

## “Ready or Not Here I Come” Mark 13:28-37

### THE “PROBLEM” OF V.30

1. Verse 30 is a troubling text for many.
2. Much of the disagreement revolves around interpreting “this generation” and “all these things”.
3. Various options have been proposed:
  - “This generation” refers to the people of Israel. I.e., Israel as a nation will not pass away until Christ returns.
  - “This generation” is not about chronology. It describes a ‘type’ of a person, not a ‘time’ of a person.  
-Jesus is describing a person’s character as rejecting of Christ; dark, wicked, unbelieving.
  - “These things” don’t refer to Christ’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming, but to another significant redemptive event, such as:  
-the coming of Christ to His throne in Heaven (His ascension. Acts 1:6-11)  
-the coming of Christ through the Holy Spirit (aka. Pentecost. Acts 2:1f)

### THE “OLIVET DISCOURSE.” Mark 13 (// Matthew 24-25; Luke 21:5-36)

1. Jesus foretold the destruction of the Jewish temple. v.2
2. Later, at the Mount of Olives, several disciples privately asked Jesus about this matter. v.3
3. Their question included two parts. v.4  
→ When will *these things* be? What will be the sign when all *these things* are about to be accomplished?
4. Jesus’ answer is one of the most debated, confusing, and misunderstood texts in the Gospels.
5. A few keys to following the Olivet Discourse...
  - What did the disciples ask? v.4: Their question included two parts:  
→ When will *these things* be? What will be the sign when all *these things* are about to be accomplished?  
-“*these things*” – here is a phrase specifically referring to the destruction of the Jewish temple.
  - What did Jesus answer? He answered about the temple’s destruction AND about His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming. Mt 24:3
  - How did Jesus answer? The Olivet Discourse is not in temporal sequence.
6. A basic outline:
  - v.5-23: Jesus answered about the coming destruction of the temple which would happen in 70 AD.  
-national devastation for Israel, the temple desecrated (v.14), a time of terrible tribulation (v.19)
  - v.24-27: Jesus answered about His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. **SEE v.24**  
-Imagery changes from local to cosmic, from scattering to gathering
  - v.28-31: Jesus returned to his answer about the events of 70 AD. **SEE these things v.29, 30**  
-“This generation” will not pass away... until Jerusalem is defeated and the temple destroyed.
  - v.32-36: Jesus returned to his answer about His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. **SEE v.32**  
-Hence, the parable of the returning landowner.

### JESUS THE PASTOR SHEPHERD: TAKE-AWAYS FROM THE OLIVET DISCOURSE

1. See that no one leads you astray. v.5-6
2. Do not be alarmed or anxious. v.7, 11
3. Be on guard. Stay awake. v.9, 23, 33, 35, 37
  - Matthew 24:37-39: For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

2 Timothy 3:1-7: But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. <sup>2</sup> For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. <sup>6</sup> For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, <sup>7</sup> always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.

2 Timothy 4:1-5: I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: <sup>2</sup> preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. <sup>3</sup> For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, <sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. <sup>5</sup> As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.