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# Church in Campbell Weekly News

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## The Lord prepares His disciples for His death by telling them of things to come

In 13:1-37 the Lord prepares His disciples for His death by telling them of things to come. Here He speaks concerning five matters: the destruction of the temple (Mark 13:1-2), the plagues at the beginning of birth pangs (Mark 13:3-8), the preaching of the gospel and persecutions (Mark 13:9-13), the great tribulation and the coming of the Slave-Savior (Mark 13:14-27), and watching, praying, and awaiting the Slave-Savior (Mark 13:28-37). We covered the destruction of the temple and the beginning of birth pangs in the previous message. In this message we shall go on to consider the other matters concerning which the Lord spoke to His disciples on the Mount of Olives.

### The gospel and persecutions

In 13:9-13 the Lord speaks concerning the preaching of the gospel and persecutions. In verse 9 the Lord says, "But you yourselves beware; they will deliver you to sanhedrins, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them." In particular, the "you" here refers to Jewish disciples. The first martyrs were Jews.

Verse 9 indicates that the persecutions will come from both Jews and Gentiles. The sanhedrins and synagogues are related to the Jews, but the governors and the kings refer to the rulers of the Gentiles. Therefore, the persecutions described in verse 9 will come from two sources, from both Jews and Gentiles.

### The abomination of desolation

In 13:14-27 the Lord speaks concerning the great tribulation and the coming of the Slave-Savior. Verse 14 says, "But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where it should not (let the reader understand), then let those in Judea flee to the mountains." How long the period of time will be for verses 1 through 13 we do not know. But the prophecy in verses 14 through 27 will definitely be fulfilled in the last three and a half years of this age, the time of the great tribulation, the second half of the last week prophesied in Daniel 9:27. This period of time will begin with the setting up of Antichrist's image (an idol) in the temple (Mark 13:14) and will end with Christ's open coming (v. 26).

The abomination of desolation will stand where it should not be. According to Matthew 24:15, it will stand in the holy place, that is, within God's temple (Psa. 68:35; Ezek. 7:24; 21:2).

### The destruction of Jerusalem

Jerusalem has already been destroyed more than once, and it will be destroyed again. Jerusalem was destroyed the first time under Nebuchadnezzar with the Babylonian army. Later, in the second century B.C., after the rebuilding of the temple, the temple was polluted by Antiochus Epiphanes.

The Lord's word in Mark 13 refers to Antichrist and also implies the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 under Titus. In order to understand this portion of the Word, it is helpful to realize that Titus prefigures Antichrist, and the destruction of Jerusalem under Titus prefigures the destruction of Jerusalem that will be carried out by Antichrist.

### The chosen

In 13:19 and 20 the Lord says, "For those will be days of affliction, such as has not happened from the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and by no means shall be. And unless the Lord had shortened the days, no flesh would be saved; but on account of the chosen, whom He chose, He shortened the days." Here the "chosen" refer to the Jews, God's chosen people (Rom. 11:28). The tribulation under Antichrist will be so severe that no one will be able to bear it. If God had not cut it short, no flesh at all would be saved. But for the sake of the chosen, the elect, those days will be shortened.

### False Christs and false prophets

In 13:21-23 the Lord goes on to warn the disciples concerning false Christs and false prophets: "And then if anyone says to you, Behold, here is the Christ! Behold, there! do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will be raised up, and they will show signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, the chosen. But you, beware; I have told you all things beforehand." The Jews rejected Jesus as their Messiah and are expecting a Messiah to come. They need to be warned that Messiah, the Christ, will not arise "here" or "there" on earth, but will descend on the cloud from heaven.

### The coming of the Son of Man

In 13:24-27 the Lord Jesus speaks concerning His coming. Verses 24 and 25 say, "But in those days, after that affliction, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling out of heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken." These supernatural calamities in heaven will follow the great tribulation at the end of this age. This differs from the fourth trumpet in Revelation 8:12, which will occur very close to the great tribulation.

In verse 26 the Lord continues, "And then they shall see the Son of Man coming in clouds with much power and glory." In Christ's first coming His authority was manifested in casting out demons and healing diseases. In His second coming His power will be exercised to execute God's judgment, to destroy Antichrist and his armies, and to bind Satan for the establishment of God's kingdom on earth.

### Watching, praying, and awaiting

In 13:28-37 we have a word concerning watching, praying, and awaiting the Slave-Savior. Verse 28 says, "Now from the fig tree learn the parable: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that the summer is near."

To "become tender" signifies that life has come back, and to "put forth leaves" signifies outward activities. Winter signifies the time of being dried up, the time of tribulation; "summer" signifies the age of the restored kingdom (Luke 21:30-31), which will begin at the Lord's second coming.

In verses 31 and 32 the Lord says, "The heaven and the earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away. But concerning that day or hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor even the Son, but the Father." The Son, standing in the position of the Son of Man (v. 26), does not know the day or hour of His coming back.

In 13:33-37 the Lord speaks strongly concerning watching. In verse 33 He says, "Beware, be watchful; for you do not know when the time is." In verse 35 He tells the disciples, "Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house comes, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cock-crowing, or in the morning." Finally, in verse 37, the last verse of the chapter, He says, "And what I say to you, I say to all, Watch!" To be sure, the Lord's word about watching is more than a prophecy; it is also a charge to all the believers of the Slave-Savior. On the one hand, we need to know the prophecies concerning the things to come. On the other hand, we need to watch.

### The reviving of the fig tree and the delivery of the new man

Many aspects of the Lord's prophecy in Mark 13 have been fulfilled. In particular, we have seen the re-formation of the nation of Israel and the return of Jerusalem to the Jews. This may be considered the reviving of the fig tree that was cursed. Although its branch has already become tender and it has begun to put forth its leaves, we do not yet see any fruit. Rather, we may say that the leaves are merely an outward display. The nation of Israel today has an outward display, but it does not yet have fruit.

The re-formation of Israel is a fulfillment of a number of crucial prophecies in the Bible. Israel has been re-formed, Jerusalem has been returned, and the fig tree is now showing its leaves. This should cause us to realize that summer is near. However, we cannot say how long it will be until summer.

While the nation of Israel is flourishing, the birth, the delivery, of the new man continues to take place. The flourishing of Israel and the delivery of the new man are taking place in a parallel way. This indicates that the recovery of the church life should go on in parallel with the flourishing of the nation of Israel. This twofold development will reach its climax almost at the same time, the time of the great tribulation.

We need to study the biblical prophecies not merely to have a knowledge of the prophecies, but especially to have a view of what the Lord is doing today and to understand the purpose of the world situation. From our study of the Scriptures we know what the Lord is doing, and we know the purpose of the world situation. It is for the completion of the nation of Israel and also for the completion of the birth of the new man. Although we are not part of the nation of Israel, as believers in Christ we certainly are part of the new man.

In order to have the new man, we need to experience Christ's death and resurrection. Through His death and resurrection we may have the full enjoyment of the wonderful Person of Christ as our replacement. This is the clear view of God's economy presented in chapters one through thirteen of the Gospel of Mark. (Excerpts from Life- Studies of Mark Message 40)

### Burdens for Church Prayer

- 2026 Targets, # of baptized:22; # of prayer meeting attendance:35; average Lord's Day and small group attendance:10% increase
- Spread the kingdom of God by preaching the gospel on the WVC campus and by Bible distribution in the community.
- Multiply the number of small groups for the increase and building up of the Body of Christ
- Perfect young working saints with shepherding families as containers for the next generation.
- Practice PSRP, BNPB, and vital small groups.

- Blending in the Body, by participating in conferences and trainings
- Establish and strengthen the church services, including children, YP, ushering, etc.
- Establish a prayer life individually and corporately
- Pursuing the truth and growth in life to live in the reality of the kingdom.

### Announcements

- Life-study of Mark MSG 39,40
- HWMR: 2025 Winter Training, Week 7
- 6/2 (Tue) 7:45pm, Prayer meeting at meeting hall
- 6/13, 8/8 10am.  
On-line Lessons on small groups by br. Minoru
- 6/15-19 2026 Bay Area Bible Camp at FSCC. \$85
- Hospitality to receive visiting saints in June:

Locality	HC	Date
Riverside	9 1 couple – 2 mother +2 children – 3 sisters – 3 gospel friend(m) -1	6/17-18, 1 night
Taipei 台北	4 brothers - 2 1 couple - 2	6/24-26, 2 nights 6/25-26, 1 night
Taichung 台中	5 sisters – 4 brother – 1	6/26-27, 1 night

- 6/19 (Friday) Gospel meeting in meeting hall, love feast
- 6/29-7/4 Semiannual Training reg. fee: \$205/person
- 7/3-7/12 Summer video training at Santa Clara meeting hall. Registration by 6/14 \$130/person (incl. outline \$5)

### 2026 Summer Semiannual Video Training Schedule

Message #	Dates	Time	In-person / online	Comments
1	7/03 (Fri)	9 to 10:30am	In-person	open mtg
2	7/03 (Fri)	11 to 12:30pm	In-person	open mtg
3	7/04 (Sat)	9 to 10:30am	In-person	
4	7/04 (Sat)	11 to 12:30pm	In-person	
5	7/05 (LD)	1 to 2:30pm	In-person	
6	7/05 (LD)	3 to 4:30pm	In-person	
7	7/07 (Tue)	7:30 to 9pm	online	
8	7/11 (Sat)	9 to 10:30am	In-person	
9	7/11 (Sat)	11 to 12:30pm	In-person	
10	7/11 (Sat)	4 to 5:30pm	In-person	
11	7/12 (LD)	1 to 2:30pm	In-person	
12	7/12 (LD)	3 to 4:30pm	In-person	

- 7/21-26. NorCal Summer School of Truth.
- 7/22-7/26 North America Chinese speaking perfecting training, east coast session.
- 7/29-8/2 FSCC. North America Chinese speaking perfecting training, west coast session. \$250/person (\$50 outline, \$200 food)
- 9/4-6 NorCal Labor Day Conference held at Burlingame Hyatt
- Financial Giving:  
PayPal/Zelle: churchincampbell@gmail.com  
Venmo @Churchin-Campbell  
Church in Campbell bookroom account  
(PayPal/Zelle  
churchincampbellbooks@gmail.com