



## Sermon Notes

**Term** – Autumn 2018

**Series** – Mark

**Gathering & Date** – the 10, 9 December

**Title** – Watch!

**Preacher** – Paul Langham

**Readings** – Mark 13

### **Main message of this talk in one sentence** –

Nothing in this created order is ultimately secure or reliable – the only thing to build life upon are the promises of God, all of which are ‘Yes’ in King Jesus (1 Corinthians 1:20)

### **Notes** –

Jesus responds to a question from his disciples about the destruction of the Temple (which happened just as Jesus predicted a few decades later in AD 70) and the End of the World. As you will see from the chart overleaf, his teaching in Mark 13 (mirrored in Matthew 24 & 25, and Luke 21) matches the Book of Revelation in quite an extraordinary way.

Jesus speaks about

- The possibility of being deceived – what examples can you recall of major deception in the people of God? Where are you most at risk of being deceived?
- Wars, rumours of wars, natural disasters, family breakdown – is it helpful when we look at our world today to see that it has long been fractured and misshapen by the same things that we see?
- The Temple in Jerusalem (recently rebuilt and extended by King Herod the Great – yes, the Christmas Herod) was one of the buildings of the ancient world – the disciples would not have seen anything remotely like it in their lives. Yet Jesus uses it to indicate the fragility of anything in this world on which we might depend or in which we might put our trust
- The New Testament picks this up as a theme: read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 & Hebrews 11:8-10. Where is your trust truly placed? If it’s anywhere other than in the promises of God and the person of Jesus, it is not secure. What needs to change as a result of recognising this?
- Jesus speaks about ‘the abomination that causes desolation’ (v. 14). This image first appears in Daniel (9:27; 11:31; 12:11) and refers to something that replaces the true worship of the Temple. This may have had multiple fulfilments over history – and finds ultimate expression in the Book of Revelation’s depiction of the Beast, who is worshipped and adored by the peoples of earth. In other words, he takes the place of worship properly reserved for Jesus
- What in the world today takes the place of Jesus?
- Is there anything which threatens to take the place of Jesus in your life?

**A COMPARISON OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION  
with JESUS' TEACHING ABOUT 'THE END TIMES' IN MARK 13**

(Known as 'The Olivet discourse' – also found in Matthew 24 & 25, and Luke 21)

| <b>MARK 13</b>  | <b>THE BOOK OF REVELATION</b>   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>MARK 13:1 – 4</b></p> <p>A temple overthrown</p>  | <p><b>REVELATION 1, 4 &amp; 5</b></p> <p>A throne room revealed</p>   |
| <p><b>MARK 13:5–23</b></p> <p><b>Tribulation on earth</b></p> <p>Concurrent signs (vv 5 – 8): false 'christs', war, rumours of war, famine</p> <p>2 Preliminary signs (vv 9 – 13):<br/>Persecution &amp; Proclamation</p> <p>First penultimate sign (vv 14 – 23):<br/>Desecration &amp; Deceit</p> <p>Second penultimate sign (vv 24, 25):<br/>Convulsions in the heavens</p> | <p><b>REVELATION 6 – 18</b></p> <p><b>Tribulation on earth</b></p> <p>A repeating cycle of war, rumours of war, famine ... beasts</p> <p>Persecution &amp; Proclamation</p> <p>Desecration &amp; Deceit</p> <p>Convulsions in the heavens</p> |
| <p><b>MARK 13:26 – 31</b></p> <p>The sign itself:<br/>The Coming of the Son of Man</p> <p>The Passing of heaven and earth</p>   | <p><b>REVELATION 19 - 22</b></p> <p>The Rider on the White Horse</p> <p>A new heaven and a new earth</p>  |
| <p><b>MARK 13:32 – 37</b></p> <p>Warnings to be ready and to endure</p>   | <p><b>REVELATION 2 &amp; 3</b></p> <p>Encouragements to be faithful and to overcome</p>   |