

Mark 13:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.

Analysis

But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things—Jesus concludes His warnings with a call to vigilance. The Greek hymeis blepete (ὑμεῖς βλέπετε, 'you take heed') is emphatic—personal responsibility to remain alert. **Behold, I have foretold you all things** (Greek proeirēka hymin panta, προείρηκα ὑμῖν πάντα)—Jesus claims comprehensive prophetic revelation. He hasn't left disciples ignorant of future trials but fully informed.

This foreknowledge serves multiple purposes:

1. validates Jesus' prophetic authority when fulfilled
2. prevents disciples being caught off-guard by tribulation
3. provides framework for interpreting events
4. motivates watchfulness and endurance.

The phrase 'all things' doesn't mean exhaustive detail but sufficient revelation for navigating end-times. Christians have Scripture's prophetic framework—not to satisfy curiosity but to sustain faithfulness during trial. Prophecy isn't for calculation but preparation; not speculation but vigilance.

Historical Context

Jesus delivered this discourse AD 30-33; events unfolded exactly as predicted. AD 66-70 saw false messiahs, wars, temple destruction, persecution, flight from Judea—all forewarned. Early Christians, possessing Jesus' prophecy, interpreted events correctly. They fled Jerusalem, avoided false teachers, endured persecution

faithfully. Church fathers cited this discourse as proof of Jesus' divine foreknowledge. Throughout history, Christians have found this prophecy relevant: each generation faces deception, tribulation, testing. Jesus' words equip believers for trial. Modern Christians benefit from studying fulfilled prophecy (AD 70 events) and awaiting future fulfillment (Second Coming). The phrase 'I have foretold you all things' should produce confidence, not fear—God has not left us ignorant but informed.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What purposes does Jesus' prophetic forewarning serve—how does knowing future tribulations help Christians endure them?
2. How should Christians balance studying prophecy for preparation versus getting distracted by speculation and date-setting?
3. What does 'I have foretold you all things' teach about Scripture's sufficiency—has God revealed enough for Christians to navigate end-times faithfully?

Interlinear Text

ὑμεῖς	δὲ	βλέπετε·	ἰδοῦ	προείρηκα	ὑμῖν	πάντα
ye	But	heed	behold	I have foretold	you	all things
G5210	G1161	G991	G2400	G4280	G5213	G3956

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 3:17 (Parallel theme): Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

Mark 13:5 (Parallel theme): And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you:

John 14:29 (Parallel theme): And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.

Luke 21:8 (Parallel theme): And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them.

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