

God's Servant Prophecies, Part 2

Mark 13:14-37

I speak this morning on the magnificent topic of the Return of Jesus. As I do so, I attempt to not disappoint you too much. The subject of Bible prophecy is full, complex and very important. Many come to Mark 13 and the Olivet Discourse with expectations that I will not meet.

Some today may be disappointed because I am taking time to teach Bible prophecy. There is a spirit in our age among some evangelicals that is indifferent or even averse to the doctrine of future things . . . thinking it unnecessary, unprofitable and too conflict laden. Yet Jesus clearly believes in the importance of our subject!

Others may be disappointed because I possess convictions about the meaning of God's revelation about the future that do not match your own. There is a spirit among some reformed evangelicals that dispensationalism is uninformed, superficial and dangerous. While I am not loyal to the term dispensationalism, I am absolutely convinced that God will fulfill every promise every promise that He made the elect nation of Israel for the sake of His own Name. These promises include a glorious future for the land He gave this nation, for a righteous government over that land, for the Messiah King to rule over the whole world from a throne in the Holy City of Jerusalem and for a prosperous peace on earth that the whole world will experience in that future day. I believe all of these promises will be fulfilled in a literal fashion.

Others may be disappointed today because I am not making an apologetic case for my convictions about a future Israel. While there are appropriate times to make that full biblical defense, I have chosen today not to be that day. Today, I intend to speak to you more pastorally . . . to simply state my understanding of scripture and to parse the relevant applications that flow from Jesus' words to us about the future.

Others may be disappointed today because I will not open the newspaper to talk about how current events fit the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. There is a spirit among many dispensationalists . . . brothers and sisters from my own prophetic camp who seem to find a stronger interest in discovering the prophetic importance to today's events than the scriptures and the applications that Jesus calls us to make in our lives. **Current events must not become the lens by which we interpret the Bible.**

Finally, others may be disappointed that I do not answer the questions that you are asking. This is not because your questions are unimportant. Bible prophecy is a subject too broad and vast to address each important question in a single sermon. I have chosen a couple questions to focus upon this morning today.

In spite of potential disappointment, I ask that you keep your heart open to the benefit that Jesus' words will bring us. I know that I am a feeble instrument to handle the weightiness of our subject. **Yet I believe that what Jesus teaches us will change our daily lives in big ways. It will change our values, our responses, our relationships, our attitudes, our behavior.**

The two questions that I hope to answer this morning:

1. What does Jesus want us to learn from this specific revelation about the future?
2. How does Jesus want us to respond right now in view of His promise to return to the earth?

Main Idea: Be ready for the Lord to return for His people! Let us wait for Him like a bride waits for her groom. For the coming of the Lord Jesus is at hand!

The context for Jesus' teaching about the future from the Mount of Olives is the crucifixion of Jesus. It is Tuesday. Jesus has predicted His death and resurrection to His disciples on three separate occasions. Just days earlier as Jesus walks with His disciples to Jerusalem, He tells them,

"See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise." (Mark 10:33-34 [ESV](#))

Jesus only has three more days before He is hung on a Roman cross. And what does Jesus teach His disciples? He teaches what to expect in God's plan for the future. Why does He do that?

When you read the prophecies of the OT, you do not see two arrivals of the Messiah. As you read these many prophecies (over one fourth of the Old Testament predicts the future), you clearly see that God is going to send a Messiah to save His people, but you do not see clearly that this one Messiah is coming in two separate events.

When the early rabbi's studied the OT prophecies, they observed that most of them spoke of a Messiah who would rule over the governments of the world.

"As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill. I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.'" (Psalm 2:6-9 [ESV](#))

"And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one." (Zechariah 14:9 [ESV](#))

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this." (Isaiah 9:6-7 [ESV](#))

Yet the OT also prophesies of a Messiah who will suffer on behalf of His people as a sacrifice for sin.

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:5-6 [ESV](#))

Some early rabbi's near the time of Jesus wondered how the Messiah could both conquer as King and be put to death as Savior? They answered this quandary by asserting that there must be two Messiahs that will be sent by God.

The first they called the Son of Joseph. They wrote that He is a Messiah who comes from Galilee to die, pierced by His enemies at the gate of Jerusalem. His death defeats Satan, atones for sin and abolished death itself. And then He will be raised to life.

The second Messiah they called the Son of David who will rule over the world. The rabbis wrote that the Son of Joseph will come first to prepare the way for the Son of David. He will die in battle, but then be raised to life and He will rule with the Son of David.

The rabbi's could not imagine HOW ONE PERSON could fulfill both sets of prophecies and so they divided the ONE OFFICE into two separate people.

In Mark 13, Jesus KNOWS that His disciples will be confused, perhaps disillusioned, about His identity as Messiah when they see Him crucified. They are

completely fixed on Jesus fulfilling the prophecies regarding His kingdom. Just a week earlier, after Jesus prophesied about His death, James and John still asked Jesus to sit on the right hand and the left hand when He sits on the throne in glorious power. **The disciples are so fixed on His earthly rule that they have not let His words about His death sink in to their hearts.** Jesus knows that they need to be ready for what is next! So He prophesies to them to prepare them to hold their faith in Him in the face of His crucifixion.

Question: What does Jesus want us to learn from this specific revelation about the future?

Jesus wants us to know that . . .

1. His faithful people will experience trouble in this present age.

Pastor Josh taught through the first 13 verses of Mark 13 last week. I teased him this week about how often he said, “Next week Pastor Ritch will explain this.” I wrote half this week’s sermon as I listened to Josh’ message! Haha.

Jesus knows that His disciples will experience extreme suffering as the result of following Him. This is NOT what they are expecting! They are expecting a victory and then a glorious reign! But God’s kingdom plan is different from their kingdom plan.

Question: What do I do when God’s kingdom plan is different from the kingdom plan that I have made for my life?

When we experience severe trials in this life, Jesus wants us to know that He is still on the throne. He strengthens our faith by telling us plainly about the hardships we can expect when we live as Christians in this present age.

“But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. Mark 13:13 And you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.” (Mark 13:9-13 [ESV](#))

Notice that the hostility faced by believers in the world is all encompassing. Here Jesus says that **religious leaders** will beat on you, the **human government** will arrest you, **your family** will disown you and **society as a whole** will hate you.

Believing in Jesus does not put us on Easy Street! No, far from it. The world is not a friend to grace to help us on to God.

Truth: The life of a disciple is a life of courageous endurance. The one who endures these troubles in this world without forsaking Jesus will be saved! We must expect to suffer if we are to follow Jesus as Lord and King.

The LORD will bring a day when every wrong is made right, when every war becomes peace, when disease is undone, when crime and divorce is uncommon, when hunger and poverty disappear, when churches do not split, when hurricanes become breezes and lions lay down with lambs. But today is NOT that day. We walk by faith and not by sight. We cling to hope in the midst of the temptation to despair. We refuse to distrust Jesus just because things are now as He said that they would be. As surely as He rose from the dead, so He will return! So we wait in hope for Him.

2. His chosen nation Israel will experience severe trouble.

These 12 are Jews. Their nation is governed by Rome. And they hate that. Almost all their religious holidays and feasts celebrate some victory over an oppressor. I asked one of my Messianic Jewish friends to explain the Jewish feast to me. He summarized them, *“They attacked us. We fought back and won. Let’s eat.”*

The 12 know that the promised Messiah will liberate Israel once and for all. They anticipate that their nation is on the cusp of a new golden age. So Jesus teaches them plainly that before the golden age comes, there will be the kind of trouble that they, nor the world, has ever experienced.

““But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.” (Mark 13:14 [ESV](#))

Jesus quotes directly from Daniel 9:27. When Jesus says, “Let the reader understand” I think He is saying, “Let the reader study Daniel 9 to understand what He is talking about. In short, Daniel 9:27 contains a prophecy that God made 700 years earlier about a future event that will happen in the Temple located in

Jerusalem. The prophecy says that a “prince who is to come” (9:26) will make a covenant of peace with Israel for seven years, but in the middle of that time will break the covenant with Israel and will desecrate the Temple through an act of abomination.

Daniel elaborates upon the “abomination of desolation” in two more places in his book.

Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate. He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.” (Daniel 11:31-32 [ESV](#))

And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days. Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days.” (Daniel 12:11-12 [ESV](#))

Interestingly, this prophecy was partially fulfilled in by a Syrian ruler named **Antiochus Epiphanes in 167 BC**. Antiochus slaughtered a pig on the alter of the Jerusalem Temple in worship of the Greek god Zeus. That qualifies as an abominable act of desolation. Yet Jesus says the abomination is yet future to Him. **In 70 AD the Roman general Titus** desecrates the Temple by destroying it. But these men simply foreshadow a future desecration that matches the gravity of the words that Jesus uses here.

For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be. And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days.” (Mark 13:19-20 [ESV](#))

Jesus refers to the Great Tribulation when the future Antichrist turns against Israel and seeks to destroy her and every Jew on the planet.

Jesus wants the disciples know that the nation of Israel is not about to enter a golden age, but will experience a future suffering that is unlike anything that has ever happened on earth before.

How interested is Jesus in His disciples understanding about this seven year period of Tribulation? Well, if we turn to the last book of the Bible, the last living member of the 12 is nearly 90 years old exiled on the island of Patmos. And there the God sends an angel to deliver a message from Jesus and about Jesus. If you read Revelation 6-18, you read of Jesus opening a scroll and the details of this

time of terrible Tribulation is revealed in tremendous detail. Even a casual reading of Revelation brings the reader to the realization that the world has not YET experienced this kind of trouble in all of her broken history. Yes, the world has experienced many hard times, but nothing like what God describes is yet to come.

3. His chosen nation Israel will receive Jesus and be saved.

I acknowledge that this is not a main point of this discourse, yet it is here. Paul reveals this most clearly in Romans 11.

Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob"; "and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins." (Romans 11:25-27 [ESV](#))

Paul quotes from Isaiah (59) and says, "All Israel will be saved." Meaning that the nation as a whole will one day repent and believe in Jesus as the Messiah. That has not happened yet. I believe about 1% of the Jewish population in our world believes in Jesus as Messiah. But at the end of the period known as the great Tribulation, God will bring spiritual life to the nation of Israel by His Spirit.

I believe Jesus is pointing to this truth here when He says,

"And then 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." (Mark 13:27 [ESV](#))

Who do we think the disciples had in their minds when Jesus said, "His elect"? Of course, they are thinking about God's chosen people, Israel. And they are right to do so. God is going to make clear to them in the book of Acts and the epistles that the elect also includes Gentiles. So Gentiles will be part of this gathered group too.

But here I believe that Jesus wants to reassure the disciples that in three days as they hear the nation shout, "**Crucify Him! Crucify Him!**" that cry will not be the final epitaph shouted from this people.

To be included in the elect, each person must repent of their sin and trust in Jesus as King and Savior. Zechariah tells us that Israel will do that in that future day:

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and” (Zechariah 12:10 [NIV](#))

At the end of the age, there will be Jews who are part of the elect who will be gathered from throughout the whole world and will worship Jesus together. The Lord will bring about a day when the elect are gathered from all over the world and will worship Jesus as their Messiah!

Truth: God’s story of human history is filled with drama, heartbreak, injustice and darkness. But God is leading us forward to a glorious end!

4. His Son will be seen in glory by the whole world.

“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.” (Mark 13:24-26 [ESV](#))

After the Great Tribulation, Jesus returns to the earth to rule and reign as King of Kings. He will be glorified by all the inhabitants of the earth . . . either by willing submission or by complete defeat.

In three days, Jesus will be stripped naked, mocked and ridiculed, spit upon, beaten, whipped and crucified. Think of that! The King of glory suffering humiliation at the hands of weak men. When Jesus rises from the dead, He appears only to believers. He does not show Himself to the unbelieving world in His resurrected body. Even the guards at the tomb only saw an angel . . . Jesus did not show Himself to them.

Question: do you think that the Father will have the last appearance of His Son to the rebellious world to be one of indignity and shame? No! The Father will see His Son glorified. And one way the Father will glorify His Son is through the glorious return . . . a return where every human eye living on planet earth will see Him in glory and power and strength. Every knee will bow to Him and declare Him to be the Lord.

For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet— I can count all my bones— they stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.” (Psalm 22:16-18 [ESV](#))

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.” (Psalm 22:27-28 [ESV](#))

In 90 AD, God repeats this promise of His Son's glorious return . . .

"Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen." (Revelation 1:7 [ESV](#))

Jesus then has a word to describe the certainty of His coming back in glory right after the Great Tribulation that will descend upon the earth:

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." (Mark 13:28-31 [ESV](#))

The people who see the Great Tribulation will also see the Second Coming of Jesus to the earth. The believers who come to faith in Jesus during the Tribulation will have a promise to hold fast during their persecution! Jesus is coming!

So how should we then live? How does Jesus want us to respond right now in view of His promise to return to the earth?

Jesus wants us to respond to His return by . . .

1. Being on guard against false doctrines.

Three times Jesus makes the application for His disciples to "be on guard".

"But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. (Mark 13:9 [ESV](#))

For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand." (Mark 13:22-23 [ESV](#))

"But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard," (Mark 13:32-33a [ESV](#))

The idea of "being on guard" implies that an enemy will attack us to defeat and kill us. Jesus says that we can expect the attack to take two forms:

1. The world will be hostile to us. Be on your guard for that! Do not waver or retreat from Christ when you begin to suffer on Jesus' behalf! Be strong and courageous! Protect the treasure that is your faith. Do not let go of your confidence that Jesus is Lord and we are right to follow Him.
2. False prophets will try to deceive us by teaching doctrines contrary to the Gospel. These false teachers will be impressive with great persuasive skills and even miracles. They will introduce new teachings that appeal to your self-glory and to your pride! **Hold fast to the faith that has been once for all delivered to you!** Do not let yourself move away from the doctrines given to us by God in the Bible!

2. Staying awake in readiness.

Three times Jesus says, "Stay awake!"

"Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come." (Mark 13:33 [ESV](#))

Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake." (Mark 13:35-37 [ESV](#))

To stay awake is similar to "be on guard", but a bit different. The command to be on guard presses us to be defensive against the attack of our enemy. The command to stay awake presses us to look forward in eager anticipation of the return of the our King.

To stay awake means that we keep the promise of Jesus' return in our conscious thoughts! We do not let ourselves "forget" this important matter regarding our future.

Question: If the Lord is not going to return to the earth until after the Great Tribulation, do I need to be ready for Him to come at any moment?

Yes! I believe that these last verse in Mark 13 refer to the coming of Jesus in the clouds to gather His people to Himself. Many call this event the Rapture of the church.

Look carefully at the words of Jesus with me:

“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. (Mark 13:32)

As Jesus concludes His teaching and references “that day” and “that hour”, is Jesus talking about His return to the earth to conquer OR is He talking about a time that is connected to verse 14? I think it is the latter. Why?

Notice two matters:

First, Jesus tells the parable of the Fig Tree that clearly is teaching of “fig leaves” that must appear BEFORE the coming of the Son of Man to the earth. The signs will precede the great event.

Second, Jesus tells the parable of the man going on a journey with the view that no signs precede the coming of the master back to his house.

It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.” (Mark 13:34-36 [ESV](#))

Both parables are true!

The first tells us of specific signs that must come before the arrival of the Messiah as King on the earth.

The second tells us that our Master is going to come for us at any moment! He urges us to watch for it like Simeon watched for and waited for the birth of the Messiah.

The imminent return of Jesus to resurrect our present bodies and to gather us to Himself is not a small doctrine in the New Testament. James tells us the coming of Jesus is “at the door” (James 5:9), Paul and Peter both teach that this event is “at hand” (Phil 4:5; 1 Peter 4:7), the book of Hebrews tells us this event is “drawing near” (Hebrews 10:25).

If we are to stay awake, how can we keep this even in our conscious thoughts:

1. Pray with this event in mind. The Lord’s Prayer.
2. Talk about it with your brothers and sisters in Christ.
3. Study the scriptures to learn more about it!

Seven day challenge: *“Good morning Lord, will today be the day that I see you?”*

3. Waiting for Jesus in hope.

We wait in hope when we keep Jesus’ return in view. In NT times, when a man and woman agreed to marry one another, they made a vow prior to their marriage called a “betrothal” to secure themselves to each other. Then the man would go to His house and prepare a place for his future bride to come and live with him on his father’s property. When the addition to the father’s house was finished, the groom would travel to his bride to receive her to himself and to take her to the wedding ceremony and then to their new home together.

In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” (John 14:2-3 [ESV](#))

The responsibility of the groom is to prepare the place for his bride and to go to receive her to himself. The responsibility of the bride is to be ready when the groom arrived. Jesus completely fulfills His part and He calls us to fulfill ours.

Love the Chris Tomlin song that celebrates this day!

Like a bride
Waiting for her groom
We’ll be a church
Ready for You
Every heart longing for our King
We sing
Even so come
Lord Jesus come
Even so come
Lord Jesus come

What practically happens when we wait for Jesus in hope? We become more like Him!

Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.” (1 John 3:2-3 [ESV](#))

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.” (Romans 13:11-14 [ESV](#)).

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming.” (Colossians 3:2-6 [ESV](#))

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.” (James 5:7-9 [ESV](#))

Conclusion:

Revelation 19:6 Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or the roar of mighty ocean waves or the crash of loud thunder: “Praise the LORD! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

Revelation 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself.

Revelation 19:8 She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear.” For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God’s holy people.

Revelation 19:9 And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.” And he added, “These are true words that come from God.”

Revelation 19:10 Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said, “No, don’t worship me. I am a servant of God, just like you and your brothers and sisters who testify about their faith in Jesus. Worship only God. For the essence of prophecy is to give a clear witness for Jesus.”

Revelation 19:11 Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. Revelation 19:12 His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. Revelation 19:13 He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. Revelation 19:14 The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. Revelation 19:15 From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. Revelation 19:16 On his robe at

his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords.” (Revelation 19:6-16 [NLT-SE](#))

Main Idea: Be ready for the Lord to return for His people! Let us wait for Him like a bride waits for her groom. For the coming of the Lord Jesus is at hand!

Jesus wants us to know that . . .

1. His faithful people will experience trouble.
2. His chosen nation Israel will experience severe trouble.
3. His chosen nation Israel will receive Jesus and be saved.
4. His Son will be seen in glory by the whole world.

Jesus wants us to respond to His return by . . .

1. Being on guard against false doctrines.
2. Staying awake in readiness.
3. Waiting for Jesus in hope.