4), what curiosity-satisfying information does Jesus not supply? (vs. 32; Acts 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:1)

6. Why do you suppose God does not divulge specific calendar dates? Discuss whether you would be as spiritually vigilant or watchful of your life if you knew the exact timing of God’s plan.

7. What does Jesus emphasize as far more important than knowing exactly in what year or month the end will come? (vss.5, 9, 23, 33, 35, 37)

Day 3: Read Mark 13:3–37.

8. List some phenomena that will continue throughout history to the end. (vss. 6–8)

9. By what are we liable to be deceived if we are not careful? (vss. 6, 21–23)

10. Many a wide-eyed optimist today, puffed up with faith in the perfectibility of man, believes that eventually we'll see an age of peace in this world, the eradication of poverty, and the triumph of technology over all human misery. What is Jesus' forecast? (vss.6–8)

Day 4: Read Mark 13:3–37.

11. What is the lot of Christians of all time before Jesus' return? (vss. 9–13) Have you yourself experienced persecution "on account of [Jesus]" (vs. 9)?

12. What is Jesus' promise regarding the spread of the gospel? (vs. 10)

13. Whom has God left in the world after Jesus' ascension to help believers as they undergo persecution? (vs. 11)

14. Under such temptation and trial, who is the person who will be saved? (vs. 13)

15. For whose sake will God shorten the terrors to come? (vs. 20)

Day 5: Read Mark 13:3–37.

16. In verse 14, the language about "the abomination that causes desolation" is taken from prophetic visions of the future in Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11. Bible scholars think Daniel's words were first fulfilled in 168 B.C. when Antiochus Epiphanes erected a statue of Zeus in the Temple, and secondly when the Temple was profaned in A.D. 70. Considering Jesus' concern in this chapter for final things, what other reference might this phrase have? (2 Thessalonians 2:1–4)

17. What will be the climax of history? (vss. 26–27; Revelation 19:11–16)

18. What will happen on that day when Jesus returns "in the clouds with great power and glory"? (vs. 27; 2 Thessalonians 1:6–10)

19. How ought you to live in the meantime? (vss. 32–37)

20. Considering the dire prophecies of this chapter, what comfort does Jesus' promise in verse 31 give?