

The Prophecies Shall Be Fulfilled

The Gospel of Mark 13: 1-37

—from the translation by David Bentley Hart

¹And as he goes out of the Temple one of his disciples says to him, “Teacher, look: such stones and such buildings!” ²And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? By no means shall there be a stone left upon a stone that will not be thrown down.” ³And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives, opposite the Temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him in private, ⁴“Tell us: When will these things be? And, when all these things are about to be completed, what will be the sign?” ⁵And Jesus began, saying to them, “Keep watch, so that no one causes you to go astray. ⁶Many will come in my name, saying: ‘I am he,’ and will cause many to go astray. ⁷But when you hear about wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; it is necessary that this occur, but the end is not yet. ⁸For nation will be raised against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. In places there will be earthquakes, there will be famines; these things are the beginning of birth pangs. ⁹But you, look to yourselves: They will deliver you over to councils and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will be arraigned before rulers and kings for my sake—in order to testify to them. ¹⁰And it is necessary first that the good tidings be proclaimed to all the nations. ¹¹And when, on delivering you over, they lead you in, do not worry beforehand about what you are saying; rather, whatever is given to you in that hour, say that; for you are not the ones speaking, but rather the Spirit, the Holy one. ¹²And brother will deliver up brother to death, and father child, and children will rise up against parents and put them to death; ¹³And you will be hated by all on account of my name; but whoever endures to the end, that one will be saved. ¹⁴And when you see the abomination of desolation standing where it ought not . . .” (Let the reader

understand) “. . . then those in Judaea, let them flee into the mountains; ¹⁵He who is on the housetop, let him neither descend nor go in to collect things from his household; ¹⁶And he who is in the field, let him not turn back to fetch his cloak. ¹⁷And alas in those days for pregnant women and for women nursing. ¹⁸And pray that it may not occur in winter; ¹⁹For those days will be an affliction such as has not occurred from the beginning of the creation that God created until now—nor indeed could occur. ²⁰And, but that the Lord shortened those days, no flesh at all would have been saved; yet, because of the chosen whom he chose, he shortened the days. ²¹And if anyone says to you then, ‘Look: Here is the Anointed,’ ‘Look: There,’ do not believe; ²²False Anointed Ones and false prophets will be raised up, and they will produce signs and prodigies, so as to lead astray—if possible—the chosen. ²³But keep watch: I have told you all things in advance. ²⁴And in those days, after that affliction, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give her light, ²⁵And the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; ²⁷And then he will send forth the angels and they will gather together the chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the sky. ²⁸But learn the parable from the fig tree: Now, when its branch softens and it produces leaves, you know that the summer is near; ²⁹So you also, when you see these things happening, you know that he is near, at the doors. ³⁰Amen, I tell you that this generation most certainly does not pass away until all these things happen. ³¹The sky and the earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²But, as for the day and hour, no one knows—neither the angels in heaven nor the Son—except the Father. ³³Keep watch, be alert: For you do not know when the moment is. ³⁴Just as a man gone abroad, leaving his household and giving power to his slaves—to each a task of his own—also commanded the doorkeeper that he should be vigilant. ³⁵Be vigilant, therefore—for you do not know when the Lord of the household comes, whether at evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or

in the morning—³⁶So that, arriving suddenly, he does not find you sleeping. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Be vigilant.”