

7. The Future (and further
developments): Mark 13 and The Flow
of NT Apocalyptic Revelation

1. Mark 13
2. Matthew's reading of Mark
3. Further developments in the NT

General Old Testament Background

Jer. 14:12 Although they fast, I do not hear their cry, and although they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I do not accept them; but by the **sword**, by **famine**, and by **pestilence** I consume them.

Ezek. 14:21 For thus says the Lord GOD: How much more when I send upon Jerusalem my four deadly acts of judgment, **sword**, **famine**, **wild animals**, and **pestilence**, to cut off humans and animals from it!

Mark 13	Matthew 24	Luke 21	Revelation
False Christs (vv. 5-6)	False Christs (vv. 4-5)	False Christs (v. 8)	Seal 1. Conqueror (vv. 1-2)
Wars (vv. 7-8a)	Wars (vv. 6-7a)	Wars (vv. 9-10)	Seal 2. War (vv. 3-4)
Earthquakes (v. 8b)	Famines (v. 7b)	Earthquakes (v. 11a)	Seal 3. Famine (vv. 5-6)
Famines (v. 8b)	Earthquakes (v. 7b)	Famines (v. 11a)	Seal 4. Pestilences (v. 11a)
Persecutions (vv. 9, 11-13)	Persecutions (vv. 9-10)	Pestilences (v. 11a)	Seal 5. Persecution (vv. 9-11)
Solar and lunar eclipse, stars falling, heavenly bodies shaken (vv. 24-25)	Solar and lunar eclipse, stars falling, heavenly bodies shaken (v. 29)	Solar, lunar, and astral signs, heavenly bodies shaken (vv. 11b, 25-26)	Seal 6. Earthquake, solar eclipse, blood-red moon, stars falling, sky rolling up (vv. 12-14)
Son of Man comes (v. 26)	Son of Man comes (v. 30)	Persecutions (vv. 12-17)	Seal 7. Heavenly silence (8:1)
		Son of Man comes (v. 27)	

This table emphasises the eschatological elements in common between the different apocalypses.

These are standard OT judgement themes.

Specific Old Testament Background

Mark 13:14 “But when you see **the desolating sacrilege** set up where it ought not to be (**let the reader understand**), then those in Judea must flee to the mountains; 15 the one on the housetop must not go down or enter the house to take anything away; 16 the one in the field must not turn back to get a coat.

Dan. 11:31 Forces sent by him shall occupy and profane the temple and fortress. They shall abolish the regular burnt offering and set up **the abomination that makes desolate**.

Dan. 12:10 Many shall be purified, cleansed, and refined, but the wicked shall continue to act wickedly. None of the wicked shall understand, but **those who are wise shall understand**. (cf. 11:33)

Mark 13:17 Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days!
18 Pray that it may not be in winter. 19 For in those days there will be suffering, such as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, no, and never will be.

Dan. 12:1 “At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book.

The future events of Daniel 11-12 are now current events for Jesus.

Two horizons - the judgement on Jerusalem and the end of the world

Matthew's Re-reading of Mark

Mark 13:5 Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. 6 Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray.

Matt 24:4 Jesus answered them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. 5 For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah!' and they will lead many astray.

The apocalyptic tradition was a living tradition that was subject to on-going revelation.

Here the accounts are pretty more the same, Matthew being a little more specific (false Messiahs).

7 When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. 8 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birthpangs.

6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: 8 all this is but the beginning of the birthpangs.

The accounts are pretty much the same.

Mark 13:9 “As for yourselves, beware; for they will hand you over to councils; and you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them.

Matt 10:17-18 Events described as being in the future for Mark, are now experienced by Matthew’s disciples in the present.

Events in the future for Mark, are now being experienced by Jesus’ disciples in the present. He has moved this material to chapter 10, his teaching on church.

Matt. 24:9 “Then they will hand you over to be tortured and will put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. 10 Then many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. 12 And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Mark’s preaching has now turned to Matthew’s torture and being put to death. In addition many will fall away, hatred will develop, many false prophets will arise, the love of many will grow cold.

13:10 And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations.

24:14 And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations; and then the end will come.

Matthew's preaching is as a testimony - prior to judgement.

11 When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.
12 Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; 13 and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Matt 10:19-22 Events in Mark's future are now in Matthew's present time.

Mark's future involves giving one's testimony. In Matthew, the problem is that of being tortured and put to death.

Mark 13:14 “But when you see the desolating sacrilege set up where it ought not to be (let the reader understand), then those in Judea must flee to the mountains; 15 the one on the housetop must not go down or enter the house to take anything away; 16 the one in the field must not turn back to get a coat.

Matt. 24:15 “So when you see the desolating sacrilege standing in the holy place, as was spoken of by the prophet Daniel (let the reader understand), 16 then those in Judea must flee to the mountains; 17 the one on the housetop must not go down to take what is in the house; 18 the one in the field must not turn back to get a coat.

Both accounts are largely similar.

17 Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days! 18 Pray that it may not be in winter. 19 For in those days there will be suffering, such as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, no, and never will be.

19 Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days! 20 Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a sabbath. 21 For at that time there will be great suffering, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.

Both accounts are largely similar

20 And if the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would be saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he has cut short those days. 21 And if anyone says to you at that time, 'Look! Here is the Messiah!' or 'Look! There he is!'—do not believe it. 22 False messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. 23 But be alert; I have already told you everything.

22 And if those days had not been cut short, no one would be saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. 23 Then if anyone says to you, 'Look! Here is the Messiah!' or 'There he is!'—do not believe it. 24 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce great signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. 25 Take note, I have told you beforehand.

By and large the same.

26 So, if they say to you, 'Look! He is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look! He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. 27 For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 28 Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

Matthew highlights warnings about false Christs.

24 "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

29 "Immediately after the suffering of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven will be shaken.

26 Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 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.

30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see 'the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven' with power and great glory. 31 And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

NT Book	Destruction	War, Famine, Earthquakes	False Christs	False Prophets	Apostasy	Gospel
Mark 13	Destruction of Jerusalem (13:2, 14-20)	Wars, earthquakes, famines (13:8)	Those who come in his name (13:6) False messiahs will perform signs (13:22)	False prophets will perform signs and try to lead the elect astray (13:22)	Beware of being led astray (13:5, 22-23)	Good news to be proclaimed to all nations (13:10)
Matthew 24	Destruction of Jerusalem (24:2, 15)	Wars, famines, earthquakes (24:6-7)	Many will come claiming to be the Messiah (24:5) Additional warnings on detecting False Messiahs (24:26-28)	Many false prophets will arise and lead many astray (24:11, cf. 24)	Many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another (24:10)	Gospel preached throughout the world as a testimony to the nations (24:14)
1 Thessalonians	Judgement on the Jews (2:14-16)	When they say peace and security, then sudden destruction will come upon them (5:1-11)				Hope of resurrection at Christ's return (4:13-18)
2 Thessalonians			Rebellion of the lawless one prior to the parousia (2:1-12)			
Revelation	Destruction of Babylon (14:8; 18:1-24)	Seven seals, trumpets and plagues	Antichrist system (13:1-18)	False prophet part of false system (16:13; 19:20; 20:10)	The woman (God's people) apostatises (12:1-6, 13-17; 17:1-6)	Everlasting Gospel (14:6-11)

What is new in each revelation?

- Mark 13 (cf. Matthew 24:1-51; Luke 21:5-36)
- 1 Thessalonians (new, 4:13-18; old, 5:1-11)
- 2 Thessalonians (new, 2:1-12)
- 2 Peter 3:1-10
- Revelation

Summary of Major Apocalyptic Developments

- Mark 13: destruction of Jerusalem, bad events simply predicted, false christs
- Revelation: destruction of Babylon, origin of bad events stated, the antiChrist
- How aware were NT authors of each other's writings? (Matthew of Mark? Paul of Matthew? John of Paul?)
- What was the stimulus that prompted each revelation?

Diadache (The Teaching of the Apostles)

Did. 16:1 “Watch” over your life: “do not let your lamps go out, and do not be unprepared, but be ready, for you do not know the hour when our Lord is coming.” 2 Gather together frequently, seeking the things that benefit your souls, for all the time you have believed will be of no use to you if you are not found perfect in the last time. 3 For in the last days the false prophets and corrupters will abound, and the sheep will be turned into wolves, and **love will be turned into hate (Matt)**. 4 For as lawlessness increases, they will hate and persecute and betray one another. And then **the deceiver of the world will appear as a son of God and “will perform signs and wonders (2 Thess/Rev),”** and the earth will be delivered into his hands, and he will commit abominations the likes of which have never happened before.

In 1873 Philtheos Byrennios discovered a Greek manuscript in the library of the Monastery of the Holy Sepulchre in Istanbul. In the manuscript was one writing which was dated in its margin by the scribe to the 11th century. Scholars have argued that, though a late production, the manuscript is a copy of a much earlier document that originated either during the time of the apostles or just after. The Didache covers a list of rules on such matters as prayer, dealing with prophets, baptism and church organisation. The early church had to somehow negotiate the relationship between itinerant preachers and static congregations in order to avoid the exploitation of members. Some scholars believe Matthew used the Didache as a source. This is unlikely in that if it were a widely circulated source we would expect more than just one, late manuscript to have been preserved whereas in comparison we have many earlier manuscripts of Matthew.

- Note the generic, composite picture!

Diadache (The Teaching of the Apostles)

Did. 16: 5 Then all humankind will come to the fiery test, and “many will fall away” (Matt) and perish; but “those who endure” in their faith “will be saved” by the accursed one himself. 6 And “then there will appear the signs” of the truth: first the sign of an opening in heaven, then the sign of the sound of a trumpet, and third, the resurrection of the dead— 7 but not of all; rather, as it has been said, “The Lord will come, and all his saints with him.” 8 Then the world “will see the Lord coming upon the clouds of heaven.”

