

# The Future According to Jesus (Part 5)

## Mark 13:3-37



### THE FUTURE ACCORDING TO JESUS Mark 13:3-37

### Where Are We During the Tribulation?

- The Book of Revelation
  - 1-3 – the church is on earth; the word *church* occurs 19x
  - 4-5 – the elders, who represent the church, are already in heaven.
  - 19:1-10 – the marriage supper of the Lamb
  - 19:11-21 – the church returns with Christ at His Second Coming.

### The Basic Organization

- 1) 13:5-13 — The Beginning of Birth Pangs
  - From Christ's ascension to the midpoint of the 7-year Tribulation
- 2) 13:14-23 – The Great Tribulation
  - From the midpoint of the Tribulation to the end
- 3) 13:24-27 – The Second Coming
- 4) 13:28-37 – An exhortation to be alert and to be ready

### I. The Beginning of Birth Pangs (5-13)

- A. False Christs, Prophets, and Predictions (5-6)
- B. War (7-8a)
- C. Natural Disasters (8b-c)
- D. Intense Persecution (9-13)
  - 1) False Religion (9a)
  - 2) Secular Authorities (9b)
  - 3) Personal Relationships (12-13)
- E. The Global Gospel (10)

### The Tribulation: Its Basic Structure

- 7 Years
- Beginning
  - Shortly after the Rapture
  - The Man of Sin Is Revealed (2 Th. 2:1ff)
- Mid-point (3 ½ years)
  - Some kind of significant event (Matt. 24:14-23)
  - Cf. Dan. 9:25; Rev. 11:2-3; 12:14; 13:5
  - Last 3 ½ years: "The Great Tribulation"
- End
  - The Return of Christ

### II. The Great Tribulation (14-23)

- Cf. Matt. 24:15 - "Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand)
- Daniel 9:24-27

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### Seventy Weeks

- Seventy sevens
- Context = 70 units of seven years (490 years):
  - 1) Daniel has been thinking about years (9:1-2).
  - 2) Daniel has been thinking about why 70 years of captivity.
    - 490 years when Israel did not observe the Sabbatical year
      - 2 Ch. 36:20-23- Those who had escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon, and they were servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths. All the days of its desolation it kept sabbath until seventy years were complete.
    - 70 years of exile
    - Another 490 years (or weeks of years), until the coming of Messiah the Prince.
  - 3) If you use 490 days or 490 weeks, it is impossible to fit the events described into that time frame.

### Six Results

- 1) To finish the transgression
- 2) To make an end of sin.
- 3) To make atonement for iniquity
- 4) To bring in everlasting righteousness
- 5) To seal up vision and prophecy
- 6) To anoint the most holy place

### Which Decree?

- Decree of Cyrus
  - 538 B.C. (Ezra 1:2-4; 6:3-5)
- Decree of Artaxerxes to Ezra
  - 458 B.C. (Ezra 7:11-26)
- Decree of Artaxerxes to Nehemiah
  - 444 B.C. (Neh. 2:5-8,17,18)

### The Threefold Division

- 7 weeks = 49 years
- 62 weeks = 434 years
- Total: 69 weeks = 483 years
- One final week = 7 years

### The Famous 70th Week

- Only two choices:
  - 1) The 70th week began immediately following the 69th week.
  - 2) The 70th week is still future.

### The Future 70th Week

- Arguments for [from Hoehner]:
  - a) The six promises in 9:24 could not have all been fulfilled at Christ's death.
  - b) Messiah was killed not during the 69th week but after.
  - c) The person who confirms the covenant in 9:27 cannot be Christ.
  - d) Christ's death did not cause the sacrificial system to cease immediately.
  - e) The abomination of desolation has not yet occurred.
  - f) The person described in 9:27 corresponds well with the person in Rev. 12-13 who has not appeared and has not been judged as described in Rev. 19.