

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

The Coming World Ruler
Mark 13:14-18



SYNOPSIS

This sermon describes the coming world ruler, the antichrist, detailing his characteristics and actions based on prophecies from Daniel, Revelation, and other New Testament books. It also describes the intense suffering and persecution that will occur during the Tribulation, emphasizing the importance of being spiritually prepared.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the key signs indicating the approaching end times?
2. What is the Rapture and when is it expected to occur in relation to the Tribulation?
3. Who is the "abomination that causes desolation" and where will this figure appear?
4. What are some of the key characteristics and actions of the antichrist as described in the provided biblical references?
5. Why does Jesus instruct people to "run" during the Tribulation, unlike his usual teachings on standing firm in persecution?
6. What is the significance of the "mark of the beast" and what are the consequences of receiving it?

FURTHER STUDY

Daniel 9:27
Daniel 12:11
1 John 2:18
Revelation 6:1-2
Daniel 7:2-8

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ANSWER KEY

1. The source suggests that numerous signs pointing towards the end times are increasing and nearly complete. The final sign before the end will be the Gospel being shared in every language globally, facilitated by the internet, and the Bible being translated into every language (expected by the end of the current year, according to the source's timeframe).
2. The Rapture, as described in this source, is the event when Jesus will come and take all Christians to Heaven. This event is believed to occur instantaneously between Mark 13:13 and 13:14, preceding the seven-year Tribulation. The Rapture will cause worldwide chaos and confusion, paving the way for the Tribulation.
3. The "abomination that causes desolation" is identified as the coming world ruler, also referred to as the antichrist. This figure will stand in the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem, in what is called the "holy place" (Matthew 24:15). The Temple Institute in Jerusalem is reportedly making plans for this reconstruction.
4. According to the source, drawing from Daniel and Revelation, the antichrist will: * Persecute the Church (Daniel 7:21, 25). * Rule by charm and force (Daniel 7:23-24). * Attempt to change the calendar and seasons (Daniel 7:25). * Be a medium with understanding of the occult (Daniel 8:23-24). * Act as a dictator, exalting himself above all gods and blaspheming God (Daniel 11:36, 2 Thessalonians 2:4). * Show no respect for family or traditional gods (Daniel 11:37). * Worship military might (Daniel 11:38). * Claim to be God and set himself up in God's temple (2 Thessalonians 2:4). * Perform miracles and signs through Satan's power (2 Thessalonians 2:9). * Ascend from the Abyss (Hell) (Revelation 11:7). * Be assassinated and seemingly brought back to life (Revelation 13:3). * Demand worship (Revelation 13:4). * Be full of pride and power, blaspheming God and persecuting believers during the Tribulation (Revelation 13:5-7). The trumpet call mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and 1 Corinthians 15:52 is significant as trumpets were historically used to assemble people. In the context of the Rapture, it signals the time for believers to be gathered to the Lord. It is referred to as the "last trumpet" in 1 Corinthians, indicating a final gathering event for the church before another phase of God's plan unfolds.
5. During the Tribulation, the circumstances are uniquely severe due to Satan's direct and intense influence on Earth after being cast out of heaven. The usual instruction to stand firm is replaced with a directive to flee, emphasizing the unprecedented level of danger and distress during this period. The Great Commission to make disciples is also considered no longer valid in the same way during this time.
6. The "mark of the beast" is a requirement for buying and selling during the Tribulation, representing allegiance to the antichrist. Receiving this mark and worshipping the beast will result in severe divine punishment, including being tormented with burning sulfur forever in the presence of the holy angels and the Lamb (Revelation 14:9-12).