

Mark 13:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet.

Analysis

When ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled—the Greek *mē* *throēisthe* (μὴ θροεῖσθε) means 'do not be terrified, alarmed, or thrown into confusion.' Wars characterize fallen world since Cain killed Abel. International conflicts don't necessarily signal the immediate end. **For such things must needs be** (Greek *dei* *genesthai*, δεῖ γενέσθαι)—divine necessity, not mere possibility. God's sovereign plan includes human conflict as consequence of sin.

But the end shall not be yet (Greek *all'* *oupō* *to telos*, ἀλλ' οὐπό τὸ τέλος)—'not yet the end.' Wars are birth pains (v. 8), not final labor. History witnessed countless wars—Rome-Judea (AD 66-70), world wars, genocides, ongoing conflicts. None was 'the end.' Christians must avoid date-setting based on wars. The end comes God's appointed time, not triggered mechanically by historical events.

Historical Context

First century witnessed numerous conflicts: Roman civil wars (AD 68-69, 'Year of Four Emperors'), Judean revolt (AD 66-70), Parthian conflicts. Early Christians wondered if these were end-times. Jesus' words prevented panic. Church history shows each generation faced wars—barbarian invasions, Crusades, Thirty Years War, Napoleonic Wars, World Wars I-II, Cold War, modern terrorism. Each era thought surely 'the end.' Yet Christ hasn't returned. His point: don't let wars spiritually alarm you. God remains sovereign; wars fulfill His purposes; believers

trust providence. The command 'be not troubled' requires faith that God controls history despite appearances of chaos.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Why does Jesus command 'be not troubled' by wars—what spiritual danger comes from letting global conflicts alarm us?
2. How does understanding wars as divinely ordained ('must needs be') differ from fatalism or despair?
3. What prevents Christians from correctly reading contemporary events as 'surely the end' when Jesus said 'the end shall not be yet'?

Interlinear Text

ὅταν δὲ ἀκούσητε πολέμων καὶ ἀκοὰς πολέμων μὴ^ν
when And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars not
G3752 G1161 G191 G4171 G2532 G189 G4171 G3361

θροεῖσθε· δεῖ γὰρ γενέσθαι ἀλλ' οὔπω τὸ
be ye such things must for needs be but shall not be yet G3588
G2360 G1163 G1063 G1096 G235 G3768

τέλος
the end
G5056

Additional Cross-References

John 14:27 (Parallel theme): Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Acts 17:3 (Parallel theme): Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

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