

Recap of 3/24/24 message by Pastor Joe (Mark 13:1-13):

1. *Mark chapter 13 is called the Olivet Discourse, prophetic teaching that weaves together two perspectives; a near event: the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem (which happened in 70 A.D. and a far event: the coming of Jesus Christ in the clouds. In between the two events is a time of ‘historical development’ which has so far covered over 2,000 years.*

- “Jesus did not preach this sermon to satisfy the curiosity of His disciples or even to straighten out their confused thinking. At least four times He said, ‘Take heed’ [NIV ‘Be on guard] (Mark 13:5,9,23,33) and He closed the address with the admonition, ‘Watch?’” (Wiersbe)

2. *Other writers express a similar view:*

- “Almost without exception in the New Testament when the Second Coming is mentioned it is followed by an exhortation to godliness and holy living.” (Swindoll)

3. *The proper response to Biblical prophecy is:*

Worshipping...Watching...Witnessing

4. *Believers are to be on their guard against messianic imposters, not alarmed by political and natural disasters and personal and official opposition which will increase all through this church age preceding the Tribulation (which believers will not be on earth for). Believers will be raptured before the start of the Tribulation. It is the Tribulation and in particular the “Abomination that causes desolation” (at the mid-point of the Tribulation). Which announce that the Second Coming of Christ is near.*

5. *Believers are to remember that God is sovereign over this world, He is not surprised by what is coming; to remember the power and presence of the Holy Spirit Who lives within us; and that our hope is not in this world, we are citizens of Heaven; Jesus will come again in great power and majesty. Richards reminds us that ...the horrors we experience remind us that we cannot look to this world for our future, we must look up.”*