



“Be On Your Guard, Part 2—Stay Awake!”

“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. ¹⁵ Let the one who is on the housetop not go down, nor enter his house, to take anything out, ¹⁶ and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. ¹⁷ And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! ¹⁸ Pray that it may not happen in winter. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ And then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it. ²² For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. ²³ **But be on guard;** I have told you all things beforehand.

²⁴ “But in those days, after that tribulation, 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. ²⁶ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ 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.

²⁸ “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. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² “But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ **Be on guard, keep awake.** For you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ 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.** ³⁵ 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— ³⁶ lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: **Stay awake.**”

Mark 13:14-37

Last week, vv. 1-13, *A Call for Endurance* – The one who **endures** to the end will be saved.

You will recall we also learned—

That prophecies of this kind are often of the “already but not yet” type, both **past** and **future**. Part of the prophecy was fulfilled with the destruction of the **temple** in 70 AD. But there are also future aspects of the prophecy yet to be fulfilled with Christ’s **return**.

This week, vv. 14-37, another main point is very clear: ***Stay awake!***

1. Stay awake when **desecrations** occur which demean the gospel of God.
2. Stay awake to discern what God would have you to do in the face of **tribulation**.

3. Stay awake to discern the falsehood of fake Christs, false prophets, and imitation signs.

Be on your guard against such things!

Know God's word! Know God's gospel. Know the true, biblical Jesus.

4. Be wide awake for the second coming of Jesus Christ in power and glory!

Tough question: what about *this generation*? What does that mean?

5. Stay awake and keep working for the Master!

Live like gospel people! Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love for the sake of Jesus!

What has God called you to do? Keep doing that until the end!