

The Lord's Plans For The Future (Mark 13)

The Beginning of The Gospel

June 21, 2026

The Lord **KNOWS** The Future

Mark 13:3-4 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked Him privately, "Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?"

Deceit Concerning Who Christ Is; Is Our Primary Challenge

Mark 13:5-6 Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. Many will come in My Name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many..."

False Christs Tend To Be Alarmists!

Luke 21:8 He replied, "Don't let anyone mislead you, for many will come in My Name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' saying, 'The time has come!' But don't believe them.

History Is Replete With The Messiah Complex

4 AD Simon of Peraea: A former slave of King Herod the Great revolted against the Romans. He was crowned king by his followers but was eventually defeated and beheaded by Roman forces.

45 AD Theudas: A religious rebel convinced a massive crowd of followers to take their belongings and march to the Jordan River. He claimed he was a prophet and could part the waters, but Roman cavalry intercepted the group and decapitated him.

132–135 AD Simon bar Kokhba: The most famous early Jewish messianic figure. Endorsed by the prominent Rabbi Akiva, led a massive, initially successful guerilla revolt against the Roman Empire, establishing an independent state of Judea for three years before being crushed by Emperor Hadrian.

448 AD Moses of Crete: A leader who emerged on the island of Crete, convincing the local Jewish population that he was the biblical Moses sent to walk them across the Mediterranean Sea back to Israel. He led his followers to a cliffside and commanded them to jump into the sea; many drowned and he vanished from history.

1147 AD David Alroy: An scholar from the Kurdistan region declared himself the messiah and called on regional Jewish populations to revolt against the Sultan and reclaim Jerusalem. His movement collapsed after he was assassinated, reportedly by his own father-in-law.

1284-Abraham Abulafia: A famous Italian Kabbalist who claimed to have received prophetic revelations pointing to 1290 as the messianic year. He traveled to Rome to attempt to convert Pope Nicholas III but was ultimately excommunicated by his own people.

1665 -Sabbatai Zevi: Perhaps the most influential false messiah in Jewish history. This Ottoman Kabbalist triggered a massive global movement, convincing hundreds of thousands of Jews across Europe and the Middle East that he was the savior. Facing execution by the Ottoman Sultan in 1666, he abruptly converted to Islam, devastating his global following.

1756 - Jacob Frank: A Polish leader who claimed to be the reincarnation of Sabbatai Zevi. He created a highly controversial cult that rejected traditional religious laws, leading a large group of his "Frankist" followers to ultimately convert to Catholicism.

1851 -Hong Xiuquan: A Chinese heterodox Christian convert who claimed to be the literal younger brother of Jesus Christ. He founded the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom and launched the Taiping Rebellion against the Qing Dynasty, sparking a civil war that resulted in an estimated 20 to 30 million deaths.

1889 - Mirza Ghulam Ahmad: An Indian religious figure who claimed to be both the promised Messiah of Christianity and the Mahdi of Islam. He founded the Ahmadiyya movement, which today commands millions of followers worldwide.

1970s–1990s -Jim Jones and David Koresh: Modern American cult leaders who leveraged apocalyptic claims. Jones claimed divine status before orchestrating a mass murder-suicide of 918 followers in Guyana in 1978. Koresh claimed to be the final prophet and Son of God, leading to the deadly 51-day Waco siege in 1993.

Before He Was Conceived God's Angel Announced That He Is The Savior

Matthew 1:20-21 ...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you are to give Him the name Jesus because He will save His people from their sins.

Upon His Birth Gabriel Proclaimed Him To Be THE CHRIST

Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, He is Christ the Lord.

At The Beginning of His Public Ministry Jesus Himself Openly Claimed To Be The Fulfillment of Messianic Prophecy

Luke 4:16-21 He went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; on the Sabbath, He went into the synagogue and stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. Unrolling it, He found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor.

He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on Him and He said to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

The Apostles Were Convinced Early On That He Was The Christ

John 1:40-41 Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).

The Profession That Jesus Is Christ Is The Foundation Stone Of True Christian Confession

Matthew 16:15-16 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Matthew 16:17-18 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by My Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter and on this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

2 Timothy 2:19 God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knoweth those whom are His," and "Everyone who confesses the Name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

Jesus Pushes For Us To Acknowledge Him As The Christ Sent By God

John 11:25-27 Jesus said to her, "I Am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she told Him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, Who was to come into the world."

Jesus Personally Revealed His Messianic Identity To A Sinful Samaritan Woman

John 4:25-26 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When He comes, He will explain everything to us." Then Jesus declared, "I Who speak to you Am He."

At His Public Examination Before The Elders Of Israel Jesus Acknowledged His True Identity

Matthew 26:63-64 The high priest said to Him, "I charge You under oath by the Living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. And I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

We Must Be Absolutely satisfied with Jesus Christ as the only name of salvation

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved! The Apostle Peter

Hebrews 12:22-25a ...you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks.