

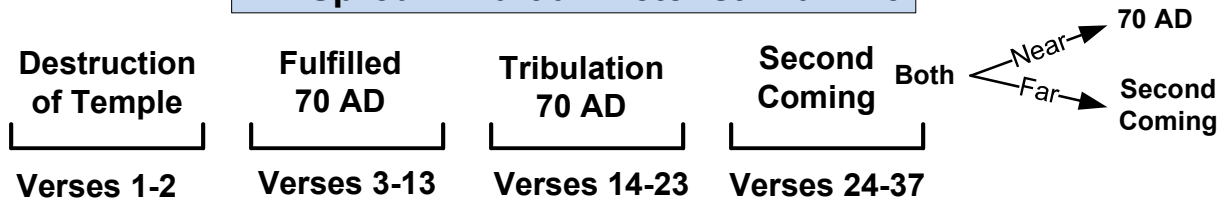
**Mark 13:28-32** - 28 "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender, and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 "Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door. 30 "Truly I say to you, this generation 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 of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

Jesus had earlier used the **fig tree** as a **metaphor** for the **Temple worship of Israel**, which had become **corrupted**, and in that symbolism, Jesus cursed the fig tree and spoke of its **destruction**. Now Jesus will use the **fig tree** as another metaphor, this time a **simple analogy** of a **budding tree** in the springtime showing that **summer** is right at hand. **“28 "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender, and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.”** His point is of course that the **signs** he has been speaking to the disciples about concerning His Second Coming are like **buds** on a springtime **fig tree**, indicating that the Second Coming is right at hand. **“29 "Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door.”** Don't miss the point here, Jesus speaks to that **generation** of people **alive** at His **Second Coming** and says the THEM, **“when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near.”** Even though the words were spoken to the disciples, the author clearly understood that this Olivet Discourse would apply more directly to the generation alive at His Coming. This is clearly seen in verse **13:14** where He says concerning the abomination of desolation, **“let the reader understand.”** Only those **alive** at the **time** of the Abomination of Desolation will be able to see that event and **be ready** for **His return**. This also applies to all the **signs** He gave them in this discourse; *persecution, martyrdom, apostacy and falling away, betrayal, deception, Antichrist, and the signs in the sun, moon, and stars*. The **only people** who can see these events, **“when YOU see these things happening,”** are those who **are alive** at the **time** and therefore, **“recognize that He is near, right at the door.”** This also is how we know what Jesus means by the following statement, **“30 "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.”** This of course is controversial for many claim that the **generation** who were **there listening** must therefore **see all these events** take place. But we know from the nature of this discourse as we have seen, that most of **these events happen** in the **far distant** future, (especially from **after verse 2**), indeed have **yet to happen** as of January 5, 2020. So, it is **not possible** that He meant that those alive when He spoke it would be **that “generation.”** Rather He clearly must mean that those people who **are alive** at the time the **signs** and Second Coming are **happening** are those **“readers”**

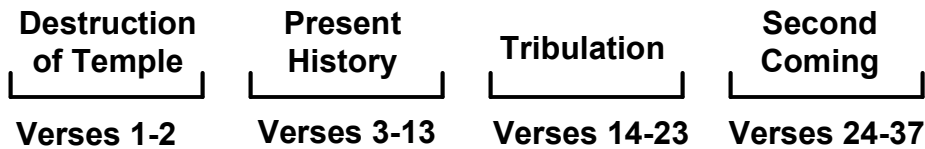
that need to “**understand**” and “**recognize that He is near, right at the door.**” This is a very plausible meaning for the term “**generation,**” especially as we see it in this **Futurist** interpretation of the Olivet Discourse. Jesus now speaks of the **certainty** of these **prophetic words** coming to pass. “**31 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away."** Jesus is here saying that **His words** are **more certain** and **permanent** than the ground we stand on, as soon the **current physical heavens and earth** will be **destroyed** by God (Isa 51:6, Matt 5:18, 2 Peter 3:7, 10, Rev 20:11), and a **New Heavens and Earth created** (Isa 65:17, 2 Peter 3:13, Rev 21:1). MacArthur comments, “*Heaven and earth will one day pass away, but not before everything stated in scripture is perfectly accomplished. As Jesus reminded his disciples, his word is permanent and cannot fail, (Isa 40:8 Col 3:16). It cannot be broken, (John 10:35), but endures forever, (Psalm 19:9), because it is completely true (John 17:17). As the one who declares the end from the beginning (Isa 46:10), God’s word will always accomplish what he desires (Isa 55:11), His word is as immutable and unassailable as it’s divine author. Nothing can be added to or subtracted from it (Deut 4:2, Rev 22:18-19). Thus, what the Lord has said about His return and the end of the age is an unalterable truth. It will happen exactly as He has said it would, because His words cannot falter or fail.* Thank God that something is certain and infallible in our world, it is the Word of the Living God! Jesus now makes an incredible statement, “**32 "But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone."** Here it seems that Jesus is saying that there is **some knowledge** that **He does not possess**. But how can this be true if He is indeed the divine and eternal and **omniscient Son of God**, the second member of the triune God? The answer is really not that difficult. Jesus is here clearly teaching that **in His humanity**, He has somehow **forfeited His omniscience**, at least on this point, and “**does not know the day or hour**” of His **return**. I think it is easy to see that many parts of His **human nature** were very much subject to **human limitations**, and this is a **feature** in the **Book of Mark** which portrays Jesus’ **humanity** clearly. Barnes comments, “*After all, the passage has no more difficulty than that in Luke 2:52, where it is said that “Jesus increased in wisdom and stature.” He had a human nature. He grew as a man in knowledge. As a man his knowledge must be finite, for the faculties of the human soul are not infinite. As a man he often spoke, reasoned, inquired, felt, feared, read, learned, ate, drank, and walked. Why are not all these, which imply that he was a “man” - that, “as a man,” he was not infinite-why are not these as difficult as the want of knowledge respecting the particular “time” of a future event, especially when that time must be made known by God, and when he chose that the man Christ Jesus should grow, and think, and speak “as a man?”* Obviously, Jesus clearly meant He didn’t know. I’ll take His Word for it. If someone wants to argue, they’ll have to

# Preterist vs. Futurist Fulfillments

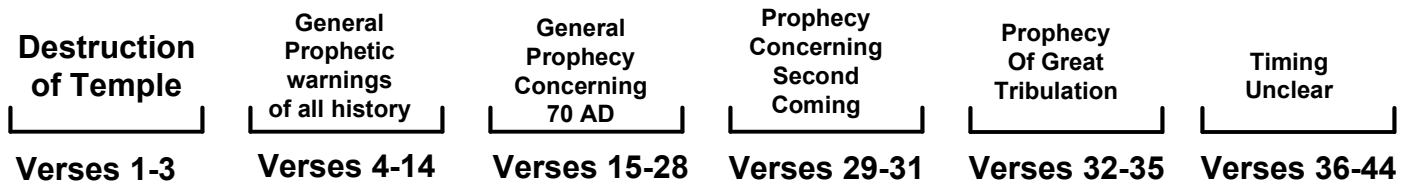
## RC Sproul – Partial Preterist Mark 13



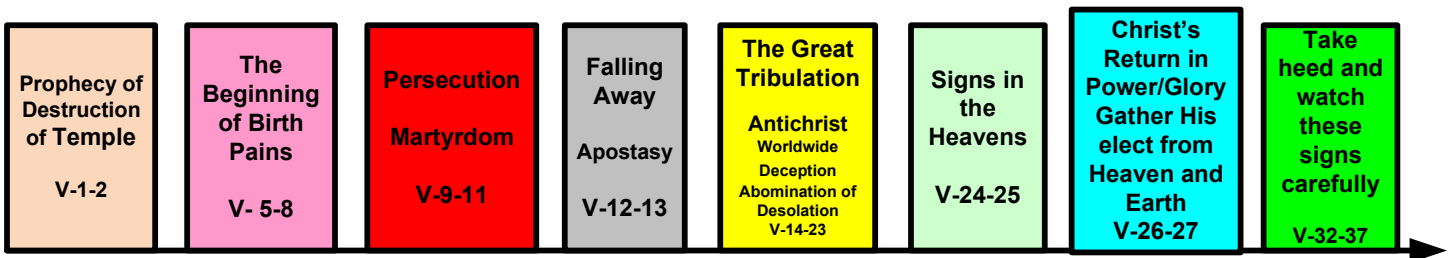
## John MacArthur – Futurist Mark 13



## DA Carson – Futurist Matthew 24



## Chronology of Events in the Olivet Discourse in Mark 13



Mark 13:24-27 - 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 that are in the heavens will be shaken. 26 Then **they will see the Son of Man coming** in clouds with great power and glory. 27 And then He will send forth the angels, and **will gather together His elect** from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven. NASB