

and what Jesus says next describes it as **worldwide in scope**, and also happening at a time of **tremendous deception**, like that time described by Paul in **2 Thess 2:1-12**, and also by John in **Revelation 13:5-18**. “**20 "And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect whom He chose, He shortened the days."** **21 "And then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ'; or, 'Behold, He is there'; do not believe him; 22 for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order, if possible, to lead the elect astray."** In both passages, by Paul and John, speaking of the **career of the Antichrist and the Tribulation period of the last days**, there is a surviving **remnant of elect believers**, who undergo a **tremendous test of faith** by the **deceiver**, putting this **prophecy** by Jesus, and confirmed by Paul and John, **squarely in the distant future** just prior to the Second Coming of Christ. Notice that Jesus says that during that **Tribulation period**, “**no life would have been saved,**” because the scope of destruction in that time will be so great, Jesus tells us that many of **His elect** (born again Christians) will be delivered “**but for the sake of the elect whom He chose, He shortened the days.**” See here mentioned by Jesus that the **Tribulation period** will be **shortened** and only allowed to run its course to certain **God appointed limits**, and its cutting short is for the “**sake of His elect,**” the deliverance of His people. Happening concurrently with the **massive loss of life**, is a **time of deception** so powerful that it **will lead the world astray**, and even the elect would be misled to believe in this “**false Christ,**” but that is **not possible**, for to be **elect** is to be “**protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time**” (1 Peter 1:5). Jesus warns of this deception, “**21 "And then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ'; or, 'Behold, He is there'; do not believe him; 22 for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order, if possible, to lead the elect astray."** Jesus warns His disciples, “**do not believe him,**” even if he shows “**signs and wonders, in order, if possible, to lead the elect astray**” to believe him. Notice also that in both passages by Paul and by John, the **Tribulation**, are a time of tremendous **upheaval with loss of life and deception** in the world instigated by the career of the **Antichrist**, whom the **Lord destroys** at His Second Coming.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-12 - 8 And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; 9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. **11 And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so**

that they might believe what is false, 12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. NASB **Revelation 13:7-18** - 7 And it was given to him **to make war with the saints and to overcome them**; and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. 8 And **all who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.** 9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear. 10 If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. **Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints...** 13 And **he performs great signs**, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. 14 And **he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs** which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, **telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast** who had the wound of the sword and has come to life. 15 And there was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, that **the image of the beast might even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.** 16 And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a **mark on their right hand, or on their forehead, 17 and he provides that no one should be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark**, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. NASB

Here is an important **reason** that we know that this text in **Mark 13:14-27** is referring to a time of the **distant future**, because it refers to a time unlike any other that has occurred in history, which will **suddenly end** by the **appearance** of the **Lord** to “**shorten the days,**” **deliver His elect**, and **destroy the Antichrist** (2 Thess 2:8, Rev 19:20). Of this time **Jesus expects** His disciples to clearly **see it and understand**, so that the **generation of believers alive** at that time might clearly understand and be warned, “**23 "But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance."** Even under the **greatest deception** ever occurring in the **history of the world**, the **elect** will be kept in **perseverance** by Christ the Good Shepherd, and when the **entire earth** is ripe for judgment having finally **worshipped the Antichrist in open rebellion**, then will be the **glorious Coming of Christ** to bring and **end** to this **present evil age**, and bring His **Kingdom** to the **earth to rule over the nations** of men as God’s anointed King. This **Messianic Rule** is predicted in many places in the Bible such as (Psalm 2, 22:27-28, 72:10-11, 86:9-10, 110, Isaiah 2:2-4, 9:6-7, 24:23, 60:9-14, Daniel 2:44, 7:13-27, Eze 37:21-22, Mic 4:7, Zech 14:16-20, Matt 19:28, 25:31-46, 1 Cor 6:2-3, 15:22-27, Rev 2:26-27, 5:9-10, 15:1, 20:1-9). This is why the **Jews of Jesus day** thought the

Messiah would immediately bring **His Kingdom rule**, because it is such a prominent **feature** in the **Old Testament** prophets. Even **Paul** clearly taught that after **Christ delivered** and **resurrected** His own Church, He would reign with them on the earth until **“He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.”**

1 Corinthians 15:22-26 - 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, **after that those who are Christ's at His coming, 24 then comes the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.** 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death. NASB

Now in the **text** of **Mark 13**, Jesus does not just tell us about **Tribulation** and **worldwide deception**, but He describes the **deliverance of the elect** as a **glorious Coming** in power to gather His people.

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 "And 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.

Now here in Mark 13:24-27 **Jesus** Himself describes His **Second Coming** in vivid detail. In this section He describes **signs** in the **sun, moon, and stars**, and His **Coming** in **power** and **glory** with His **angels** to **gather His elect** from both **Heaven** and **Earth**, and He tells us exactly when it will happen. **“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 "And 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.”** Notice here that this glorious deliverance of His saints from Tribulation will be, **“in those days, after that tribulation.”** If there ever was a crystal clear verse of scripture stating that the **resurrection** of the both the **dead** and **living saints** happens **after the tribulation**, this is it! Of course, the passage in **Matthew 24:29-31** describes the same thing, but adds that **“all the tribes of the earth will mourn and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.”**