

SERIES: MARK – THE BEST NEWS EVER!

**Message: Watching and Waiting:
Living Faithfully in Light of Jesus' Return**

Mark 13:14-37

HERITAGE CHURCH, Van Buren, AR

March 9, 2025

LIVING FAITHFULLY IN LIGHT OF JESUS' RETURN is ...

1. Navigating Times of Tribulation

Mark 13:14-20 ¹⁴ “When you see *the abomination of desolation* standing where it should not be” (let the reader understand), “then those in Judea must flee to the mountains. ¹⁵ A man on the housetop must not come down or go in to get anything out of his house, ¹⁶ and a man in the field must not go back to get his coat. ¹⁷ Woe to pregnant women and nursing mothers in those days! ¹⁸ “Pray it won’t happen in winter. ¹⁹ For those will be **days of tribulation**, the kind that hasn’t been from the beginning of creation, which God created, until now and never will be again. ²⁰ If the Lord had not cut those days short, no one would be saved. But **he cut those days short** for the sake of the elect, whom he chose.

2. Discerning Truth in an Age of Deception

Mark 13:21-23 ²¹ “Then if anyone tells you, ‘See, here is the Messiah! See, there!’ do not believe it. ²² For false messiahs and false prophets will arise and will perform signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, the elect. ²³ And **you must watch! I have told you everything in advance.**

3. Anticipating Christ's Glorious Return

Mark 13:24-27 ²⁴ “But in those days, **after that tribulation**: The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not shed its light; ²⁵ the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ **Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.** ²⁷ He will send out the angels and **gather his elect** from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

4. Living in Watchful Readiness

Mark 13:28-31 ²⁸ “Learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ In the same way, when you see these things happening, recognize that he is near—at the door. ³⁰ “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Mark 13:32-37 ³² “Now concerning that day or hour no one knows—neither the angels in heaven nor the Son —but only the Father.

³³ “**Watch! Be alert!** For you don’t know when the time is coming. ³⁴ “It is like a man on a journey, who left his house, gave authority to his servants, gave each one his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to **be alert.** ³⁵ Therefore **be alert**, since you don’t know when the master of the house is coming—whether in the evening or at midnight or at the crowing of the rooster or early in the morning. ³⁶ Otherwise, when he comes suddenly he might find you sleeping. ³⁷ And what I say to you, I say to everyone: **Be alert!**”

ACTION STEP(S):