

(In preparation for gathered worship next week, March 29, 2009)

Mark 13:24-37

29th March 2009

History does not look favorably on nations that neglect God. The sin of God-neglect leads inexorably to the demise of civilizations.

But praise God . . . there is another power at work in the world!

Unleashed through the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ is a power able to restore humanity to the radiant image of God. One day – perhaps very soon – that work will be complete. History will wrap up in a final triumph through Jesus Christ!

When will this be? How will it happen? The apostle Mark provides answers. Read his words carefully and work through the following questions.

- 1) What will happen after the times of tribulation? See verses 24-26.

- 2) What is signified by the darkening sun and moon and the stars falling from the heavens? Does Old Testament prophecy provide some clues? See Isaiah 14:10 and Ezekiel 32:7.

- 3) What happens when ‘the Son of Man comes in the clouds with great power and glory’? (verse 26) In particular, where actually does he come and what does he do when he comes? For help, see Daniel 7:13-14 and Mark 13:27. For extra help see 1 Corinthians 15:24-28.

- 4) When will these things happen? How does the lesson of the fig tree (verses 28-31) help to answer the question?

- 5) Are we able to know exactly when these things will happen? Look at verses 32-34. How should we prepare ourselves for this dramatic future consummation? See verses 35-37. Are you prepared? Explain.

