

# A Prophet We Can Trust

MARK 13:1–37



## The Heart of the Matter

Mark 13 is by far the single-most complicated chapter in the Gospels. Vivid prophetic language with its rich texture is difficult to interpret. And when such language is mixed with multiple Old Testament references and allusions to Jewish apocalyptic literature and historical events (some of which are very strange *and even unknown* to modern readers), we are left with an even bigger challenge! Our tendency is to respond one of two ways: we either completely disregard the content of Mark 13 . . . or we become so totally consumed by it, we consider prophetic truth the only emphasis worth studying in all Scripture. Truth be told, no one can *perfectly* unravel all the knotty problems of this chapter. However, we will work our way through as carefully as possible, doing our best to grasp the big picture—without losing our balance or thinking we will be able to understand every detail.



## Discovering the Way

### 1. Predicting Disaster (Mark 13:1–2)

Jesus foretold the destruction of the temple, which occurred in AD 70.

### 2. Avoiding Panic (13:3–8)

Jesus assured His disciples that wars and natural disasters would come, but the end is not yet.

### 3. Enduring Mistreatment (13:9–13)

Jesus warned His disciples that they would face persecution, but He also told them not to worry; He would be with them.

### 4. Escaping Judgment (13:14–23)

Jesus previewed the future coming judgment and the rise of Antichrist.

### 5. Staying Alert (13:24–37)

Jesus encouraged His disciples to stay alert to His coming but not to set dates of His coming.

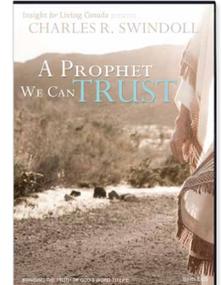


## Starting Your Journey

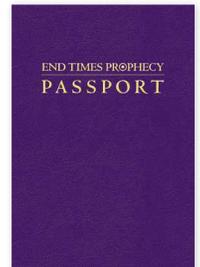
Three commands from Mark 13 remain important as we look for the Lord's coming. First, stay away from those who make specific predictions and set dates. Second, stay awake through clear, biblical teaching about the end times. Third, stay alert to the possibility that the rapture could occur at any moment.



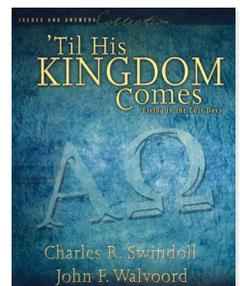
## Tools for Digging Deeper



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CD



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