

# Mark 13:25-37

13:23 – “But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.

4771 [e] 1161 [e] 991 [e] 4302 [e] 4771 [e] 3956 [e]

hymeis de blepete proeirēka hymin panta

23 ὑμεῖς δὲ βλέπετε ; προεῖρηκα ὑμῖν πάντα .

You however take heed I have foretold to you all things

PPro-N2P Conj V-PMA-2P V-RIA-1S PPro-D2P Adj-ANP

1. John 13:19 – “I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.”
2. “Stay on your guard” is the translation of the Greek *blepete* which here means “Look at!” or “Pay attention!”. *Blepo* is used to say “I look”, “I see”, “I perceive”, “I discern”.
3. Again, the sign of the faithful servant is not foretelling and trying to guess the future, but alertness, paying attention and obedience to Christ in the present.
  - a. Do not lose sight of the mission as the days approach.
  - b. No one will be able to predict the end even as these things happen
  - c. Also, no one will be able to miss the end no matter how they have rebelled.
4. The hope of eschatology is not WHEN it happens, but that it WILL happen.  
Human history has to have the hope that the Son of Man is Coming because man has proven and is currently demonstrating mankind cannot save humanity or deliver history.  
Our hope is not in predicting WHEN redemption comes, but living today knowing it WILL come.

13:24 – “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,

235 [e] 1722 [e] 1565 [e] 3588 [e] 2250 [e] 3326 [e] 3588 [e] 2347 [e] 1565 [e] 3588 [e] 2246 [e] 4654 [e] 2532 [e] 3588 [e]

Alla en ekeinai tais hēmerais meta tēn thlipsin ekeinēn Ho helios skotisthēsetai Kai hē

24 Ἀλλὰ ἐν ἐκείναις ταῖς ἡμέραις , μετὰ τὴν θλίψιν ἐκείνην , Ὁ ἥλιος σκοτισθήσεται , Καὶ ἡ

But in those - days after the tribulation those The sun will be darkened and the

Conj Prep DPro-DFP Art-DFP N-DFP Prep Art-AFS N-AFS DPro-AFS Art-NMS N-NMS V-FIP-3S Conj Art-NFS

4582 [e] 3756 [e] 1325 [e] 3588 [e] 5338 [e] 846 [e]

selēnē ou dōsei to phengos autēs

σελήνη οὐ δώσει τὸ φέγγος αὐτῆς ;

moon not will give the light of it

N-NFS Adv V-FIA-3S Art-ANS N-ANS PPro-GF3S

1. If there was not a break between general history (13:5-13) and eschatological events (13:14), then there IS a break between first century history leading up to 66-70 AD (13:5-23) and eschatological events (13:24-37; or, 13:14-37, and definitely at 13:26!).
2. Here is a collection of OT quotations of eschatological events:
  - a. Isaiah 13:10 from 13:9-13 -  
“Behold, the day of the Lord comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it.  
For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light;  
the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light.”

*I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity;  
I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless.  
I will make people more rare than fine gold, and mankind than the gold of Ophir.  
Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken out of its place,  
at the wrath of the Lord of hosts in the day of his fierce anger.*

b. Isaiah 24:23 from 24:19-23 –

*“The earth is utterly broken, the earth is split apart, the earth is violently shaken.  
The earth staggers like a drunken man; it sways like a hut; its transgression lies heavy upon it,  
and it falls, and will not rise again.*

*On that day the Lord will punish the host of heaven, in heaven, and the kings of the earth, on the earth.*

*They will be gathered together as prisoners in a pit; they will be shut up in a prison, and after many days they will be punished.*

*Then the moon will be confounded and the sun ashamed for the Lord of hosts reigns on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and his glory will be before his elders.*

c. Daniel 7:13 – read Daniel 7 to get the context of 7:13...here is 7:13-14 and 7:25-27 -

*“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him...*

*...He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.’”*

3. This cannot be a description of the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD. This is not even a description of the Flood of Noah.

13:25 – **“and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.**

2532 [e]	3588 [e]	792 [e]	1510 [e]	1537 [e]	3588 [e]	3772 [e]	4098 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	1411 [e]	3588 [e]	1722 [e]	3588 [e]		
Kai	hoi	asteres	esontai	ek	tou	ouranou	piptontes	Kai	hai	dynameis	hai	en	tois		
25	Καὶ	οἱ	ἀστέρες	ἔσονται	ἐκ	τοῦ	οὐρανοῦ	πίπτοντες	,	Καὶ	αἱ	δυνάμεις	αἱ	ἐν	τοῖς
	and	the	stars	will be	out of	the	heaven	falling	,	and	the	powers	that [are]	in	the
	Conj	Art-NMP	N-NMP	V-FIM-3P	Prep	Art-GMS	N-GMS	V-PPA-NMP		Conj	Art-NFP	N-NFP	Art-NFP	Prep	Art-DMP

3772 [e]	4531 [e]
ouranois	saleuthēsontai
οὐρανοῖς	σαλευθήσονται .
heavens	will be shaken
N-DMP	V-FIP-3P

1. Pseudo-Messiahs will not appear with these signs.
2. All these references are from Scripture. Jesus is not making them up on the spot.
3. “Powers in the heavens will be shaken”
  - a. Rulers and authorities in heavenly places Ephesians 3:10 and 6:12
  - b. Satan was thrown down to earth from heaven – Revelation 7:8, 9, 12

13:26 – “And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.”

2532 [e]	5119 [e]	3708 [e]	3588 [e]	5207 [e]	3588 [e]	444 [e]	2064 [e]	1722 [e]	3507 [e]	3326 [e]	1411 [e]	4183 [e]	2532 [e]		
Kai	tote	opsontai	ton	Huion	tou	anthrōpou	erchomenon	en	nephelais	meta	dynameōs	pollēs	kai		
26	Καὶ	τότε	ὄψονται	τὸν	Υἱὸν	τοῦ	ἀνθρώπου	ἐρχόμενον	ἐν	νεφέλαις	,	μετὰ	δυνάμεως	πολλῆς	καὶ
	And	then	will they see	the	Son	-	of Man	coming	in	[the] clouds	,	with	power	great	and
	Conj	Adv	V-FIM-3P	Art-AMS	N-AMS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	V-PPMP-AMS	Prep	N-DFP		Prep	N-GFS	Adj-GFS	Conj

1391 [e]

doxēs

δόξης .

glory

N-GFS

1. Jesus often referred to himself with the title “Son of Man”. The disciples knew this, so it would be impossible for them to misunderstand that Jesus was referring to himself coming from the throne of heaven with great eschatological power to bring judgment and to establish his kingdom.
2. There is really only one interpretation of this verse: Jesus is the Son of Man who is coming to judge the world, deliver the chosen and establish God’s kingdom.
3. Coming in clouds of glory is from Daniel 7:13-14 -  
*“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.”*

13:27 – “And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.”

2532 [e]	5119 [e]	649 [e]	3588 [e]	32 [e]	2532 [e]	1996 [e]	3588 [e]	1588 [e]	846 [e]	1537 [e]	3588 [e]	5064 [e]		
kai	tote	apostelei	tous	angelous	kai	episynaxei	tous	eklektous	autou	ek	tōn	tessarōn		
27	καὶ	τότε	ἀποστελεῖ	τοὺς	ἄγγέλους	, καὶ	ἐπισυνάξει	τοὺς	ἐκλεκτοὺς	αὐτοῦ	,	ἐκ	τῶν	τεσσάρων
	And	then	He will send	the	angels	and	will gather together	the	elect	of Him	from	the	four	
	Conj	Adv	V-FIA-3S	Art-AMP	N-AMP	Conj	V-FIA-3S	Art-AMP	Adj-AMP	PPro-GM3S	Prep	Art-GMP	Adj-GMP	

417 [e]

anemōn ap' akrou gēs heōs akrou ouranou

ἀνέμων , ἀπ' ἄκρου γῆς ἕως ἄκρου οὐρανοῦ .

winds from [the] end of earth to [the] end of heaven

N-GMP Prep N-GNS N-GFS Prep N-GNS N-GMS

1. “elect” – this is Mark’s 3<sup>rd</sup> reference in this chapter to the “elect”
  - a. 13:20 – for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days
  - b. 13:22 – false christs and false prophets try to deceive the elect, if possible
  - c. 13:27 – angels gather the elect
2. The remnant of Israel was the “elect” of the OT, now the “elect” become those who believe on Jesus, the Son of Man.
3. The phrase “from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven” is a combining of:
  - a. Deut. 30:4 – “If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there he will take you.”

- b. Deut. 28:64 – “And the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known.”
- c. Zech. 2:10 – “Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the Lord.”

Mark 13:28 – **“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near.**

- 1. This parable is often interpreted by beginning with the assumption that Israel is the fig tree. So, when you see Israel begin growing as a nation know that the end times are near.
  - a. Often in Scripture the fig tree is associated with Israel. Consider the cursing of the fig tree on the Mount of Olives that set off this whole series of events this last week of Jesus’ ministry.
  - b. Yet, God is going to gather Israel at the end of the end times, not to rebuild a temple for the anti-christ. So, reading “Israel” for “fig tree” may send the reader in the wrong direction.
  - c. This interpretation was proclaimed even stronger after 1948.
  - d. More likely this is a simple parable that is saying:
    - i. Keep watch
    - ii. These events will let you know what season you are in just like buds on a tree let you know it is almost spring.
    - iii. Also, some of the events mentioned are not “the events of end times, but the events of history. They are actually non-signs of the last cycle of history.

13:29 – **“So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.**

- 1. Two things to be aware of:
  - a. Do not set dates. It is impossible to know. In fact, it is a mystery. No one knows, and neither does the person who says they know.
  - b. Since we do not know when the end is coming, we need to resist failing to prepare for Jesus’ coming. We need to be ready always especially since we do not know.
  - c. Since you do not know be working and never sleeping.
- 2. Here in 13;29 “these things” refer to the events mentioned as end time events

13:30 – **“Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.**

- 1. Here in 13;30 “these things” refer to the events leading up to the Jewish wars with Rome and the destruction of the Temple.
- 2. The current generation listening will see the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple.
- 3. The current generation may not see the return of Christ. This date is undisclosed and unknown.
- 4. The early church did not know when Christ would return, but they wrote as if it could happen any time...because, it could have. They did not know.
  - a. 2 Peter 3:12 – *“waiting for and hastening (means “to urge on”, “desire earnestly”) the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!”*
  - b. 1 Thessalonians 4:17 – *“Then we (Paul) who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.”*

13:31 – **“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.**

1. “pass away” is the link to this saying here.
  - a. “this generation will not pass away”
  - b. “Heaven and earth will pass away”
  - c. “My words will not pass away”
2. “pass away” is *parerchomai* meaning “to pass by” “to come to” and is used to say “pass by”, “rendered void”, “become vain, neglect, disregard”. A compound word from:
  - a. *Erchomai* – meaning “to come”, “to go”
  - b. *Para* – meaning “from beside”, “by the side of”
3. These are three guarantees as we wait:
  - a. Jerusalem will fall by 70 AD
  - b. Heaven and earth will be shaken and be disregarded and considered void, vain.
  - c. Jesus’ Words WILL NOT fall like Jerusalem or be shaken and disregarded like creation.
4. The shaking of the creation (Heaven and Earth) was referred to in Mark 13;24-25 referring to OT verses such as Isaiah 34:1-6 (not mentioned above).
5. This chapter has been about:
  - a. Jerusalem being shaken
  - b. Heaven and earth being shaken
  - c. Jesus continues to be the unmovable shaker

Mark 13:32 – **“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.**

1. Very clear message here.
2. Some things are not revealed to us. They are mysteries concerning:
  - a. The information
  - b. The ability to understand or comprehend
  - c. Our failure even to know what question to ask.
3. Mankind does not know. Christians do not know. Prophets do not know. Angels (including Satan) do not know. Even the Son of Man does not know.
4. Only the Father knows because he understands these things because he can comprehend them.
5. We cannot comprehend the mysteries. So, we cannot understand. Which means we do not know, since we cannot know.

13:33 – **“Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.**

1. Here is the moral of the story.
2. This is the answer to the disciples question:  
QUESTION: “*Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?*”

ANSWER TO QUESTION #1: “*When you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. This generation will not pass away until all these things take place.*”

Or, **short version, 70 AD.**

ANSWER TO QUESTION #2: “*Concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.*” (Concerning “in “those days”, “at that time”) with the end.

Or, **short version, “I cannot answer that because even I do not know.”**

3. Two things Jesus told them:

- a. “Be on guard” – *Blepete* – meaning “to look” used to say “look”, “see”, “perceive”, “discern”
- b. “Keep awake” – *agrypneite* – meaning “to be sleepless”, “wakeful”. Used to say “I am awake”, “I am not asleep”, “I am watchful” and “I am careful”

991 [e] Blepete 33 ΒΛΕΠΕΤΕ ; Take heed V-PMA-2P	69 [e] agrypneite ; ἀγρυπνεῖτε ; watch V-PMA-2P	3756 [e] 1492 [e] 1063 [e] 4219 [e] 3588 [e] 2540 [e] 1510 [e] ouk oidate gar pote ho kairos estin οὐκ οἶδατε γὰρ πότε ὁ καιρός ἐστίν . not you know for when the time is Adv V-RIA-2P Conj Conj Art-NMS N-NMS V-PIA-3S
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13:34 – “It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake.

13:35 – “Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—

1. The key to this chapter and the focus of Jesus’ answer.
2. Even Jesus is merely being the obedient servant who is alert, on guard and awake

13:36 – “lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.

13:37 – “And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.

Notes from 13:19:

There is a distinction between the events of history (early church, general time, 66-70 AD) and events of eschatology. The difference becomes noticeable when we realize the use of:

1. “**these things**” referring to events leading up to the fall of Jerusalem
2. “**those days**” referring to eschatological events (13:17, 19, 20, 24)
  - a. “those days” is a semi technical term in Jewish literature for the end times:
    - i. Daniel 12:1 – “At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.”
    - ii. Joel 2:29 – “Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.