

Shayla: Who are the elect in Mark 13:27?

- **Mark 13:27 HCSB** He will send out the angels and gather His elect from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of the sky.

Also compare:

- **Matthew 24:31 HCSB** He will send out His angels with a loud trumpet, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Midrash:

In Matthew 24:3, the disciples asked three very critical questions. They asked what they thought was a single question. It turns out that they actually asked three questions:

- (1) When will the destruction of the Temple take place;
- (2) What is the sign of your coming (to establish the kingdom); and
- (3) When is the end of the age?

This conversation was important because, though Jesus may have used parables with the crowds, He always gave a straightforward answer to the disciples.¹ It is also important because He gave them a complete (though not necessarily comprehensive) answer to their three questions.² The elders of our church use Jesus' reply to their questions, called the Olivet Discourse, as a basis for a chronological framework to clarify our understanding of ach'arit ha yamim. We believe He not only answered their questions, but did so in the same order of their query.

If we compare the three Gospel accounts we come up with the following eschatological order:

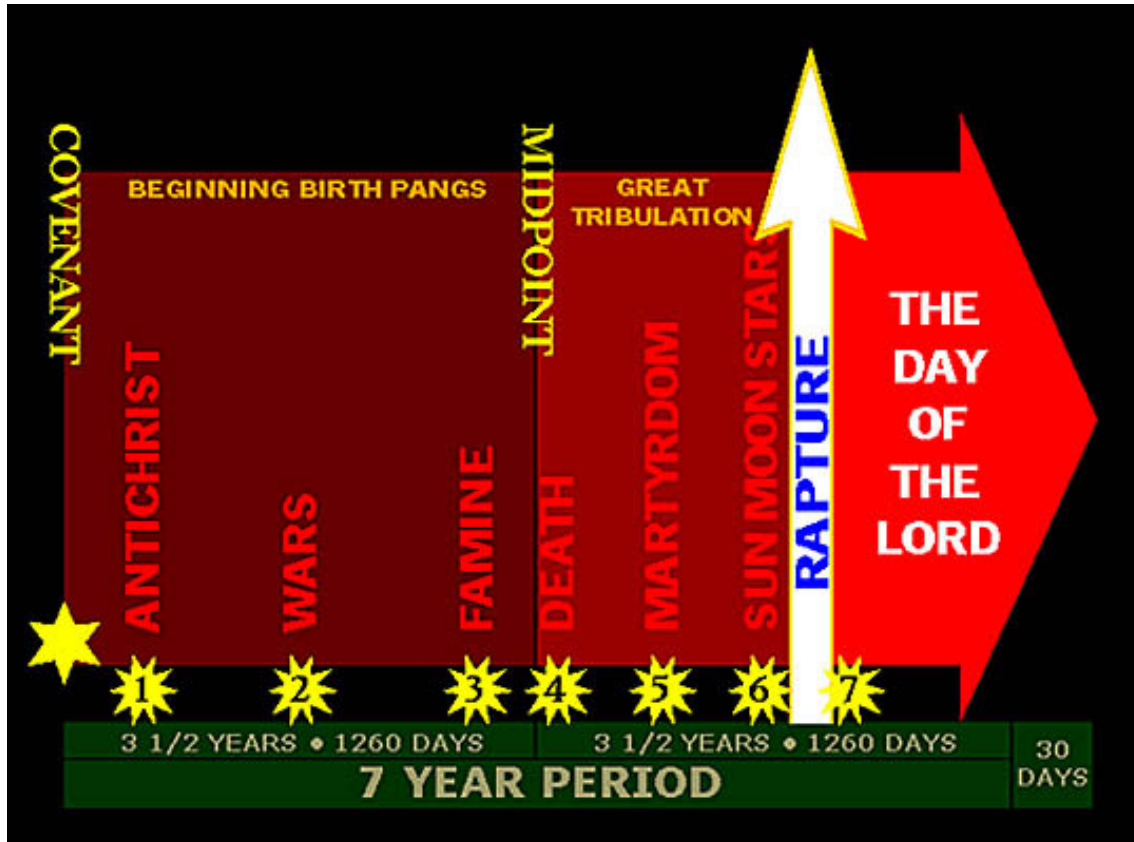
1. Many false christs
2. Jerusalem destroyed
 - a. Diaspora
 - b. Jerusalem controlled by Gentiles until end
3. Wars and insurrections
4. Natural disasters
 - a. Famines
 - b. Earthquakes
 - c. Epidemics
5. Great persecution
 - a. Martyrdom
 - b. Apostasy
 - c. Betrayal
 - d. False prophets
 - e. Love grows cold (Holy spirit continues to help)
6. Gospel preached to world (then end comes)
7. Terrifying signs in heavens
8. Antichrist sits in Temple
9. Great Tribulation begins
10. The great deception - false signs and wonders
11. Astronomical signs
 - a. Sun, moon and stars darkened
 - b. Stars fall
 - c. Powers of heaven shaken
 - d. Roaring seas and strange tides
 - e. Stability of the heavens broken up
12. Christ returns

¹ Matthew 13:10-11, 16, 18

² Matthew 24:27, 37, 39

- a. Sign of coming appears in heavens
- b. Deep mourning of all nations
- c. Everyone sees Him on clouds with power and glory
- d. Sends forth angels with mighty trumpet to gather elect

Our understanding of the timing of the Rapture is generally called “Prewrath” and can be charted as follows:



We are told in Mark 13:22 and Matthew 24:24 that the antichrist’s signs and wonders will be so marvelous they would even (if possible) deceive the elect. We are also told:

- [Revelation 13:7-10 HCSB \(7\)](#) And he was permitted to wage war against the saints and to conquer them. He was also given authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation. (8) All those who live on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name was not written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slaughtered. (9) If anyone has an ear, he should listen: (10) If anyone is destined for captivity, into captivity he goes. If anyone is to be killed with a sword, with a sword he will be killed. Here is the endurance and the faith of the saints.

Therefore, our understanding is that the saints will NOT be raptured before the beginning of the seven year Tribulation period, but that we will be persecuted until shortly after the Abomination of Desolation takes place at the mid-point (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). The rapture will initiate the Great Day of God’s Wrath, which we are told that we will escape (1 Thessalonians 5:9). At that point, the Spirit’s testimony to human hearts will be removed (2 Thessalonians 2:7-8) and a spirit of delusion will be sent instead (2 Thessalonians 2:11) so that from that point on the rebels will believe only what is false and will be condemned in their sins.