

Mark 13:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors.

Analysis

When ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors—The Greek *ginōskete* (γινώσκετε, know/recognize) shifts from passive observation to certain knowledge. *Tauta* (ταῦτα, 'these things') refers back to the specific signs enumerated in verses 5-23: false messiahs, wars, earthquakes, persecution, the abomination of desolation, and great tribulation. The phrase *eggys estin epi thyrais* (ἐγγύς ἐστιν ἐπὶ θύραις, 'near is at doors') uses spatial metaphor for temporal imminence.

The subject of 'it is nigh' is ambiguous in Greek—could be masculine ('he,' the Son of Man) or neuter ('it,' the kingdom/end). This ambiguity may be intentional: Christ's coming and the kingdom's consummation are inseparable. The image of standing at the doors echoes James 5:9, where the Judge stands before the doors. For Mark's audience, these signs were materializing in the Roman-Jewish war (AD 66-70), yet Jesus's words extend beyond that immediate crisis to final fulfillment.

Historical Context

By AD 65-70, Jewish revolt against Rome was escalating. False messiahs like Theudas (Acts 5:36) and Simon bar Giora had appeared. Claudius expelled Jews from Rome (AD 49); Nero's persecution began (AD 64). Earthquakes struck Laodicea (AD 60) and Pompeii (AD 62). Mark's readers could 'see these things' unfolding, signaling judgment's nearness—the temple's destruction would come within a generation (v. 30).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How should Christians balance confidence in recognizing prophetic fulfillment with humility about interpretive certainty?
2. What does Jesus's emphasis on 'when you see' teach about responding to current events through biblical lenses?
3. In what ways does knowing Christ stands 'at the doors' affect your daily priorities and spiritual alertness?

Interlinear Text

οὕτως	καὶ	ὑμεῖς	ὅταν	ταῦτα	ἴδητε	γινόμενα
So	in like manner	ye	when	these things	ye shall see	come to pass
G3779	G2532	G5210	G3752	G5023	G1492	G1096

γινώσκετε	ὅτι	ἐγγύς	ἐστιν	ἐπὶ	θύραις
know	that	nigh	it is	even at	the doors
G1097	G3754	G1451	G2076	G1909	G2374

Additional Cross-References

James 5:9 (Parallel theme): Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.