

## Introduction:

With so much going on in the world, it is tempting to fall prey to fear. Instead, let us remember that Jesus will ultimately put an end to all evil and come for his people. You can find Pastor Mark's sermon notes [here](#)<sup>1</sup> or listen to the sermon by clicking [here](#).<sup>2</sup>



## Scripture:

Please read [Mark 13:24-27 in your bible, or click here](#).

## So What?

In Mark 13:24-27, Jesus explains that he, the Son of Man, will return in triumph. He introduces this new topic with the word, "but" (24a) contrasting the false messiah who will perform miraculous signs with the dramatic coming of the true Messiah. It also indicates that this event is different from the destruction of the temple.

**Jesus' coming is his promise (to the church), and the gathering of believers to himself is our hope.**

Jesus' return will be accompanied by a variety of cosmic disorders (24b-25). The sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall. It will appear as if there is an earthquake in heaven. The Old Testament prophets described these events (Isaiah 34:2, 4; Ezekiel 23:7-8; Isaiah 13:10, 13) as part of God's judgment on the nations. It appears that the heavens will reflect what is transpiring on earth. Jesus' return will be visible (26). Jesus will return personally, visibly, and bodily as the glorified Son of Man (Daniel 7:13). He also explains that he will send angelic messengers to gather the elect from the ends of the earth (27). Jesus will gather his people together so they might share in this time of triumph.

Jesus' preview of the future ought not lure us to calculate when Christ will return, nor to fear what will happen. Rather, it should encourage us that he will come to claim his own. His coming is his promise, and the gathering of believers to him is our hope.<sup>3</sup>

## What Now?

1. As we see all the turmoil that goes on in the world, it can be tempting to fall prey to fear. Yet Jesus has said with certainty that he will come to gather his people, so we should take hope in the fact that he will return in triumph. Even if we die before the time of the rapture, we who are in Christ have an eternal life, and that is something no-one can take from us. "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" (Psalms 56:3-4 ESV)
2. Since we have this great hope, let us share it with others. When people are trapped in the cycle of crisis and fear that is so common these days, be vocal about your hope in Christ, explaining how this hope is available for all who believe and accept Christ. "As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry." (2 Timothy 4:5 ESV)
3. While this passage is a message of hope for the saved, it should be received as a warning to the lost. Those who have not received Christ will not be gathered with the elect; this should be sobering. If you are waiting to accept Christ as your personal savior for some reason, do not delay. We do not know the day or the hour of Christ's return, nor can anyone be sure they will live to see another day. Accept Jesus' offer of salvation and the promises of hope and forgiveness that come with it. [Romans 10: 9-13](#)

<sup>1</sup> <https://wheelsms.wordpress.com/2016/02/07/jesus-will-return-in-triumph/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.firstcentralbaptist.com/sermons/gospelofmark.html>

<sup>3</sup> This section is adapted from Pastor Mark's sermon notes.