



SPORTS IN FOCUS

THE SERVANT REVEALS THINGS TO COME

Mark 13:1-37 • Lesson Ten

READY

- In 1999, millennial fever swept the nation. Futuristic movies did hundreds of millions in business at the box office. What is behind the fascination with things to come? How can Christians use interest about the future to talk about eternal matters?

SET

Context of Mark 13:1-37

It is the final week of Christ's earthly life and ministry. The Son of Man has entered Jerusalem to the glad shouts of the masses but also to the anger and consternation of the Jewish religious leaders. By driving the moneychangers and merchants from the temple and publicly rebuking the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus set Himself on a collision course with the cross. But there are still questions to be answered and lessons to be taught. And so Jesus seizes the opportunity to give His followers insight into things to come.

Keys to Text

Eschatology: The study of what will happen when all things are consummated at the end of history, particularly centering on the event known as the second coming of Christ. The word comes from two Greek words, *eschatos* (last) and *logos* (study)—thus its definition as “the study of last things.” (Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary).

GO

Read Mark 13:1-37

1. According to Jesus, what worldwide events will happen during the Tribulation? What can followers of Christ during that time expect?
2. How does Jesus describe His second coming in vv. 24–27?
3. How does Jesus use the example of a fig tree to help His followers understand what He is saying about future events?
4. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11. What does this passage from the pen of Paul add to your understanding of end time events?
5. Read 2 Peter 3:10–13. Given the certainty of the future events described in this passage and the others you've read, how ought believers to live in the present?
6. What can you do this week to help those you love come to terms with their eternal futures?
7. What specific questions do you still have about end time events?

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Tiger Woods will end his self-imposed “indefinite break” from golf April 8 by making his long-awaited return to the game on the hallowed grounds of Augusta National Golf Club, home of The Masters. One sportscaster compared Tiger's return to Muhammad Ali's return to boxing after being banned for several years because he evaded the draft. While many golf fans and broadcasters look forward with eagerness to Tiger's return, how much more should believers look forward to Christ's return?

The theme of Christ's second coming permeates the New Testament and is the great anticipatory reality of Christian living. The Lord's return will be as real and as historical an event as His first coming. Believers look back to the **MOMENT OF SAVING FAITH IN CHRIST WHEN THEIR SOULS WERE REDEEMED. THEY LOOK** forward to the return of Christ when their bodies will be redeemed. What practical and specific steps can you take to live more consistently with eternity in view?