

### **Jesus' Farewell Prophecy (Part 3-Mrk 13:24-27; Matt 24:29-31; Lk 21:25-28)**

- These three verses have been the focus of many varying Bible interpretations
- Many of these interpretations rest a great deal on current world events
- 13:1-13 Jesus spoke of the destruction of Jerusalem and warned of deception
- 13: 14-23 Jesus' specific sign was the abomination that causes desolation
- Finally vvs. 14-23 we saw the Great Tribulation as a great historical reality

#### **I. A Turbulence in Nature (Mark 13:24,25; Matt 24:29; Luke 21:25,26)**

- After the Destruction: Jesus prophesied what would happen immediately next
- After Jerusalem's destruction Jesus prophesied cataclysmic events in the heavens
- Compelling reasons to attach a more figurative meaning to these verses are:
  - 1) Jesus discouraged the use of literal, cosmic events to be seen as sign of his return
  - 2) No other section of prophecy is so indebted to Scriptural language & imagery
    - "There shall be signs": language goes beyond limited language of the great tribulation in AD 30-70, conditions of earth until times of the Gentiles completed
    - These verses symbolically set forth unsettled and turbulent state of world powers
  - 3) Old Testament passages often used figurative language for tumultuous times

#### **II. The Sign of the Son of Man (Mark 13:26,27)**

- The Son of Man in heaven (Matt 24:30) means when Christ appears it will be clear
- "Then will he appear"=to be brought forth into light, to become evident, to appear
- Two positions: some see this passage as fulfilled at the destruction of the temple
- Others believe that this text testifies of Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> advent to judge the world
- A possible solution: "And then" phrase is flexible & can be used for future events
- Tribulation is to come upon the nation of Israel. This period will be extended period of time characterized by unrest and instability & judgment on the world
- The great tribulation period will be brought to an end at Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> advent of Christ in power & glory as the Lord is accompanied by angels gathering the elect

#### **III The Drawing Near of Redemption (Luke 21: 28)**

- Luke's account: disciples were to lift up their heads for their redemption was near
- "these things" lead some to see these events in the light of future signs & events
- Two major problems: Jesus pointedly said that there are no signs for His second return. He specifically said no one would know the hour of his return (Matt 24:26)