

*Keep Watch!**Mark 13:14-37*

*"...what does the text say to believers? We must keep watch, stand fast, and trust God's timing with the reassurance that one day our deliverance will surely come. Events may be painful, for even our families may oppose us and hostility can reach the limit. Whether we think of Stephen in Acts 7 or Jim Elliott in South America, commitment to Jesus throughout the centuries has occasionally led to intense opposition and even the sacrifice of the most basic gifts, that of life. Christ's followers need to have resolve to endure, a resolve that grows in the face of the assurance that God will indeed do what he has promised. He will vindicate his children. Thus, we must continue to walk with trust. Trust means continuing to hope in what we cannot see (Heb. 11:1). Yet even though we cannot see it, we can see Jesus, the author and defender of our faith, who promises that one day he will return for us in great power and glory. So looking to him, we serve and wait with great expectation." Bock*

- I. The Olivet Discourse concerns Israel, not the church. The church will not go through the seven-year tribulation God brings upon godless mankind. Instead, we will be in heaven celebrating the marriage supper of Lamb. Israel, on the other hand, must go through the tribulation because of *"their guilt is so great and their sins so many."* It is the horror of the tribulation that turns their hearts back to God. In fact, Romans 11 tells us that all of Israel will be saved during that time (Rom. 11:26).

Jer. 31:33-34

Jer. 30:12-18

2 Peter 3:10-13

Dan. 9:26b-27

2 Thess. 2:3-4

Rev. 13:13-15

**Jeremiah 31:33-34** *33"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."*

- II. Satan is given full reign during the tribulation. He will set up a one world government and a one world religion. Many will be deceived into worshipping him and taking his mark to buy and sell without any thought to what it will mean for their souls (**Rev. 13:16**). His deception and power will be hard to resist without the power of the Holy Spirit to restrain his influence. The only ones who have been given his power are those who believe the gospel and are saved. He'll give the wisdom, guidance, and understanding necessary to keep the tribulation saints from being deceived. He will also give the tribulation saints steadfast endurance by instilling in them the expectation of Jesus' coming to defeat Satan and begin his millennial reign.

Mark 13:14-25

Dan. 9:26b-27

2 Thess. 2:3-4

Rev. 13:13-15

Jer. 30:7

Rev. 12:6

Isa. 24:212-23

*"...the generation living during the Tribulation will see all 'these things' fulfilled. The budding of the fig tree, or any other trees, merely illustrates the fact that in the same way that a tree blossoms indicates summer is coming soon, so does the appearance of these signs indicate that Christ is coming soon." Lahaye/Hindson*

**Jeremiah 30:7** *How awful that day will be! No other will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it.*

- III. Jesus commands to "be on guard" "be alert" "keep watch" "don't let me find you sleeping" and "watch" can be applied to the church. We must be on guard from being deceived by this evil world system. We must keep watch over the integrity of our walk with him. We must keep ourselves from growing complacent toward holiness and godliness. And we must remain watchful for the rapture. We don't know the day or hour, but we do know that he is coming for us, which is reason enough to stay true to him and his church as we live his will.

Mark 13:32-37

*The Greek word for "watch" in Matt 26:41 and Mark 14:38 is the same. It is GREGOPEO. It has the sense of being "vigilant," "to keep awake," "to be on the alert," and "to keep one's eyes open." In Mark 13:33 a different Greek word, AGRYPNEO, is used for "watch." This word means "to be sleepless," or "to keep oneself awake for the purpose of watching." The two Greek words are similar but different, the later one having an emphasis on not sleeping. neverthirsty.org*