

**Second Coming** of Christ. **REMEMBER:** Concerning the **nature** of the **language** and its **NEAR/FAR** implications, it is important to note that there is some sense of “**prophetic perspective**” involved here. That is, some **prophecies** to be **fulfilled** in the **NEAR future foreshadow** and **point** toward **prophecies** that will be **fulfilled** in the **FAR future**.

**Mark 13:3-8** - 3 And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew were questioning Him privately, 4 "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?" 5 And Jesus began to say to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. 6 "Many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He!' and will mislead many. 7 "And 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 arise 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.

Now certainly the **disciples** are **astonished** and wanting to know about these **climactic** and amazing events, “**3 And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew were questioning Him privately,**” and they ask a very specific question. “**4 "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?"**” The same question is asked in **Matthew** with one important **exception**.

**Matthew 24:3** - 3 And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "**Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?**" NASB

When the disciples add, “**and of the end of the age,**” they bring into the **scope** of their **question** the **far distant future**. Many believe “**the end of the age**” to be speaking of the **end** of the **Jewish/Old Testament age** only, which of course did in fact end in 70AD. But Jesus’s answer in the **Olivet Discourse** brings into view events that **obviously** and **clearly** happen **after** that in the **far distant future**, thus we have the “**prophetic perspective**” **NEAR/FAR implications** where both the **Destruction of the Temple/city** is in view, **as well** as Jesus's **Second Coming** in **Heavenly Glory** with **His angels**. So in its context it is very much speaking of the **Destruction of the Temple/city** and God’s judgment on the Jews, but the **far distant future** of Jesus's Second Coming is unfolded beyond that. The **difficulty** lies in knowing what **language** speaks of which **event**, and even more how events in the **First Century** are **foreshadowing** a greater reality in the **distant future**.

With this **knowledge** about the **context**, we will look further. They ask, **“4 Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?”** In the text of Mark’s account, the **“sign”** is not really emphasized, but seems to appear in verse **13:29** – **“29 ”Even so, you too, “when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door.”** Luke gives much more insight concerning the **“sign”** and also the **“signs of the end of the age.”** Luke gives us the **“sign that all these things are going to be fulfilled.”**

**Luke 21:20, 23-24 - 20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is at hand.... 23 "Woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babes in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land, and wrath to this people, 24 and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles** until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. NASB

But Luke also gives the **“signs of the end of the age,”** that are clearly far beyond the **First Century.**

**Luke 21:25-28 - 25 "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, 26 men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 "And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 "But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."** NASB

With this in mind let us consider how Jesus answers their questions in the text of Mark. **“5 And Jesus began to say to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. 6 "Many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He!' and will mislead many.”** Jesus often refers to the deception of **false Christs** in this discourse. This obviously has implications for the **Second Coming** because it is **only** when we are expecting Him to come, that we can be **misled** by these false Christs, **6 "Many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He!' and will mislead many.”** This would seem to indicate that this language in **verses 5-13** concerns the time of the **far distant future** and **not** the First Century only. This is because **Jesus’ Second Coming** is not in view then, yet he speaks of **deceivers** coming in **His name** and claiming to be Him. Moreover, the following verses speak of things that **characterize** the entire **“times of the Gentiles”** or the **Church Age.** **“7 "And 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 arise 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.” Notice that since the First Coming of Jesus these things have been taking place in every generation since, right up until the present time. He clearly says when these things happen, “that is not yet the end.” Suffice to say that whether these things preceded the events of 70AD, or the entire Church Age, they continue to happen and we continue to watch, “those things must take place; but that is not yet the end.” Jesus likened this to a birthing mother, “8 These things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.” Even as the “birth pangs” of a birthing mother begin small and increase in timing and intensity, so it is with these prophetic events.

**Mark 13:9-13** - 9 "But be on your guard; for they will deliver you to the courts, and you will be flogged in the synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them. 10 "And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations. 11 "And when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not be anxious beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit. 12 "And brother will deliver brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. 13 "And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved.

Jesus continues His prophecy, but now warns that the Jews and nations will turn and persecute the disciples. “9 "But be on your guard; for they will deliver you to the courts, and you will be flogged in the synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them.” This surely was fulfilled in the First Century as the Book of Acts describes with the accounts of the Apostles being flogged and even killed by “governors and kings.” But Matthew describes this also coming from the “nations,” which also did happen in the First Century with Paul.

**Matthew 24:9-14** - 9 "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name. NASB But this surely has a fulfilment prior to the Second Coming as we see the saints during the Great Tribulation being persecuted by the nations and the Antichrist (Daniel 7:14-27, Rev 13:5-17). This persecution by the nations is also something that has characterized the entire Church Age as well. So there is some measure of “prophetic perspective” taking place in verse 5-13. The NEAR events of “wars, earthquakes, famines, and persecution” foreshadow the FAR events of greater “wars, earthquakes, famines, and persecution” of the end times. Even as the “birth pangs” of a birthing mother begin small and increase in timing and intensity, so it is with these prophetic events. Jesus continues, “10 "And the

**gospel must first be preached to all the nations.”** It is said by some that this was fulfilled in the First Century with Paul, to which he refers in **Romans 16:26** and **Colossians 1:23**. It is true in fact that Paul and others made much progress carrying the Gospel to **“all the nations.”** But close scrutiny reveals that Paul and others did NOT reach **“all the nations,”** for many nations existed way **beyond** to the north and south, the **Far East**, or to the **Americas**, even though they did clearly reach the Roman world. And Matthew seems to clearly **relate** this to the **Second Coming**, which he calls **“the end,”** in His account.

**Matthew 24:14** 14 "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached **in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come.**

Jesus continues, **“11 "And when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not be anxious beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit.”** The Lord has many real **purposes** in the **persecution** of His people, and His granting of **specific words** as a witness to persecutors is an important one. God has a word for those who **harm His people**, and there will be a day of **vengeance** that will no doubt include an accounting of it. But **Christian persecution** can even come from those **closest** to us. **“12 "And brother will deliver brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death.”**

**Luke 21:16-17** - 16 "But **you will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death, 17 and you will be hated by all on account of My name.** NASB

**Matthew 24:10-12** - 10 "And at that time **many will fall away and will deliver up one another and hate one another. 11 "And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many. 12 "And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.** NASB

Now this language concerning deception and being **“delivered up”** presupposes that there is something to be delivered up **for**, and that the disciples of Jesus are being **“hated by all on account of My name.”** This certainly places the **focus** of these words on a **Christian persecution** and therefore NOT in Jerusalem just before the Destruction of the city, for that offensive was against the Jews for their rebellion against the Romans. Moreover, most of the **Christian population** had **left Jerusalem** many years before the **Jewish revolt**. These verses **Mark 13:9-13** are clearly **focused** on the time of the **distant future** when there will be a **specific persecution** of **Christians**, who will be **“delivered up”** and **“put to death”** after having been **betrayed** by **loved ones** and **friends**. This certainly will happen during the time of **Antichrists’ worldwide deception** and **persecution** of the **church** at that time (Dan 7:21-27, 2 Thess 2:1-12, Rev 12:17-13:18). This kind of persecution against Christians has also characterized the entire Church Age as