

## **Mark 13:1-13 “END TIMES”**

We bless You, O most high God and Lord of mercy, Who are ever doing countless great and unknowable things with us, glorious and wonderful; Who grants us sleep for rest from our infirmities, and repose from the burdens of our toiling bodies. We thank You that You have not destroyed us with our sins, but have loved us as ever, and though we sink in despair, You have raised us up to glorify Your power. Therefore we implore Your incomparable goodness, enlighten the eyes of our understanding and raise up our mind from the heavy sleep of indolence; open our mouth and fill it with Your praise, that we may be able undistracted to sing and confess You, Who are God glorified in all and by all, the eternal Father, with Your only-begotten Son, and Your all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. (Second Prayer of St. Basil the Great) AMEN.

### **Verses in focus –**

Mark 13:1 – Jesus’ disciples were impressed about the size of the temple.

Mark 13:2 – Jesus replies by foretelling its destruction.

Mark 13:3-4 – Four of the disciples ask Him for details

Mark 13:5-13 – Jesus responds by warning them to be prepared:

- a) For false leaders claiming to come in His name, but the end is still to come,
- b) For much conflict between nations and natural disasters, but these are not the ‘birth’,
- c) For persecution because they are His, but this is key to how the gospel will be preached,
- d) For the Holy Spirit to strengthen them through this persecution so they will be strong witnesses,
- e) For rejection from family members,
- f) For being hated by ‘all people’ simply for being His,
- g) To stand firm to the end, and so they will be ultimately saved (where it matters most).

### **Passages to consider regarding these verses –**

Ex. 4:12, Dan. 9:26,12:6-8, Is. 29:6, Jer. 14:14,23:21-25,29:8, Rev. 12:10-11.

Almighty Lord, God of the Powers and of all flesh, Who lives in the highest and cares for the humble, Who searches our hearts and affections, and clearly knows the secrets of people; eternal and everliving Light, in Whom is no change nor shadow of variation; O Immortal King, receive our prayers which at the present time we offer to You from unclean lips, trusting in the multitude of Your mercies. Forgive all sins committed by us in thought, word or deed, consciously or unconsciously, and cleanse us from all defilement of flesh and spirit. Grant us to pass the night of the whole present life with wakeful heart and sober thought, ever expecting the coming of the radiant day of the appearing of Your only-begotten Son, our Lord and God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, when the Judge of all will come with glory to render to each according to their deeds. May we not be found fallen and idle, but awake and alert for action, ready to accompany Him into the joy and divine palace of His glory, where there is the ceaseless sound of those keeping festival and the unspeakable delight of those who behold the ineffable beauty of Your Face. For You are the true Light that enlightens and sanctifies all, and all creation sings to You throughout the ages. (First Prayer of St. Basil the Great) AMEN.