

## Message #49

## Mark 13:14-27

Probably the greatest tracker in the United States is Tom Brown Jr.. He was born in 1950 and at age 7 was taught by an Apache elder how to survive and track in the wilderness with no manufactured tools or equipment. He is so skilled at tracking lost people, dangerous animals and fugitives from law that he actually works with law enforcement officials, including the FBI. He has actually started a school called "Tom Brown Jr. Tracker School." He is very knowledgeable as to how to spot physical signs and determine follow them.

God wants His people to be knowledgeable trackers. He wants all of His people to be able to spot certain signs, and use their knowledge to follow Him. That is very clear from this amazing passage of Scripture in Mark.

Christ's disciples wanted to know what the signs would be that He was coming again. So Christ obliged and He started giving them a list of things for which they could look and track:

- 1) In Mark 13:5-13, Jesus described what to look for in the first half of the Tribulation.
- 2) In Mark **13:14-23**, Jesus describes what to look for in the second half of the Tribulation.
- 3) In Mark **13:24-27**, Jesus describes what to look for at the end of the Tribulation.

We are living in exciting times, prophetically speaking. This is the time we want to be carefully studying the Bible because there are things shaping up and there are clouds forming that clearly have literal futuristic ramifications.

We are not living in the Tribulation and we will not be in the Tribulation (I Thess. 5:9). We are living in the Church Age or the Age of Grace. **The Church is not Israel, the Church has not replaced Israel and the Church will not end the way things will end for Israel.** We will be raptured before the Great Tribulation occurs (I Thess. 4:13-18).

The Great Tribulation is a seven year period of time in which God pours out His wrath on a God-mocking, Christ-rejecting world. It will be a scary time in which God just sends one devastating judgment after another. During this time, He will also regather Israel nationally just prior to the second coming of Jesus Christ. This seven year time frame was clearly predicted by Daniel (Dan. 9:27).

Jesus was in Jerusalem and four of His Jewish disciples, Peter, James, John and Andrew (Mark 13:3-4), were questioning Him about the whole future program of God for Israel. This discussion has nothing to do with the Church. This is all about Israel.

So Jesus started telling them about the horrors of the Tribulation that would lead to His return. He said that there would be many false Christ's (13:6); wars—both civil and national and international (13:6-7); there would be a series of earthquakes (13:8); there would be horrible famines (13:8); there would be a major political effort to arrest and question those connected to Jesus Christ (13:9-11); there would be family betrayals (13:12) and there will be a hatred of any connected to Jesus Christ (13:13).

This was just the beginning of the trouble, but then things will turn to Israel and things will become very difficult for Israel during the Tribulation. There is a lot right now going on in Europe. What very few realize is all of this European activity will eventually unite and turn against Israel. The stage is being set right now. What Jesus teaches here is this:

**JESUS CHRIST CLEARLY REVEALS AND PREDICTS WHAT WILL SPECIFICALLY HAPPEN IN THE TRIBULATION TO ISRAEL AND HE PROMISES THAT AT THE END OF TIME-REGULATED TRIBULATION HE WILL RETURN AND WILL REGATHER HER AS A NATION AND BRING HER TO HER LAND.**

These are specific Biblical signs spelled out for tracking purposes. God wants His people to know these things and look for these things because these things will happen.

Now there are basically three revelatory facts revealed in this passage:

**REVELATORY FACT #1** – Jesus reveals what will happen in the middle of the Tribulation.  
**13:14-18**

Now the previous discussion of what will happen in the Tribulation for the most part occurs in the first half of it. But it is very clear that something happens in the middle of the Tribulation that changes the entire dynamic for Israel.

Notice how **verse 14** begins with a very sharp, contrasting, adversative conjunction “but.” In sharp contrast to the other signs that will occur worldwide, there is one true sign that Israel had better know and be able to see.

**Verse 14** predicts that something will happen in the future that Jewish people will be able to see. It is called “the Abomination of Desolation.” That phrase comes straight out of the book of Daniel, which is something Matthew specifically says, “Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation spoke of through Daniel the prophet standing in the holy place...” (Matt. 24:15). Daniel mentions this in Daniel 9:27; Daniel 11:31; Daniel 12:11.

In Daniel 9:27 we learn that some political leader will make some peace agreement with Israel at the beginning of the seven year period, known as the Tribulation. In the middle of the seven year period or 3 ½ years into the seven year period, he will put a stop to the peace agreement and do something abominable.

In Daniel 11:31 Daniel predicts that he will desecrate the Temple and “they” (Antichrist and False Prophet) will do away with the sacrifices.

In Daniel 12:11 that from the time this happens until the time when Israel is safe in her land will be a period of 1290 days or 3 ½ years plus 30 days.

What we learn from the Apostle Paul is that this political leader will actually sit in the Temple of Jerusalem that will obviously be rebuilt and he will say he is God and demand that he be worshipped as God (II Thess. 2:3-4).

In the Bible there are four Temples connected to Jerusalem:

- 1) Solomon's first pre exile Temple that was built by Solomon (Kings and Chronicles)
- 2) Zerubbabel's second post exile Temple (Ezek.1-6; John 2:20) that was renovated by Herod.
- 3) The Third rebuilt Temple that will be the Antichrist Temple (Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:15; II Thess. 2:4; Rev. 11:1-2)
- 4) The fourth temple which is the Millennial Temple described by Ezekiel (Ezek. 40-48).

This is a reference to the third temple that will be rebuilt and will be infiltrated by the Antichrist.

The Apostle John says in Revelation that if the Jews refuse to worship him they will be killed (Rev. 12:15). He will demand that all worship him and all receive his mark on their right hand or forehead or else they will not be able to buy or sell anything (Rev. 12:16-17).

This is the Abomination of Desolation. This is the moment when the Antichrist sits in the Temple of Jerusalem and demands that people worship him or they die.

Now Jesus informs His people in **Mark 13:14** that this will happen and he says when you see this man go into the Temple in Jerusalem and "is standing" where he should not be standing, then all Jews need to flee the area as fast as they can. Why? Because if they don't he will kill them. Notice the text says, "let the reader understand." This covers all who read this at any time. There was a near application to Jerusalem when Titus went in and destroyed it in AD 70; but there is also a far Antichrist application for the Tribulation. The reader needs to understand this.

Now we believe that somewhere in Europe there is a man, who is alive right now, who, at the present time, is some small-time political player. Ultimately he will rise up to become the most powerful man to ever live in the world. We don't know his name, but we do know his title. He is called the Antichrist.

Now Jesus says you better be able to read this sign because when this man surfaces, if you are a Jew you need to spot him and take immediate action. Jesus gives four specific warnings to Jews living in Israel:

**Warning #1** - If you are on a housetop, do not go into the house to get anything, just leave.  
**13:15**

Housetop roofs were flat and usually there was an outside ladder or staircase so you could access the roof. If you are on the roof when this happens, don't dilly-dally and go into the house to get something, just get out of there.

**Warning #2** - If you are in the field, do not go back and get a coat, just leave. **13:16**

A coat was considered to be “essential gear” for survival. The point here is if you take time to try and get your coat, you won’t survive. You have a chance without it; but no chance if you go back for it.

**Warning #3** - If a woman is pregnant or nursing a baby it will be perilous because you will not want anything to slow you down. **13:17**

A “woe” judgment is the most severe disaster that God causes. This woe disaster will occur “in those days,” which is a reference to the days of the eschatological days of the Tribulation. Specifically this refers to the eschatological days of the “Abomination of Desolation.” This will be a “woe” time for Israel.

**Warning #4** - Pray and hope that this does not happen in winter because the winter weather could slow you down and you need to get out fast. **13:18**

There are certainly a couple of reasons why you don’t want this happening in winter. First, it would slow down your travel and second you may have left your coat in your house. Sometimes in brutal winter weather, one has to hunker down. When the Antichrist unleashes his satanic attack against Israel, there will be no time to hunker down.

**REVELATORY FACT #2** – Jesus reveals what Israel needs to know while in the Tribulation. **13:19-23**

Now the “for” that begins **verse 19** gives reasons why Jews need to get out of Jerusalem as fast as they can.

**Reason #1** - Because this horror of the Tribulation will be like nothing that has ever existed in the world or ever will exist again. **13:19**

Now this is an incredible prediction of horror against Israel because there have been some terrifying things that have happened in history.

For example, when Titus took his Roman army to Jerusalem, Josephus says he killed 1,100,000 Jews and captured 97,000. He claims that so many Jews were crucified that they ran out of wood for crosses.

We know from 1939 to 1945, Adolph Hitler was responsible for killing 6 million Jews. These were horrible crimes and horrible times for Israel.

Jesus predicts there is one more horrific time that will occur. There has never been anything that comes close to it. No matter how much Israel has suffered, this will be far worse. That is scary.

**Reason #2** - Because of those days of the Tribulation were not time-regulated, all Jews would be exterminated. **13:20**

Jeremiah said that there is nothing in history that will compare to the time of Jacob's distress (Jer. 30:7). There is no day or time like it.

When God's people see the abomination of desolation, they need to move out of Israel and move out fast. In spite of all of the horrible things that have happened to the Jews, none are as bad as this.

Now Christ again warns Israel in **verse 22** that there will be many "false Christs" and "false prophets" who will surface who will be satanically empowered to do "signs and wonders." But do not fall for it.

During the Tribulation, Israel will be looking for help from someone and Satan will surface many false Christs and false prophets who will try to gain their trust. They are not to be trusted. They will turn out to be satanic liars who will promote the causes of the Antichrist.

**The true Messiah will come in the sky, not from here on earth.** Jesus says in **verse 23** that Israel needs to take heed of what He has said because He has told you "everything" in advance.

Two things will dominate Israel during this part of the Tribulation: 1) Persecution; 2) Deception.

Jesus Christ has taught them every sign they need to spot. He has told them everything they need to know in advance. We need to stay focused on carefully and accurately understanding the believing the Bible.

**REVELATORY FACT #3** – Jesus reveals what will happen at the end of the Tribulation.  
**13:24-27**

Now Jesus carefully lays out what will happen at the end of the Tribulation:

**Reality #1** - The sun will be darkened. **13:24a**

**Reality #2** - The moon will not shine. **13:24b**

**Reality #3** - The stars will be falling from heaven. **13:25a**

**Reality #4** - The heavens will shake. **13:25b**

**Reality #5** - The people will see the Son of man coming in the clouds. **13:26**

He will come with great power and great glory. The specific description of this is found in Revelation 19:11-16. This will be a spectacular moment when Jesus Christ comes to take over the world.

**Reality #6** - He will send forth His angels to gather all His elect from earth and heaven. **13:27**

It is interesting that we read “from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven.” One obvious observation we may make is that there are the elect people on earth and there are the elect people in heaven that Jesus Christ will gather to be with Him when He returns.

This will be the time when all of Israel will be resurrected and brought to the land (Dan. 12:2). Jews from everywhere will be brought by Jesus Christ to share in this glorious moment.

One of the real threats today is the threat of religion that leads people away from truth. The truth is Jesus Christ is the only one who can save a sinner. No one can be saved by their works, by their religion, by their goodness, by their attempts to keep the O.T. law, by their baptism or by their denomination of catechism. Salvation is found only and solely in Jesus Christ. Do not be deceived or fooled. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.