Name: _____

DEEP-DIVE LESSON

Signs, Dates and the Rapture: Reading Mark 13 Carefully

TODAY'S BIG IDEA	Reading Mark 13 carefully guards us from date-setting and fear, and points us to watchful faith.
BIBLE READINGS	Mark 13 (whole chapter), Daniel 7:13–14, 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17
MEMORY VERSE	"But of that day or that hour no one knows… Watch, keep alert, and pray." (Mark 13:32–33)

1 Headlines

The disciples asked Jesus two questions in Mark 13:4. What were they?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

2 Read the whole chapter

Highlight each part of Mark 13 in three colors: **near** (AD 30–70), **final** (end of the age), or **both**.

1. **What do verses 5–23 warn about most?**

_____

_____

2. **In verse 14, "let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains." Does that sound like the end of the whole world, or a local war?**

3. **Where does the focus shift to the very end?**

3 Where Christians disagree

Team A: the secret rapture view. **Team B:** the historic Lutheran and Reformed view. State the other side fairly first!

> 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with God's trumpet. The dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air.

1. **Is the Lord's coming here quiet or loud?**

2. **Mark 13:27 says the "chosen ones" are gathered. Does that happen before or after "that oppression" (verse 24)?**

3. **What do both sides agree on?**

4 Watching is not worrying

> “so will he have that day unknown to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, and be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come; and may be ever prepared to say, Come Lord Jesus, come quickly, Amen.”
>
> Westminster Confession of Faith 33.3 (1647) · Read it in the Reading Room

1. **What is “carnal security”?**

2. **What is the opposite mistake?**

5 Pray and apply

My Maranatha prayer. One thing I want God to set right in the world:

One thing I want him to change in me:

This week: Read Mark 13 again and list every command Jesus gives. Which one do you most need?

> “Come Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen.” — the last words of the Westminster Confession

Scripture: World English Bible (public domain). Free to print and copy.