

# Mark: The Mysterious Messiah

## Week 24: Mark 13:3-37

**Introductory Exercise:** How can you tell when someone is making normal promises, being hyperbolic, and being metaphorical?

When the four disciples come to Jesus, what is their main concern? What is the warning that Jesus offers as a response? What kinds of things might make a jittery disciple think the end is here, according to Jesus, and how does he advise that the disciples treat such "signs"?

In Mark 13:9, Jesus turns from what will happen to the nations to what will happen to the disciples. What sort of life can the disciples of Jesus expect, and how should those disciples interpret that life? What happens to the traditional ties of Israelite identity in Jesus's warning? What promise wraps up this chaotic paragraph?

When, in 13:14, Jesus quotes Daniel, how does your translation render it? What was the original "desolating sacrilege," and what does Jesus say about the abomination to come? What things will happen as fallout when the real "end of things" comes about?

In Mark 13:24-26, when Jesus quotes Joel 2:10 and Daniel 7:13, what act of God (not the manifestation of that act) is Jesus pointing to? What does all of this have to do with the disciples' original question in 13:4? Do you think these original texts (and the use to which Jesus puts them) are mainly journalistic reportage, mainly metaphors for spiritual events, or mainly something completely different?

Reading Mark 13:28-31 alongside Mark 13:1-4 and everything that lies between, what kind of reading makes most sense of this teaching of Jesus? What reasons would you give for preferring that reading over the alternatives that exist out in the world of Bible-readers?

In Mark 13:32-37, how does Jesus wrap up this teaching, and how does his warning about "the day and the hour" here fit with what he said about "this generation" in the previous block of teaching?