

## The Jesus Sitrep of the Last Days Part 2

- 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
- 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

### **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

### **7 Signs of His Coming:**

**Two weeks ago we looked at the “Jesus Sitrep part 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!*” 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.”**

**3 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?”**

**5 And Jesus, answering them, began to say: “Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am *He,*’ and will deceive many.**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Sign: Religious Deception**

- Satan will raise up false Christ’s, false religions will form across the world

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.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sign: Wars and Rumors

And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These *are* the beginnings of sorrows.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> 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
  - 70<sup>th</sup> week in the book of Daniel
  - God's wrath will be poured out during this time

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. <sup>1</sup>

## 4<sup>th</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Mk 13:1-9). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Vs. 10

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. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.<sup>2</sup>

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sign: The Gospel Preached to All Nations

- Yet the whole world will hear through our witness. This is how the world will know—through persecution
- The Holy Spirit will show us what to say in a time of persecution
- I believe that what we saw happen in the Book of Acts will be repeated. God is raising up disciples to take the gospel to the nations and many will be martyred for their faith and like in Acts, they will see marvelous signs and wonders and miracles
- **And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”<sup>3</sup>**
- This is not a time for setting dates but rather being empowered—power against power

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<sup>2</sup> *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Mk 13:10–13). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>3</sup> *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Ac 1:7–8). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

- Jesus, in speaking of his church in the latter days, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>4</sup>

#### Vs.14

“So when you see the ‘*abomination of desolation*,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not” (let the reader understand—that means us!), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Sign: The Rise of the Abomination of Desolation; the Anti-christ

- Prophesied 3x in Daniel (Dan 9:27; 11:31; and 12:11)
- Ex. Prophecy is like a high powered Telescope: where you think you’re looking at one star, but then as you focus, you realize that you are looking at other stars
- Only the High Priest can enter the Holy of Holies and only once a year—Yon Kippur
- So, how could this happen? Only happened once, This is a foreshadowing of the last days, when Antiochus IV, Antiochus Epiphanes, Greek king of the Seleucid Empire, 168 BC, a Greek, entered the Temple to attempt to eradicate the entire Jewish religion, and wanted to set up the Greek Pantheon in the Temple. All Jewish laws were forbidden, circumcision was punishable by death, pillaged Jerusalem
- On the 25<sup>th</sup> of Kislav, on his birthday, he brought a swine to

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<sup>4</sup> *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Jn 14:12–13). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

the sacrifices and erected a pagan altar to Zeus

To consolidate his empire and strengthen his hold over the region, Antiochus decided to side with the Hellenized Jews by outlawing Jewish religious rites and traditions kept by observant Jews and by ordering the worship of Zeus as the supreme god (2 Maccabees 6:1–12). This was anathema to the Jews and when they refused, Antiochus sent an army to enforce his decree. Because of the resistance, the city was destroyed, many were slaughtered, and a military Greek citadel called the Acra was established.[7]

“Not long after this the king sent an Athenian senator to force the Jews to abandon the customs of their ancestors and live no longer by the laws of God; also to profane the temple in Jerusalem and dedicate it to Olympian Zeus, and that on Mount Gerizim to Zeus the Hospitable, as the inhabitants of the place requested...They also brought into the temple things that were forbidden, so that the altar was covered with abominable offerings prohibited by the laws. A man could not keep the sabbath or celebrate the traditional feasts, nor even admit that he was a Jew. At the suggestion of the citizens of Ptolemais, a decree was issued ordering the neighboring Greek cities to act in the same way against the Jews: oblige them to partake of the sacrifices, and put to death those who would not consent to adopt the customs of the Greeks. It was obvious, therefore, that disaster impended. Thus, two women who were arrested for having circumcised their children were publicly paraded about the city with their babies hanging at their breasts and then thrown down from the top of the city wall. Others, who had assembled in nearby caves to observe the sabbath in secret, were betrayed to Philip and all burned to death.”

—2 Maccabees 6:1–11

- Gang of rebels fought this and headed to the hills, the Maccabees, the hammer, revolt, the Maccabeans, this group of outlaws, eventually defeated the Syrians. They

fought for 3 years, they rededicate the Temple. Hannukah is the feast commemorating this victory on the 25<sup>th</sup> of Kislev.

- This was an echo of things to come!
- But Jesus is speaking of something in the future! It is 32 AD. Everyone would have known that they are speaking of the Maccabean period.
- Romans 11 Paul speaks of the fullness of the Gentiles as a revival in Israel
- But there is a time in the future where the Temple will be rebuilt and see the rise of a false political messiah, a leader who will be in the Temple mount area, demanding worship from the people
- How will we know this? How can all of us see this? CNN and FoxNews will be there!
- Flee! Get out of town he says. How much clearer can he be. Get out of dodge!

### **Rev. 13:1-10**

- We are looking at the rise of two beasts in this chapter
  - One beast is the Anti-Christ, (vss 1-10)
  - and the other is the False Prophet who will rise to power with him (vss 11-18)
  - This is a kind of Satanic Trinity: Satan, Anti-Christ, and the False Prophet

### **2 Thess 2:1**

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

And due to the rise of the False Prophet and Anti-christ, a tribulation will be released upon the earth...

### 7<sup>th</sup> Sign: Worldwide Tribulation

#### Vs.15

Let him who is on the housetop not go down into the house, nor enter to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter. For *in* those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be. And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.

- It will be the most horrible of times. There will be great confusion and fear upon the earth—it must be some kind of nuclear exchange?
- I believe he is speaking to the Jews—get out of there!
- This is precisely why Jesus is telling us—this is the Jesus Briefing
- We will know that He is soon to return. He will shorten the



tribulation because no one would survive if He did not put boundaries on the work of Satan

- Jeremiah calls it “Jacobs trouble” worldwide trouble!

**Again, in 2 Thess 2:6**

**And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. 9 The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.**

- This means that there will be this time of false religious leaders, false Christians, and the rise of the Anti-christ with the power of signs and wonders, to deceive those who are not Jesus disciples
- The tribulation and the persecution will weed out the true from the false
- But there is a restraining by the Spirit until the final days. God has put a restraining—not unlike with Job. God gave Satan permission to strike Job but he could not take his life—a restraining, a limit to his power
- But God is weeding out the true from the false during this time...

**Jesus prophesied of that day, “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd**

divides *his* sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: <sup>5</sup>

#### Vs. 24

"But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.

- Wow. Everyone will see it! All the news networks will see it. We will all see it
- A startling picture of the coming of the Lord! All of the heavens will be impacted
- This will follow the Great Tribulation.
- For God is about to form a new heaven and a new earth!
- So, how should we respond as we see these signs being played out before us?

#### Vs. 28

"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! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

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<sup>5</sup> *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Mt 25:31–34). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

- The fig tree always symbolizes Israel. Spring is coming
- Certainly, in the context, Jesus is saying that the present generation that was hearing him would experience the destruction of the Temple, some 37 years later
- But many scholars also see a twin meaning—the leaves upon the fig tree meaning the nation of Israel back in the Promised Land
- The end of the [British Mandate for Palestine](#) was set for midnight on 14 May 1948. That day, [David Ben-Gurion](#), the Executive Head of the [Zionist Organization](#) and president of the [Jewish Agency for Palestine](#), declared "the establishment of a [Jewish state](#) in [Eretz Israel](#), to be known as the State of Israel," which would start to function from the termination of the mandate.<sup>[17][18][19]</sup> Neighboring Arab armies [invaded](#) the former Palestinian mandate on the next day and fought the Israeli forces.
- Ex. On May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008, we were in Israel for her 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A group of us were on the Sea of Galilee and sat in the crowd at Tiberius...

### Vs. 32

**"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. *It is* like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"**

- This is not a time for predictions and setting dates—not even Christ knows at that time, when He will return, not even the angels know, only God the Father
- Was something withheld from Christ? in his humanity? I don't know
- Our responsibility is to be a people who: Watch and Pray!!
- Like a thief in the night—no one knows when he will come, but be on your guard. Be prepared. Be vigilant.
- The key point is watch and pray!
- Matthew says is is “like the days of Noah,” read Gen 6 to understand this. I want cover that.
- The master, the head of the house, who is the master of the house? Could it be the Thief? Satan? God is going to catch Satan off guard!
- Be diligent moment by moment. Urgency! Raise the bar in your personal life. He is coming!!