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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Mark 13:28-37
Lesson #33
Be on the Alert
05/10/2020



Biblical distinctives in a World of Differences

A linear view of history

- There is a beginning and an end.
- There is a final judgment and afterlife
- Ultimate hope lies beyond this life.

1

The “End Times” (Matt.24-25)

24:4-14

“The beginning of birth pangs”

- ✓ False Christs will come
- ✓ Wars & rumors of wars
- ✓ Famine & earthquakes
- ✓ Believers hated by all
- ✓ Conflict within the ch.
- ✓ False prophets
- ✓ Many are mislead
- ✓ Increased lawlessness
- ✓ Love will grow cold
- ✓ World evangelism

24:15-28

“The Great Tribulation”

Intensified

- ✓ Disrespect
- ✓ Disturbance
- ✓ Deception

24:29-31

Second Coming of Christ

24:32-25:30

5 Parables

- ★ Fig Tree
- ★ Thief
- ★ Servants
- ★ Virgins
- ★ Talents

2

“Be alert”

Matthew 24

“³ Tell us, **when** will these things be, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of **the end of the age?**”

“⁴² Therefore **be on the alert**, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.”

“⁴⁴ For this reason you **be ready** too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.”

Matthew 25

“¹³ Be **on the alert** then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.”

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Matthew 24
Parable of the fig tree

“³² Now learn the parable from the **fig tree**: when its branch has already become tender, and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; ³³ even so you too, when you see **all these things**, recognize that He is near, right at the door. ³⁴ Truly I say to you, **this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.**”

“the most embarrassing verse in the Bible”

The Essential C.S. Lewis p.385

“generation” (nation or present time)

The meaning of the Greek word depend on the context - “Israel will be present for the “end game””.

“all these things” (the signs of his coming)

Every generation will see the signs that the 2nd coming of Christ is near.

4

Predicted dates of Christ's return and the END

70	1533 (Oct.19)	1763 (Feb.28)	1880	1954 (Dec.21)	1995
247	1534 (April 5)	1780 (May 19)	1881	1957 (Apr.23)	1996 (Dec.13)
365	1544	1789	1890	1958	1997 *8
380	1555	1790	1891	1959 (Apr.22)	1998 *15
500	1556 (July 22)	1792	1895	1960	1999 *36
793 (April 6)	1583 (April 28)	1794	1896	1962 (Feb.4)	2000 *59
800	1584	1795 (Nov.19)	1899	1966	2001 *17
806	1588	1801	1900	1967 (Aug.20)	2002 *6
848	1600	1805	1901	1969 (Aug.9)1972	2003 *6
870 (March 25)	1603	1814 (Dec.25)	1908 (April 23)	1973	2004
992	1623 1624	1820 (Oct.14)	1910 (May 18)	1974	2005 *3
995	(Feb.1)	1832	1911	1975	2006 (Feb.12)
1000	1648 1654	1836	1914 (Oct.1)	1976	2007 *4
1033	1656	1843 (April 28)	1915	1977	2008 (Mar. 21)
1184	1657	1844 (Mar.21)	1918	1978	2009
1186 (Sept.23)	1658	1845	1919 (Dec.17)	1980 (April.1)	2010
1260	1660	1846	1925 (Feb.13)	1981 (June 28)	2011 (Dec.31)
1284	1666 1673	1847 (April 7)	1928	1982 (Mar.10)	2012 (Dec.21)
1290	1688	1849	1934	1983	2017
1306	1689	1851	1935	1984 (Oct.2)	2020
1335	1694	1856	1936	1985 (Mar.25)	2022
1367	1697	1862	1938	1986	2023
1370	1700	1863	1941	1987 (Apr.29)	2025
1420 (Feb.14)	1708	1867	1943	1988 (Sep.15)	2026
1496	1716	1868	1945 (Sept.21)	1989 (Sept.30)	2033
1504	1719 (April5)	1869	1947	1990 (April 23)	2035
1524 (Feb.20)	1734	1870 (June 28)	1950	1991 (Mar.31)	2037
1525	1736 (Oct.13)	1872	1952	1992 (April 26)	2040
1528 (May 27)	1757	1874	1953 (Jan.9)	1993 (Nov.14)	
1532	1761 (April 5)	1878	1953	1994 (Sept.29)	

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The Rapture index (signs of the END)

1 False Christs	24 Persia (Iran)		
2 Occult	25 The False Prophet	High 159	2003
3 Satanism	26 Nuclear Nations	High 177	2004
4 Unemployment	27 Global Turmoil		
5 Inflation	28 Arms Proliferation	High 157	2005
6 Interest Rates	29 Liberalism	High 161	2006
7 The Economy	30 The Peace Process		
8 Oil Supply/Price	31 Kings of the East		
9 Debt and Trade	32 Mark of the Beast		
10 Financial unrest	33 Beast Government		
11 Leadership	34 The Antichrist		
12 Drug abuse	35 Date Settings		
13 Apostasy	36 Volcanoes		
14 Supernatural	37 Earthquakes		
15 Moral Standards	38 Wild Weather		
16 Anti-Christian	39 Civil Rights		
17 Crime	40 Famine		
18 Ecumenism	41 Drought		
19 Globalism	42 Plagues		
20 Tribulation Temple	43 Climate		
21 Anti-Semitism	44 Food Supply		
22 Israel	45 Floods		
23 Gog (Russia)			



A Brief History of the Apocalypse

www.abhota.info

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What does it mean to be alert?

External Trials:

1# Don't be surprised by tribulations.

- We may feel left alone in our circumstances.

Habakkuk 1:2 "How long, O Lord, will I call for help, And You will not hear? I cry out to You, "Violence!" Yet You do not save."

"How Long Oh Lord"
The Biblical drama of waiting



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What does it mean to be alert?

External Trials:

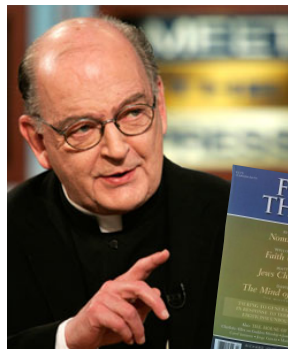
1# Don't be surprised by tribulations.

- This world and its inhabitance are broken.

1 Pet. 4:12 "Beloved, **do not be surprised** at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes on you for your testing, **as thought some strange thing were happening** to you."

- **Triumphalism** - (things will evolve and get better as time goes on) **is a myth.**
Enlightenment - science and technology,
Evangelicalism - Christianizing the world.

8



Richard John Neuhaus

"Idolatry is trying to bring in God's Kingdom before its time and without its King."

It is popular with both the political right and left.

9

"Illegal aliens have always been a problem in the United States. Ask any native American."

Robert Orden
(Comedy writer)



10

Make America great again for who?



11

Last weeks lesson

What should we expect of God for broken people in a broken world?

Luke 12:31 "But seek for His kingdom, and these things shall be added to you."

- We are not caught off guard but are prepared and confident that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.
- We are strengthened in our inner man to endure (not escape), and be salt & light (not part of the stress & darkness).

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- Mark combines two parables in Matthew helping us get the point.

Mark 13

"33 Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time is. 34 It is like a man, away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. 35 Therefore, be on the alert — for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, at cock crowing, or in the morning — 36 lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. 37 And what I say to you I say to all, 'Be on the alert!'"

- Matthew provides details.

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Matthew 24 Parable of the guardian

"42 Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. 43 But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and **would not have allowed his house to be broken into**. 44 For this reason you be ready too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will."

What does it mean to be alert?

Internal Temptations:

#2 Don't be slack while unrestrained.

- How do we handle freedom? no immediate feedback. Rom.6 "You are not your own."
- Fear is an open door for thieves - "fake news" & "conspiracy theories".

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What does it mean to be alert?

External Trials:

1# Don't be surprised by tribulations.

Internal Temptations:

#2 Don't be slack while unrestrained.

- In each of these parables the Master is GONE and the servants are left feeling "alone" like Jesus on the cross.
- How do we handle freedom? no immediate feedback. Rom.6 "You are not your own."
- Fear is an open door for thieves - "fake news" & "conspiracy theories".

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"Don't believe everything you read on the internet just because it has a respected name and face attached."

Abraham Lincoln



16



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17

Matthew 24

“45 Who then is the **faithful** and **sensible** slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? 46 Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. 47 Truly I say to you, that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

48 But if that **evil** slave says in his heart, ‘My master is not coming for a long time,’ 49 and shall begin to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards; 50 **the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him** and at an hour which he does not know, 51 and shall cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; weeping shall be there and the gnashing of teeth.”

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*This parable relates to
separating the sheep from the goats within Israel
as perhaps do the teachings of Jesus in John 6 & 10.*

John 6:37

“all that **the Father gives Me** shall come to Me,”

John 10:27

“**My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me;**”

These verses may speak of the (already) believing remnant within Israel who will recognize the Messiah and follow him.

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What does it mean to be alert?

External Trials:

#1 Don't be shaken by tribulations.

Internal Temptations:

#2 Don't be slack while unsupervised.

- At times like this we may be shaken by our circumstances and feel as though it makes little difference what we do.
- Watching & waiting is not to exclude working and worshiping.
(Parable of Virgins and Talents are coming up)
- Don't be fooled or foolish but shelter in place, be salt and light. **BE ALERT.**

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