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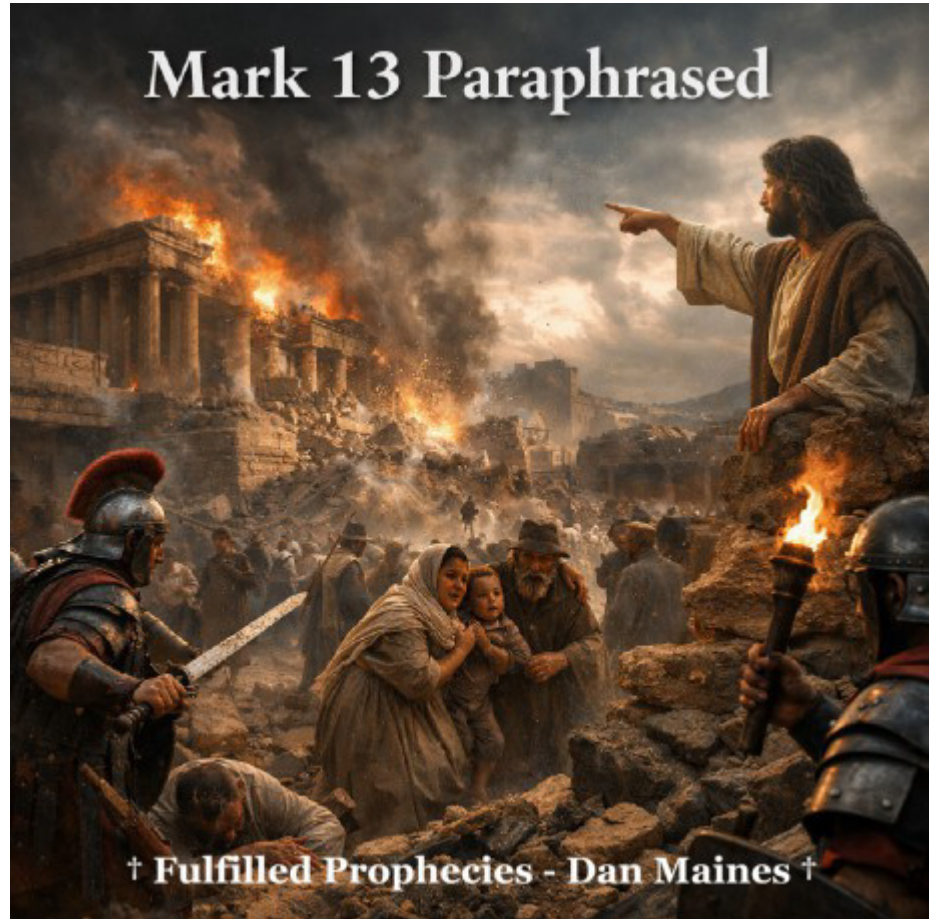
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Mark 13 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Mark 13 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Mark 13 records Jesus explaining the coming destruction of the temple and the judgment that would fall on that generation of Israel.

† The disciples admired the massive stones of the temple, but Jesus warned them that the entire structure would soon be torn down.

† This chapter shows the events leading up to the destruction of

Jerusalem in AD 70, exactly as Jesus said would happen.

Mark 13:1

As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, Teacher, look at these enormous stones and these impressive buildings.

† The temple complex built by Herod was one of the most magnificent structures in the ancient world.

† The disciples were amazed by its size and beauty, not realizing it was about to be destroyed (Luke 21:5-6).

† Josephus wrote that some of the stones were massive and incredibly impressive, showing why the disciples admired them.

Mark 13:2

Jesus answered him and said, Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left on another that will not be torn down.

† Jesus foretold the total destruction of the temple.

† This prophecy was fulfilled when the Roman armies destroyed Jerusalem in AD 70.

† Josephus records that the temple was burned and dismantled until nothing remained standing.

Mark 13:3

As He sat on the Mount of Olives across from the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew privately asked Him about these things.

† The Mount of Olives gave a clear view of the temple, making the prophecy even more striking.

† These four disciples wanted to understand when the destruction Jesus predicted would occur.

† Matthew records the same discussion in Matthew 24 where they asked about the sign of His coming and the end of the age.

Mark 13:4

They said, Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to take place?

† The disciples were asking about the timing of the temple's destruction.

† Jesus answered by describing events that would happen before Jerusalem fell.

† This question begins the prophetic explanation that fills the rest of the chapter.

Mark 13:5

Jesus began to say to them, Watch out that no one deceives you.

† Deception would increase before the destruction of Jerusalem.

† Many false teachers and false messiahs appeared in the years leading up to AD 70.

† Josephus records several impostors who led people astray during this time.

Mark 13:6

Many will come in My name saying, I am he, and they will deceive many people.

† Numerous individuals claimed to be deliverers or prophets.

† These movements created unrest and confusion among the people.

† Josephus wrote about false prophets promising deliverance during the Roman siege.

Mark 13:7

When you hear about wars and reports of wars, don't be alarmed, these things must happen, but the end is not yet.

† The region experienced political turmoil during the first century.

† Jesus warned that these events alone would not immediately mean the end of Jerusalem.

† Historical records show repeated conflicts within the Roman Empire during this time.

Mark 13:8

Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines, these things are the beginning of birth pains.

† These signs describe increasing trouble leading up to the final judgment on Jerusalem.

† Acts records famines during this period (Acts 11:28).

† Earthquakes are also documented in historical records during the first century.

Mark 13:9

But watch yourselves, they will hand you over to councils, you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings because of Me as a testimony to them.

† The early Christians faced persecution from both Jewish authorities and Roman officials.

† The book of Acts shows believers brought before councils and rulers.

† These trials gave believers opportunities to testify about Christ.

Mark 13:10

The gospel must first be preached to all the nations.

† The message of Christ spread rapidly throughout the Roman world.

† Paul declared the gospel had already gone out into all the world of that time (Colossians 1:23).

† This fulfilled Jesus' statement before Jerusalem fell.

Mark 13:11

When they arrest you and hand you over, don't worry beforehand about what you will say, but say whatever is given to you at that time, because it will not be you speaking but the Holy Spirit.

† God would guide believers during persecution.

† The book of Acts records many moments where believers spoke boldly when questioned by authorities.

† This promise gave courage to early Christians facing trials.

Mark 13:12

Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, children will rise against parents and have them put to death.

† The coming turmoil would divide families.

† Loyalty to Christ would cause conflict among relatives.

† Historical accounts describe intense divisions within Jewish society during the revolt.

Mark 13:13

You will be hated by everyone because of My name, but the one who endures to the end will be saved.

† Faithful endurance was necessary during this time of persecution.

† The end refers to the end of the old covenant age and the destruction of Jerusalem.

† Those who remained faithful would escape the coming judgment.

Mark 13:14

When you see the abomination that causes desolation standing where it should not be, let the reader understand, then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.

† This refers to the Roman armies surrounding Jerusalem.

† Luke explains the same sign clearly, Jerusalem surrounded by armies (Luke 21:20).

† Early Christians fled the city before the destruction according to early church history.

Mark 13:15

The person on the housetop must not go down or enter the house to take anything out.

† The warning stresses urgency.

† When the sign appeared, believers were to leave immediately.

† Delay could mean being trapped in the siege.

Mark 13:16

The person in the field must not return to get his cloak.

† Jesus emphasized how quickly they must flee.

† The coming destruction would arrive suddenly.

† Those who listened to Christ's warning escaped the city.

Mark 13:17

How terrible it will be for pregnant women and those nursing babies in those days.

† The siege of Jerusalem caused terrible suffering.

† Josephus records starvation and extreme hardship during the siege.

† The warning highlights the severity of the coming judgment.

Mark 13:18

Pray that it will not happen in winter.

† Winter conditions would make escape more difficult.

† Harsh travel conditions could slow those fleeing.

† This again shows the practical nature of Jesus' warning.

Mark 13:19

Those days will bring distress greater than anything from the beginning of creation until now, and never again will be anything like it.

† The destruction of Jerusalem was catastrophic for the Jewish nation.

† Josephus described the siege as one of the worst disasters in Jewish history.

† The old covenant system ended when the temple was destroyed.

Mark 13:20

If the Lord had not shortened those days, no one would survive, but for the sake of the chosen people He shortened them.

† God's providence limited the length of the siege.

† The suffering would have been even worse if it continued longer.

† This shows God's mercy even in judgment.

Mark 13:21

If anyone says to you, Look, here is the Christ, or look, there He is, don't believe it.

† False messiahs continued appearing during this time.

† Jesus warned believers not to follow these claims.

† Josephus records that many were deceived by such figures.

Mark 13:22

False christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the chosen people.

† Deception would intensify during the final years before Jerusalem fell.

† Miraculous claims were often used to gain followers.

† Jesus warned His disciples to remain vigilant.

Mark 13:23

But you must stay alert, I have told you everything ahead of time.

† Jesus prepared His disciples so they wouldn't be caught off guard.

† The prophecy allowed believers to recognize the signs.

† This preparation helped Christians escape the coming destruction.

Mark 13:24

In those days after that distress, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light.

† This language reflects prophetic judgment imagery used throughout the Old Testament (Isaiah 13:10).

† It symbolically describes the collapse of a nation.

† Here it represents the fall of Israel's covenant system.

Mark 13:25

The stars will fall from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

† Prophets often used cosmic imagery to describe political and covenantal upheaval.

† The fall of rulers and authorities is symbolized in this language.

† This reflects the end of the old covenant order centered on Jerusalem.

Mark 13:26

Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.

† This language comes from Daniel 7:13.

† It describes Christ receiving authority and executing judgment.

† The destruction of Jerusalem demonstrated His authority as the risen King.

Mark 13:27

Then He will send out the angels and gather His chosen people from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

† The gospel call gathered believers from every nation.

† Messengers spread the message across the Roman world.

† The church became the gathered people of God.

Mark 13:28

Learn the lesson from the fig tree, when its branch becomes tender and puts out leaves, you know summer is near.

† Jesus used a simple seasonal example.

† Just as signs in nature show changing seasons, signs would show the approaching judgment.

† The disciples were meant to recognize the approaching events.

Mark 13:29

So when you see these things happening, know that it is near, right at the door.

† The disciples themselves would see the signs.

- † The events Jesus described would occur within their lifetime.
- † The judgment was approaching rapidly.

Mark 13:30

I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

† Jesus clearly placed the fulfillment within the lifetime of that generation.

† Jerusalem fell about forty years later in AD 70.

† This statement anchors the entire prophecy in the first century.

Mark 13:31

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.

† The old covenant world centered on Jerusalem would pass away.

† Christ's authority and teaching remain forever.

† His prophecy proved true when the temple was destroyed.

Mark 13:32

But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father.

† The exact timing of the final moment was unknown to the disciples.

† They knew the signs but not the precise day.

† This required constant watchfulness.

Mark 13:33

Be on guard and stay alert, because you don't know when the time will come.

† Jesus urged constant readiness.

† Believers had to remain alert during the years leading up to the siege.

† Watchfulness protected them from being caught in the destruction.

Mark 13:34

It is like a man going on a journey who leaves his house and gives authority to his servants, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay alert.

† Jesus compared His followers to servants entrusted with responsibility.

† They were to remain faithful until the appointed time.

† This parable emphasizes readiness and responsibility.

Mark 13:35

Therefore stay alert, because you don't know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, at midnight, when the rooster crows, or in the morning.

† The illustration stresses uncertainty of the exact moment.

† Faithful servants remain ready at all times.

† Early believers maintained vigilance because of this warning.

Mark 13:36

If he comes suddenly, don't let him find you sleeping.

† Spiritual carelessness could lead to disaster.

† Jesus urged active faithfulness.

† The destruction of Jerusalem came quickly when the Romans attacked.

Mark 13:37

What I say to you, I say to everyone, stay alert.

† The warning applied to all disciples.

† Faithfulness and watchfulness were essential during the transition of the ages.

† This final statement summarizes the entire message of the chapter.

Historical References

† Josephus described the Roman siege of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple in AD 70 in *The Jewish War*.

† Eusebius recorded that Christians fled Jerusalem to Pella before the siege, preserving the church.

† Irenaeus wrote about the fulfillment of Christ's warnings concerning Jerusalem's destruction.

How it applies to us today

† Jesus' prophecy proves that His words are completely trustworthy.

† It reminds us that God keeps His promises and His warnings.

† We should live faithfully and remain alert in our walk with Christ.

Q & A Appendix

Q What event fulfilled Jesus' prophecy about the temple?

A The Roman destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in AD 70 fulfilled His words (Luke 21:20-24).

Q What did Jesus mean by this generation?

A He meant the generation living at that time who would witness the events (Matthew 24:34).

Q What was the abomination that causes desolation?

A It referred to the Roman armies surrounding Jerusalem (Luke 21:20).

Q Why were believers told to flee the city?

A To escape the coming destruction that would fall on Jerusalem (Matthew 24:16).

Q How do we know the gospel spread widely before AD 70?

A Paul wrote that the gospel had been proclaimed throughout the world of that time (Colossians 1:23).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Mark 13

† Josephus, The Jewish War

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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