

Jesus Sitrep on the Last Days Part 1

- We will look at Mark 13 over two weekends:
- “Jesus Sitrep on the Last Days” Part 1
- Sitrep: Commanders Situation Report
- Military Commanders give Sitrep on the state of a situation

Jesus is giving a briefing, a “Sitrep” on the “last days”, his longest discourse on the end times

- We are being given a “Divine Intelligence Briefing” on how we will know the signs of the coming of the Lord
- How the military and our president views our world is very different than how God does
- God is looking at different signs, different issues
- Called the Olivet Discourse—Matthew 24 is almost exactly the same, except for a few verses
- The Olivet Discourse covers Jesus’ view on the last days—eschatology—the study of last things. I will not be dogmatic on this—this is a secondary doctrine and we can agree to disagree on this matter...
- Ex. Like a woman in labor, there are clear signs that the baby is about to come. In the same way, God has marked out “signposts” of His coming
- NT is full of prophecy about the last days...1 in 10 verses of the NT speak of the second coming—this is what we know—He will come back. He wants us to be expectant

- Ex some of you have had loved ones fighting in Iraq or Afghanistan and you look forward to our coming in the military or mission field...you listen intently when you find out the day of his return
- We may not know the precise timing but we can that the leaves are forming on the tree,

Mark 13:28-29 Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near—at the doors!

- Many believe that the leaves on the fig tree represent when Israel became a nation again
- Let me begin by saying something about eschatology, or the study of the end times, and prophecy
- Biblical prophecy can have a near and far meaning: Jesus is going to describe the destruction of the Temple in 70ad as a picture of conditions preceding his Second Coming. He will also take us back to 168 BC at the desecration of the Temple as a type of Anti-christ that is coming
- Ex. Kind of like a high powered Telescope where you think you're looking at one star and then when you focus in you can see several stars

Jesus is speaking of Four things:

1. The destruction of the second Temple, Herod's Temple, the destruction of Jerusalem; this happened in 70Ad, just 37 years later, and it also speaks of a rebuilt Temple in the last days

2. The Abomination of Desolation, something that Daniel spoke of that happened in 168BC but is prophetic of an event in the future
3. The 7 signs of the coming of Christ—this is quite clear from Jesus himself—A Jesus Sitrep of the last days, we will not be surprised
4. Divine Intelligence. This is being given so that we, the Church, will not be deceived—but have Divine Intelligence so that we are prepared for these things that will happen in the latter days: “Take heed” and “watch” are peppered throughout

Our generation is the most unique in all of history:

- Israel is now a nation—no other generation saw that happen
- Nuclear proliferation—during the Civil War, everyone on the earth was not going to die of musket fire! The world was not going to die at one time through field cannons. Even in WWII the entire world could not be annihilated. We were the only ones with an atomic bomb. We now have 500x the power of the first bomb. The real threat is a thermo nuclear device. Many nations now have such devices
- The Middle East is a cauldron, a cesspool of hatred and war. Everyone is being affected now

Jesus Sitrep; Jesus Briefing

Mark 13:1

Then as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings

are here!"

- Great pride about the Temple—this gave great pride to all Jews.
 - This Temple is the second Temple rebuilt in the second century BC. Herod the Great had made additions starting in 20 BC and was regarded as one of the Great Wonders of the World
 - Been in construction for 50 years.
 - Herod wanted the temple to be greater than the Pyramids of Egypt.
 - The stones were placed perfectly in place. Thousands of pounds each.
 - Height of 230 feet on the corner where Satan took Jesus. That's over 21 stories!
 - You could see the gold reflecting off the sun, from 20 miles away—so beautiful.

- What Jesus says shocks them! It will all be destroyed

And Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not *one* stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

- Jesus can see that in the next 40 years something will happen to the Second Temple; He can see the coming destruction of the Temple—no one can see it but Him. Jesus sees it and it happens

- It would be like Jesus looking out over the monuments in Washington and saying all of this, the White House, the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, will all be destroyed! You would naturally ask "When, How" will this happen?

- Jesus can see the "Siege by Titus," over 1 million will die. Josephus says that the blood flows like a river through the

streets and puts fires out in homes

- Titus never intended to destroy the Temple, but a Roman soldier throws a torch into the Temple and burn it out. They steal the gold from between the stones
- Jesus also sees that these conditions will precede the coming of Christ upon the earth in the final days

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will* be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?" And Jesus, answering them, began to say: "Take heed that no one deceives you.

- This is a private inside briefing, Sitrep, only 4 disciples
- The most beautiful spot, the highest spot for viewing the Temple was the Mt of Olives—this is why it's called the Olivet Discourse
- The disciples want to know the signs for the destruction of the Temple
- Remember this is the final days of Christ's life. He is with the men He will entrust the Gospel to—he is briefing them so that they will not be deceived. Jesus will warn his disciples in this discourse to not be deceived. He speaks of false prophets, false messiahs who will come and deceive many
- "Take heed," literally means "Watch out, be able to see," a series of warnings are coming so you can be ready. Our world is a tenderbox, hanging by a shoestring

7 Signs of His Coming

Jesus now gives 7 Signs of His Coming. 7 Signs of labor, birth pangs, preparing the earth for His coming, His final coming upon the earth

Vs. 6

For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and will deceive many.

Also look at Vs. 21

"Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'Look, He is there!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand.

1st Sign: Religious Deception

- Satan will raise up false Christ's, false religions will form across the world
- False prophets will arise
- False signs and wonders—demonically inspired and empowered
- Ex. Last night on FoxNews, new allegations against Scientology. A special on Sunday night coming up...
- These will be the prevailing conditions of the last days of the earth
- In a time of political upheaval, many will claim and many will be deceived
- Ex. I see it now even with many very well known Evangelical pastors acquiescing to new views of scripture, marriage, family, and morality...

2nd Sign: Wars and Rumors

vs. 7 But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for *such things* must happen, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

- Same list in Matthew, Luke, and Revelation 6—but don't be troubled, just take note
- This is interesting because it seems that there will be wars going on but also rumors of other wars about to happen
- Ex. There are about 30 wars going on right now on the earth
- The word for "nation" is *ethne*, meaning "groupings of people," not necessarily countries, but ethnic groupings based on religion or political or blood considerations
- Ex. Groupings of Muslim "ethne," nations are not political boundaries but ethnic, political, and religious connections: salafi, shia, sunni, Muslim Brotherhood, the Kurds, Al Qaeda, Hezbolla, ICIS...and that is just in Islam
- So now we are seeing nations fighting nations in the middle east—Muslims killing Muslims, nations against nations
- This is only the beginning. In WWII there were 82 million casualties. Today, one nuclear sub carries 40x the kill power of all the weapons used in WWII
- Even the Muslims believe this too. The 12th Imam will bring forth the coming of Christ. Many Muslims will get saved.
 - A majority of Shiite Muslims traditionally believe that the "12th Imam" (Islamic religious leader), born in 868 A.D., was placed by

God into hiding (known as occultation) until the day of judgment. Southern Baptist author and evangelist Anis Shorrosh explained that many Shiites also refer to the 12th Imam as the Mahdi, an Arabic word that generally references a messiah, or a guide.

- “This man will come to show them the way, because the prayer of every Muslim five times a day ... ends with ‘Show us the right path, not the path of those who have incurred your anger or those who are lost, but those upon whom grace has come,’” Shorrosh said.
- Iran is pursuing nuclear weapons—this is a precarious situation like no other time. If the terrorists have a weapon, they will push the button—they are hoping for mass destruction to bring back the 12th Imam
- We are potentially in a One Bomb War! One bomb could put us back 100 years
- We need to pray for the people of Iran—they don’t want war. These are real people who love their kids, love their families. Pray for revival, pray for the people of Iran. Pray for a great move of God upon the Muslims. The last great mission field.

And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These are the beginnings of sorrows (birth pangs).

3rd Sign: Natural Disasters

- There will be all kinds of natural disasters—read Rev 6 for more information on this
 - 7 seals opened in the Tribulation period; 7 trumpets, and then 7 bowls of wrath
 - 70th week in the book of Daniel
 - God’s wrath will be poured out during this time
- Today, we have the restrained version of the final days

- The Holy Spirit is restraining the evil of this earth right now
- Finally the wrath of God will be amalgamated into one person the Antichrist
- Revelation says 1/4th of the world will be destroyed
- famine, carnage, pestilence will increase
- Braxton Hicks contractions are the beginning. It's all restrained right now
- **Population Explosion that cannot be sustained:**
 - From the beginning of the world till 1850 was how long it took to have the first 1 billion people on the planet
 - From 1850—1931, two billion
 - From 1931—1963, three billion
 - From 1963—today, over six billion
 - They are saying that will double by 2020
 - We can't sustain the food supply at this rate
- **Worldwide Famines**→Monsanto, the largest seed producing company in the US, is producing seeds that can't be reproduced
 - Monsanto website: "When farmers purchase a patented seed variety, they sign an agreement that they will not save and replant seeds produced from the seed they buy from us. More than 325,000 farmers a year buy seed under these agreements in the United States."
- A famine is inevitable!

- Earthquakes are increasing—you can just look it up. 10 major earthquakes in just the 20th century. Never a century like ours
- Ebola, AIDS, avian influenza

Under 5 Pandemics that Could Wipe out the World Tomorrow, the top 2 were:

1) Return of the Spanish Influenza...Remember swine flu from a few years back? And bird flu in the mid-2000s? Those were all distant relatives of the Spanish Flu.

50-100 million died in the Spanish influenza. The global [mortality rate](#) from the 1918/1919 pandemic is not known, but an estimated 10% to 20% of those who were infected died. With about a third of the world population infected, this [case-fatality ratio](#) means 3% to 6% of the entire global population died. Influenza may have killed as many as 25 million people in its first 25 weeks. Older estimates say it killed 40–50 million people, while current estimates say 50–100 million people worldwide were killed.

This [pandemic](#) has been described as "the greatest medical holocaust in history" and may have killed more people than the [Black Death](#).^[35] It is said that this flu killed more people in 24 weeks than AIDS has killed in 24 years, more in a year than the Black Death killed in a century.^[36]

From ABC News comes this [Spanish Flu news](#):

Health experts are concerned that the Spanish flu that ravaged the world has many similarities to the avian flu now found throughout Southeast Asia. The 1918 flu strain itself originated as an avian flu that mutated into a form that could jump between humans. And the 1918 strain, according to research published this week in the scientific journals Nature and Science, has several of the same genetic mutations as the current avian flu strain. Could a deadly pandemic happen again? Some doctors say yes.

2)Drug Resistant Bacteria—a super bug resistant to antibiotics...

A dose of antibiotics in sick humans, livestock or other animals wipes out harmful bacteria causing the illness. But a small number of bacteria survive because of some quirk in their genetics. Those bacteria reproduce and can spread to other hosts, living as long as a stronger antibiotic doesn't kill them... When antibiotics are overused, you wind up with stronger bacteria. PBS ran a program about it this year

Vs. 9

"But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them. And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations. But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. 13 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

4th Sign: Hatred and Persecution

- Jesus is saying that the closer we come to the advent of His return, there will be more and more hatred against our faith and our stands. Our stands, our preaching, our standards, our lifestyle will come under increase attack
- Don't be surprised by the hatred and animosity that will come at school, at work, in your own family
- Brother will betray brother; fathers will betray their children; children will have their parents put to death!
- You will be hated because of the being a Jesus disciple!
- **As I have said before: Pray for the Rapture, Prepare for**

Persecution, and Live in the Power of the Holy Spirit

- After Easter, we will look at the other signs that Jesus gives...