

## The End of the Age – Part 1 (Mark 13:1-37)

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### **The Layered Landscape of Biblical Prophecy**

What the biblical prophets saw as a single event often has **multiple fulfillments** in the history of redemption, with each fulfillment making up the whole. This is known as the **prophetic perspective**. For example:

- The coming of the **Messiah** (cf. Isa. 9:6-7 with 53:4-5, 11)
- The **Day** of the LORD (cf. Joel 2:28-32 with Acts 2:16-21; Rom. 10:13 and Mark 13:24-25; Rev. 6:12-17)

### **The Structure of the End of the Age (13:1-4)**

Three important points about the structure of Mark 13:

1. The primary focus of v. 5-23 is on the destruction of **Jerusalem** and the **Temple** which occurred in A.D. 70.
2. Yet, the judgment of Jerusalem and the Temple and the judgment which is coming upon the world at the **return** of **Christ**, are related – the one (the judgment of **Jerusalem**) being a type of the other (the judgment of the **world**).
3. The nearly 2,000 year gap between these two events is known in biblical terminology as the “**last days**” (1 John 2:18) or the “**end** of the **age**” (1 Cor. 10:11; 1 Pet. 4:7), and is marked by the signs/phenomena described in Mark 13.

### **The Signs of the End of the Age (13:5-13)**

What are the signs which mark the end of the age (this present age between the two comings of Christ)? Jesus mentions four:

1. **False prophets** and **false messiahs** (13:5-6)
2. **Political unrest** (13:7-8a)
3. **Natural disasters** (13:8b)
4. **Persecution, proclamation, perseverance** (13:9-13)

It is due to these phenomena which will mark the entirety of this age of tribulation that Jesus issues one exhortation – **be ready**.