# **The Gospel According to St. Mark**

**Mark 13:24-37**

**Concordia Commentary – Dr. James Voelz, 2019**

## **Mark 13:24-27 - In Those Days…**

* V.25
  + Powers
    - Ephesians 1:21
    - 1 Peter 3:22
    - Thomas Winger declares such powers as, “spiritual forces, particularly the evil ones (Ephesians 2:2, 6:12), who are subject to the exalted Christ’s power and authority.”
      * 2 Kings 17:16
    - However, these powers are also represented by the stars and other bodies
* V.26
  + Son of Man
    - Jesus has used this since 2:10 as a self-designation
      * Used as an introduction to each of the passion narratives
        + 8:31(34-38)

Angels of v.38 the powers??

Possible but unlikely

* + - * + 9:31
        + 10:33-34
  + The connection to Daniel 7:13-14
  + Revelation 6:13
* V. 27
  + God’s elect
    - 13:20
  + Three prepositional phrases convey “from everywhere”
    - Zechariah 2:11
    - Deuteronomy 30:4
    - The gathering may include both:
      * Those still alive at Jesus’ return = from the ends of the earth
      * Those already dead at Jesus’ return = from the ends of heaven
        + 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17
* Meaning
  + Judgment is not the focus here.
    - Gathering of the elect
    - No mention of destruction
  + Joel 2:31-32
* Fulfillment
  + Step 1
    - Jesus predicts that after tribulations people will see the Son of Man accompanied by heavenly signs leading to further developments.
      * What takes place in Jesus’ crucifixion?
        + His presence
        + The sun darkens
        + Earthquake and the temple curtain torn from top down
        + A gathering of people from everywhere at Pentecost
      * Acts 2:16-21
  + Step 2
    - Jesus’ ministry and mission are a foreshadowing of the final reign and rule of God.
      * 1 Corinthians 10:11
      * Although fulfilled in Jesus, the best (or worst) is yet to come!
        + There is time for people to hear the Good News and repent before the final judgment takes place.
  + Larger Context
    - The glorious coming of the Son of Man in Scripture
      * In the OT, prophets foretold the coming of Yahweh in wrath and grace, judgment and salvation.
      * They also saw God act in history
        + In Judgement on those who challenged God (and His people)
        + In grace to bless His people and bring them back from exile

Isaiah 14:25-26

* + - * This is what we see in Jesus’ ministry
        + Yet judgment/damnation is restrained
      * With events prior to, and the destruction of the temple…
        + Full and final judgement is restrained.
        + When the temple is destroyed, there is no visible glory of the Son of Man who comes in personal judgement or judgement on the whole earth.

2 Peter 3:9

## **Mark 13:28-31 – What did you learn?**

* V.28
  + Is this the same fig tree from 11:13-14, 20?
  + Watch out Jerusalem!
* V.29
  + These things?
    - The signs preceding the destruction of the temple?
    - The signs preceding the coming of the Son of Man?
    - Both?
  + Answer depends on how one translates evstin as “he” (focus is on Son of Man) or “it” (focus is on the temple).
    - Therefore, when one takes Mark’s literary style as a whole, the emphasis is drawn to “it,” the destruction of the temple.
* V.30
  + Who is “this generation?”
    - A type of person?
      * Psalm 12:7
      * Isaiah 61:3
    - Mankind in general?
    - The Jews?
    - The disciples?
    - Probably as “the people alive at any given time.”
      * Psalm 48:13
      * Psalm 77:8
  + What about “all these things?”
    - Signs preceding the destruction of the temple?
      * (possibly the correct understanding)
    - Signs preceding the Son of Man?
      * “all” would exclude the signs before the destruction of the temple
    - Both?
      * (more possible than the second option)
    - Signs preceding the temple’s destruction, the destruction, and the Son of Man?
      * “all” would be cumulative
      * Would occur before a generation has passed.
        + Therefore would prove Jesus wrong… as He has not yet shown up!

## **Mark 13:32-37 – What will you do?**

* Only the Father knows
  + Consider Jesus’ role in the Trinity
    - Equality?
      * Consider the “two natures of Christ”
        + Divine
        + Human

According to His human nature, Jesus possesses not just amazing gifts, but divine majesty and infinite attributes

1 John 1:7

* + - How could Jesus NOT know the time of the end?
      * Limits of His human nature?
      * Christian Dogmatics volume 2 by Francis Pieper
        + “But how could there exist in one and the same Person both limited knowledge and divine omniscience? In the same way there was in one and the same Person both omnipotence and limited power, indeed feebleness and death. As divine omnipotence, so also divine omniscience did not always become operative in the human nature; it was active only so far as it was necessary for the performance of Christ’s office… This, then, is the case: As by “the resting of the Word,” that is, by the inactivity of the divine omnipotence in the human nature, there could be in Christ both limited power… and divine omnipotence, so by “the resting of the Word,” that is, by the inactivity of the divine knowledge in the human nature, there could be in Christ both limited knowledge and divine omniscience.” P.164

What does this mean?

Not knowing was a choice of Jesus

* + - * Another view is that of the relationship within the Trinity.
        + The Father takes the lead…

But not in a way that implies the inferiority of the Son or Holy Spirit.

Consider your favorite band…

Acts 1:7

1 Corinthians 15:28

* + - * Ultimately, we let God be God and it is okay to say it is a mystery.
* A parable
  + The parable’s focus is of “the man” returning suddenly.
    - Jesus likes to suddenly appear to His disciples
      * 6:48
    - Are the apostles the servants?
      * 1 John 1:3
    - What about falling asleep?
      * 14:37
  + The signs and times are not Jesus’ main concern here; His disciples’ attitude is.
    - He wants them to be prepared and to be awake/watch