Mark

The **Gospel** of the **Servant of God**

I. The ***Service*** of the **Servant** (1:1-10:52)

II. The ***Sacrifice*** of the **Servant** (11:1-16:20)

C. **His *Teachings*** in **Jerusalem** (11:20-13:37)

1. The ***Power*** of **Faith** (11:20-26)
2. The ***Probing*** **Question** on **Authority** (11:27-33)
3. The ***Parable*** of the **Wicked Vine-growers** (12:1-12)
4. The ***Persistent*** **Testing** from the **Leaders** (12:13-37)
5. The ***Prudent*** **Teaching** in the **Temple** (12:38-44)

6. The ***Predictions*** of **Future Events** (13:1-37)

a. ***Predicting*** the **Destruction** of the **Temple** (13:1-2)
b. ***Predicting*** the **Coming** of **False Messiahs** (13:3-6)
c. ***Predicting*** that **Wars** and **Calamities** will **come** and ***intensify*** in **end times** (13:7-8)
d. ***Predicting*** the **Disciples' Persecution,** and **Power** from the **Holy Spirit** in their **Testimony** (13:9-11)
e. ***Predicting*** **family Betrayal** and **widespread Hatred**, but the eventual **Salvation** of **those** who **endure** (13:12-13)
f. ***Predicting*** a **time** of **Great Tribulation** in the **end time** (13:14-23)

G. ***Predicting*** the **Sign** of **His Second Coming** (13:24-27)

24 "But in **those days**, ***after*** that **tribulation**,
THE **SUN** WILL BE ***DARKENED*** AND THE **MOON** WILL ***NOT*** GIVE ITS **LIGHT,**

25 AND THE **STARS** WILL BE ***FALLING*** from **heaven,**
and the **powers** that are in the **heavens** will be ***shaken.***

26 Then they will see THE **SON OF MAN** **COMING** IN **CLOUDS** with **great *power*** and ***glory***.

27 And then **He** will send forth the ***angels***,
and will **gather together His elect** from the **four winds**,
from the *farthest end* of the **earth** to the *farthest end* of **heaven.**

H. ***Pronouncing*** the **Parable** of the **Fig Tree** (13:28-37)

[28] "Now ***learn*** the **parable** from the **fig tree**:
when its **branch** has already become **tender** and puts forth its **leaves**,
you know that ***summer*** **is near**.

[29] Even so, you too, when you **see these things** happening,
recognize that **He is near**, *right* at the **door**.

[30] Truly **I say** to you, this ***generation*** will ***not*** **pass away**
until **all** these ***things*** **take place**.

[31] **Heaven** and **earth** will **pass away**, but **My words** will ***not*** **pass away**.

[32] But of **that day** or **hour** no one **knows**, not even the **angels** in heaven,
nor the **Son**, but the **Father** ***alone***.

[33] "**Take heed**, keep on the **alert**;
for you do **not know** when the ***appointed*** **time** will come.

[34] *It is* like **a man away** on a ***journey***, *who* upon **leaving** his **house**
and putting his **slaves** in **charge,** *assigning* to each one **his task**,
also commanded the **doorkeeper** to stay on the **alert**.

[35] Therefore, be on the **alert**—for you do **not know** when the **master** of the
house is **coming**, whether in the **evening**, at **midnight,**
or when the **rooster crows**, or in the **morning**—

[36] in case he should **come suddenly** and find you ***asleep***.

[37] What I say to you **I say** to all, '**Be** on the **alert**!'"

Message Summary
Events *Preceding* Messiah's Second Coming

A. **False Messiahs** and **false prophets** will **arise**, and will show ***signs*** and ***wonders***, in order to **lead astray**, if possible, the ***elect*** **of God** (13:21-22).

B. **After** the **great tribulation** there will be **cosmic disorder** and **disruption**:

THE **SUN** WILL BE **DARKENED** AND THE **MOON** WILL **NOT** GIVE **ITS LIGHT**,
AND THE **STARS** WILL BE **FALLING** from **heaven,**
and the **powers** that are in the **heavens** will be ***shaken*** (13:24-25).

Behold, the **day of the LORD** is **coming**,
cruel, with **fury** and **burning anger**, to make the **land** a ***desolation***;
And **He** will **exterminate** its **sinners** from it.

For the **stars of heaven** and their **constellations**
will **not flash** forth their **light;** the **sun** will be **dark** when it **rises**
and the **moon** will **not shed its light** (Isaiah 13:9-10).

C. **Then** they will **see** THE **SON OF MAN** **COMING** IN THE **CLOUDS** with **great** ***power*** and ***glory*** (13:26)

For just as the **lightning** comes from the ***east*** and **flashes** even to the ***west***,
so will the **coming** of the **Son of Man** be...

And then the **sign** of the **Son of Man** will **appear** in the **sky**,
and then all the **tribes** of the **earth** will ***mourn***,
and they will **see** the **SON OF MAN** **COMING** ON THE **CLOUDS** OF THE **SKY**
with ***power*** and **great** ***glory*** (Matthew 24:27, 30).

"But when **these things** begin to take place, **straighten up** and **lift up** your **heads**,
because **your** **redemption** is **drawing** ***near*** (Luke 21:28)."

"I kept looking in the **night visions**, and behold, with the **clouds** **of heaven**
One like a **Son of Man** was **coming**,
And **He** came up to the **Ancient of Days**
And was ***presented*** **before Him**.

"And **to** **Him** was given ***dominion***, ***glory*** and a ***kingdom***,
that **all** the **peoples, nations** and ***men*** *of every* **language** might **serve Him**.

His ***dominion*** is an **everlasting** ***dominion*** which will **not** **pass awa**y;
and **His** ***kingdom*** is one which will **not** be **destroyed** (Daniel 7:13-14).

D. And then **He** will **send forth** the **angels**, and will ***gather*** **together His elect** from the ***four winds***, from the **farthest end** of the **earth** to the **farthest end** of **heaven** (13:27).

And **He** will **send forth His angels** with A **GREAT** **TRUMPET**
and THEY WILL **GATHER** **TOGETHER** **His elect** from the ***four winds***,
from **one end** of the **sky** to the **other** (Matthew 24:31).

In ***that day*** **the LORD** will start ***His threshing***
from the flowing stream of the **Euphrates** to the brook of **Egypt,**
and **you** will be **gathered up** ***one*** **by** ***one***, **O sons** of **Israel.**

It will come about also in ***that day*** that a **great** **trumpet** will be **blown**,
and **those** who were perishing in the land of **Assyria**
and who were scattered in the land of **Egypt** will come
and **worship the LORD** in the **holy mountain** at **Jerusalem** (Isaiah 27:12-13).

"Do **not fear**, for **I am with you**; I will **bring** your **offspring** from the **east**,
And **gather you** from the **west**.

"I will say to the **north**, '**Give** *them* up!'
And to the **south**, 'Do ***not*** **hold** ***them*** **back**.'
Bring **My sons** from **afar** and **My daughters** from the **ends** of the **earth,**

Everyone who is **called** by **My name**, and whom **I have created** for **My glory**, Whom I have **formed,** even whom I have **made** (Isaiah 43:5-7)."

The **Parable** of the **Fig Tree**

Key Teachings

1. **Jesus exhorted His disciples** to **learn** from the **fig tree** regarding the **signs** of **His coming**, and of the **end** of **the age**. Just as they can **discern** the **coming *summer*** by the **fig tree's young tender shoots**, and the putting forth of its **leaves,** so too, when they begin to see the **events** that **He** just **predicted**, they are to **recognize** that "**He is near**, **right** at **the door** (Mark 13:28-29)."

2. **Jesus declared** that "this **generation**" would **not pass away** until **all** these **events** that **He** mentioned in the **Olivet discourse** take place (13:30). The word for **"generation"** refers to one's **contemporaries** that are **alive** at a **given time**. It can ***also*** refer to a **group** of people **descended** from a **common ancestor**. In our **context** tonight, a **double reference** is intended. When **Jesus** proclaims this **"generation,"** I believe **He** refers to **both**
   a) **the Jews living** in **Jesus' time** who would **live** to see the **destruction** of **Jerusalem,**
   b) and **the Jews** who will be **living** at the **time** of the **great tribulation**, who will **see** and **survive** these **catastrophic end time events** that ***precede*** **Messiah's second coming**. (**Bible Knowledge Commentary**, pg. 172)

3. **Jesus proclaimed** that **no one knows** the **day** or the **hour** of **His return**, **except His Father**. **He likened Himself** to a **man** who went away on a **journey,** and left each of **His servants** in **charge** of a **task.** Before leaving **He** also **warned His doorkeeper** to be on the **alert** at **all times**, lest **He come** and find them **"asleep."**

   This short **parable** is a stern ***warning*** to **believers** in every generation to **"be alert"** at all times. **Believers** are not to **"slumber,"** or be **spiritually negligent** regarding the **tasks** assigned to them by the **master** of the **house**. They are to be **good stewards** of the **grace** and **gospel of God** (I Cor. 4:1), and to be **watchful, prayerful**, and **alert** for the **return** of the **master** (13:34-37).

Closing Comments