Mark Dispensationally Considered

Mark 13:3-8: The Olivet Discourse and the Seven Seals of Revelation

Mark 13:3-4

- Mark 13:3—is very clear that Jesus is physically located on the Mount of Olives with the temple in view when he begins to speak with Peter, James, John, and Andrew privately.
  - Matthew 24:3—is more general it just says, "the disciples came unto him privately." It is not specific about who they were.
- Mark 13:4—reports that Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Christ two questions.
  - ". . . when shall these things be?" First, in the context this is clearly a question about when the temple was going to be destroyed.
  - "what shall be the sign when all things shall be fulfilled?" Second they want to know what sign they should be looking for to indicate that these things have come to pass and that all has been fulfilled.
- Remember that their request for a sign as not out of line with God's dealings with Israel.
  - I Corinthians 1:22--"For the Jews require a sign"
  - John 4:48—"Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe."

Mark 13:3-4

- Matthew 24:3—reports that the disciples asked him the same question regarding the temple, “when shall these things be?” In my opinion, Matthew is more precise regarding their second question. According to Matthew their second question is really two questions or at least one question with two parts. The disciples want to know: 1) “what shall be sign of thy coming,” 2) “and the end of the world?”
- The Apostles are asking about the end times. They are asking about the consummation of all things. In other words how will it all end?

Mark 13:5-8

- Mark 13:5-6—as Jesus begins to answer their question he first tells them to "Take heed lest any man deceive you." The reason for this warning in verse 5 is because in verse 6 Jesus warns of many false Christ's that will come in his name and deceive many.
  - Matthew 24:4-5—the Anti-christ will seek to deceive and destroy through a platform of peace.
    - Daniel 8:24-25 (913)—"and by peace shall destroy many:"
    - Daniel 11:21, 32, 34—"but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries."
    - Psalm 55:21 (625)—"The words of his mouth were smoother than butter"

Mark 13:5-8

- Mark 13:7-8a—the second sign Jesus tells the Apostles to look for is "wars and rumors of wars." The Apostles are explicitly told not to be troubled by these things because they "must needs be," i.e., they must come to pass. Lastly, they are told that these "wars and rumors of wars," do not signify the end. The fact that "nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom," speaks of the general breakup of the nations in the process of their absorption into the Anti-christ's kingdom.
  - Matthew 24:6-7a—these things must come to pass so that prophecy can be fulfilled.
    - Ezekiel 38:21 (884)
    - Daniel 9:26 (915)—warfare is said to be occurring within the gap in Daniel's prophecy between the ending of the 69th week and the beginning of the 70th week.

Mark 13:5-8

- Mark 13:8b—not only will there be "wars and rumors of wars" but there will also be earthquakes in diverse places, famines, troubles. Peter, James, John, and Andrew are then these things are but "the beginning of sorrows."
  - Matthew 24:7b-8—reports that in addition to the earthquakes and famines, there will also be pestilences. Once again verse 8 reports these things as merely the "beginning of sorrows."
- According to Mark 13/Matthew 24 the following signs are the "beginning of sorrows:"
  - False Christs
  - Wars and Rumors of Wars
  - Famines
  - Pestilences and Earthquakes

Mark 13:5-8

- These are the events that will typify the beginning stages of the 70th Week of Daniel/Tribulation Period. It is important to note that the Olivet Discourse takes its reader from the "beginning of sorrows," to "the midst of the week," to "immediately after the tribulation of those days." In other words, the Olivet Discourse summarizes many of the events that will transpire on earth during the Tribulation.
- Matthew 24:8/Mark 13:8—"the beginning of sorrows"
- Matthew 24:15/Mark 13:14—"the abomination of desolation, spoken by Daniel the prophet"
  - Daniel 9:27 (915)—the abomination of desolation occur in the midst or middle of the 70th Week/Tribulation. So Christ tells his Apostles what will occur at the beginning (beginning of sorrows) as well as the midst/middle of the tribulation (abomination of desolation).
- Matthew 24:29/Mark 13:24—" immediately after the tribulation of those days," takes their readers all the way to the end of the 70th week to the second coming of Christ.

Olivet Discourse and the 7 Seals of Rev.

- Before I make any comments on the book of Revelation, let me just say that I believe the entire book, including the first four chapters, to pertain to the nation of Israel in the Ages to Come. The church of this dispensation is not mentioned in Revelation.
- Amongst Futurists, those who believe that Revelation awaits a future fulfillment, there a couple ways of approaching or understanding the book. All of these approaches center on how one understands the 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, and 7 Vials.
  - Revelation 6-8:1 (1336)—7 Seals
  - Revelation 8:7-11:15—7 Trumpets
  - Revelation 16—7 Vials

Chronological View

7 Seals – 7 Trumpets –7 Vials

- This view holds that the Seals, Trumpets, and Vials follow after each other in a chronological sequence like events along a timeline. The Seals are opened, the Trumpets are blown, and the Vials are poured one right after the other, thereby taking the read straight through the book in chronological order.

Sequential View

7 Seals

7 Trumpets

7 Vials

- A second view sees the Seals, Trumpets, and Vials as three individual sequences taking the reader through the 70th Week/Tribulation three different times with a different focus each time.

Combination View

7 Seals

7 Trumpets—7 Vials

- I think the correct view is comprised of elements from both the *Chronological View* and the *Sequential View*. The 7 Seals are a summary of the entire 70th Week/Tribulation while the 7 Trumpets and 7 Vials unfold chronologically once they begin. In short, the 7 Seals take their reader all the way through the 70th Week in Summary form and presents an outline while the 7 Trumpets and 7 Vials fill in the details of the outline.
- In order to prove my thinking in this regard I would like to consider the similarities between the events outline in the Olivet Discourse with the Seals of Revelation 6-8.

Olivet Discourse and the 7 Seals of Rev.

- 1st Seal (Rev. 6:2)—who is this rider on the white horse who went forth conquering? It is the Anti-christ, i.e., the ultimate false Christ.
  - Matthew 24:4-5—the first sign in the beginning of sorrows was the appearance of false Christs
- 2nd Seal (Rev. 6:3-4)—peace is taken from the earth that they should kill one another and a great sword is drawn, i.e., war.
  - Matthew 24:6-7—the second sign in the beginning of sorrows was "wars and rumors of wars."
- 3rd Seal (Rev. 6:5-6)—famine hits the earth under the 3rd Seal. Black is often associated with famine in other parts of the Bible (Lam. 4:4-8).
  - Matthew 24:7—the third sign in the beginning of sorrows was famine.

Olivet Discourse and the 7 Seals of Rev.

- 4th Seal (Rev. 6:7-8)—in the 4th Seal, a fourth of the earth's population is killed with the sword, hunger, and with the beasts of the earth, i.e., Pestilence.
  - Matthew 24:7—the fourth sign of the beginning of sorrows was pestilence.
- 5th Seal (Rev. 6:9-11)—when the 5th Seal is opened we see the "souls of them that were slain for the word of God," i.e., Martyrdoms.
  - Matthew 24:9-10—after the beginning of sorrows but before the abomination of desolation (middle of the Trib.) Jesus warns the Apostles about how they will be delivered, afflicted, killed, and hated for "my name's sake," i.e., Martyrdoms.

Olivet Discourse and the 7 Seals of Rev.

- 6th Seal (Rev. 6:12-17)—when the 6th Seal is opened we are carried forward to the time of the end. The 6th Seal takes us up to the signs immediately preceding the Advent of the Lord in Glory, as seen in Revelation 19.
  - Matthew 24:27-33—one cannot read Matthew 24:27-33 and Revelation 6:12-17 without seeing that they speak of the same event. The 6th Seal does not therefore include the visible appearing of the Son of Man but the signs preceding his coming. Furthermore, consider that Revelation 6:13 contains a comparison to a fig tree followed by the sealing of the elect in Israel in Revelation 7:1-8. Meanwhile in Matthew 24:31-33 we see the gathering of the elect in Israel followed by the simile of the Fig Tree. Just as the Olivet Discourse provides a summary of the entire 70th Week/Tribulation so to do the first six seals, they comprise a summary of the judgments distributed over the whole of the 70th Week and lead up to the time of the Second Advent in Revelation 19.

Olivet Discourse and the 7 Seals of Rev.

- 7th Seal (Rev. 8:1)—the breaking of the 7th Seal in contrast with first 6 produces nothing but silence for a half an hour. In other words there is a pause before horrors of the 7 Trumpets and 7 Vials No such pause occurs between the blowing of the 7th Trumpet and pouring of the 1st Vial. The Trumpet and Vial judgments are continues once they begin. The 7 Seals provide a summary or outline of the entire 70th Week while the 7 Trumpets and 7 Vials fill in the details of the outline.