

# Mark 13:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.

## Analysis

**In those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be**—the Greek thlipsis (θλῖψις, 'affliction/tribulation') describes intense pressure, distress. Jesus claimed this tribulation would be unparalleled in all history—hoia ou gegonen toiautē (οὕτα οὐ γέγονεν τοιαύτη, 'such as has not occurred'). This echoes Daniel 12:1—'time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation.'

Partial fulfillment occurred AD 70: Josephus recorded 1.1 million Jews killed, 97,000 enslaved, cannibalism, factional violence, temple destruction. Yet hyperbolic language ('such as never was') may point beyond AD 70 to final tribulation (Matthew 24:21 adds 'no, nor ever shall be,' suggesting ultimate fulfillment remains future). Prophetic texts often have dual reference—near historical fulfillment prefiguring far eschatological fulfillment. Christians debate whether 'great tribulation' is past (preterist view) or future (futurist view). Either way, Jesus warned of unprecedented suffering connected to His prophecy.

## Historical Context

Josephus' 'Wars of the Jews' details Jerusalem's destruction (AD 66-70). Roman siege lasted five months. Factional violence within city killed thousands before Romans entered. Starvation drove cannibalism. Josephus estimated 1.1 million deaths, 97,000 enslaved. Titus razed temple, burned city. Survivors scattered.

Jewish state ended until 1948. By any measure, catastrophic judgment. Yet world history includes comparable horrors: Black Death (25 million), Mongol invasions (40 million), World Wars (60+ million), Holocaust (6 million Jews). Does this contradict Jesus' 'such as never was'? Options:

1. hyperbole emphasizing severity
2. focus on Jewish people specifically
3. primary fulfillment future during final tribulation.

Futurist eschatology anticipates worse suffering before Christ's return.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How can Jesus describe AD 70 as 'such as was not... neither shall be' when history includes comparable catastrophes?
2. Does this prophecy have dual fulfillment—near (AD 70) and far (future tribulation)—or single fulfillment, and why does it matter?
3. How should awareness of unprecedented suffering (past or future) affect Christian living—does it produce fear or faithful endurance?

## Interlinear Text

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ἔσονται γὰρ αἱ ἡμέραι ἐκεῖναι θλῖψις οἴα οὐ γένηται  
shall be For G3588 days in those affliction as not shall be  
G2071 G1063 G2250 G1565 G2347 G3634 G3756 G1096

τοιαύτη ἀπ' ἀρχῆς κτίσεως ἥς ἔκτισεν ὁ θεὸς  
such from the beginning of the creation which created G3588 God  
G5108 G575 G746 G2937 G3739 G2936 G2316

ἔως τοῦ νῦν καὶ οὐ μὴ γένηται  
unto G3588 this time neither not G3361 shall be  
G2193 G3568 G2532 G3756 G1096

## Additional Cross-References

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**Daniel 12:1** (Parallel theme): And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

**Joel 2:2** (Parallel theme): A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.

**Matthew 24:21** (Parallel theme): For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

**Daniel 9:26** (Parallel theme): And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

**Mark 10:6** (Creation): But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.

**Daniel 9:12** (Parallel theme): And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem.

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