

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Mark 13: 1-8

1. And as Jesus went out of the temple, one of His disciples (probably Matthew since he was on hand-shaking terms with many masons) saith unto Him, Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here! Look at the lintels and the cornice carvings! See the huge pillars that thrust upwards and are crowned with leaves. And look at those gargoyles that spout water from their mouths and divers other parts in the rains. Super! Dost thou not marvel at these things? Seriously.
2. And Jesus answering said unto him, I'll give you gargoyles! Seest thou these great buildings? Dost thou wonder at the straight courses of stone and the fine mortar? Art thou impressed with the finials and the incised designs? I tell you, there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down, for all things pass, and those that strive to create lasting memorials shall be disappointed, for they shall crumble to dust before the blast of the Father's nostrils. So there!
3. And as He sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple with a simple lunch of bread and olives, cheese and figs, dates, pomegranates, grilled fish pieces, goat kebabs, roast gazelle, sliced lamb, and a flagon of fine wine, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked Him privately,
4. Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled? And are you going to eat all that cheese by yourself? For they were eyeing it with desire.
5. And having slowly finished His mouthful, Jesus answering them began to say, Take some slices of the bread, and taste and see that the cheese is good. Put your hand here in the basket of pomegranates – and believe. They also are very good. So's the gazelle. And whilst ye eat and rest take heed lest any man deceive you:
6. For many shall come in my name, saying; blessed are the bakers and the olive pickers and those that separate the curds and whey and produce tasty morsels such as this fine cheese from Bethany; blessed also are the butchers, and the drippers of fine wax by whose lights we can eat late suppers, and the makers of brass stands to hold them, and – here's the stern bit - they shall also say that they are Christ and shall deceive many – making much denarii in so doing that they are able to live in mansions and ride fast camels.
7. And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, and tales of strange modes of transport that run on iron rails or speed through the sky, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet, for this train of prophecy hath not yet reached the buffers, whatever they are.
8. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and republics shall rise and fall, yea even those that proclaim equality amongst all their peoples: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places and the stones shall quiver and shake, and rattle and roll, and shimmy, and the pillars shall twerk, and the very sands shall liquify exceedingly quickly, oh yes! And there shall be famines and troubles and loss of the world's wide web, and there shall be strange new words and phrases that many shall use but few with understanding: these are the beginnings of sorrows, so gird your loins and tighten your straps – yes, Thaddeus, you as well - and lay in pantry supplies against the dearth that is to come. And the disciples did understand little of this and did look questioningly at each other, but there was no enlightenment in this or future generations. But they saw that the cheese was very good.