2. The seven signs

1. False prophets v4-5
   (Lke 21:8 Mrk 13:5-6)

2. Wars and rumours of wars v6
   (Lke 21:9-10 Mrk 13:7)

3. Famines and earthquakes v7
   (Lke 21:11 Mrk 13:8)

4. Persecution v8-9
   (Lke 21:12-19 Mrk 13:9-13)

5. Apostasy v10-13

6. World evangelism v14
   (Mrk 13:10)

7. Abomination of desolation v15

These things would precede the destruction of Jerusalem, but only the last one was really a sign of imminence. The others did not indicate that the end was quite yet. Nor do they today.

3. Warnings

Flight from the city v16-20
   (Lke 17:31-36, 21:21-23 Mrk 13:14-18)

Siege of the city v21-22

Warning against false prophets v23-28
   (Lke 17:22-23 Mrk 13:21-23)

A day of judgment v29-31
   (Lke 21:25-27 Mrk 13:24-27)

The first two warnings are specific to the destruction of Jerusalem. The latter two warnings are general and are still relevant today.

4. A call to watchfulness

The lesson of the fig tree v32-33
   (Lke 21:29-31 Mrk 13:28-29)

The inevitability of fulfilment v34-36
   (Lke 21:32-33 Mrk 13:30-32)

The lesson of the Flood v37-42
   (Lke 17:27-30)

The lesson of the thief v43-44

The lesson of the slave v45-51
   (Mrk 13:33-37)

These lessons are as much relevant today as ever, especially if we apply them to death and judgment (Heb 9:27-28).

Note on verses 33-34

Jesus said that "all these things" would be seen within that generation and having seen them they were to "recognize that he is near, at the very door". What are "all these things"?

They are the seven signs of verses 4-14, the seventh sign being the one indicating extreme imminence. "All these things" cannot refer to the events of verses 27-31 or verses 35-37, because these things are the end itself, not the signs of it.

It would not make sense to say, "When you see the end happening, know that it is near". When it is happening, it is no longer near, but here — and it is too late to heed the signs warning of it, for the signs are gone and the end has come.

Note on verses 15-22

People were warned to flee the city immediately the seventh sign appeared — "the abomination of desolation". Jesus was referring to the siege and attack upon Jerusalem. This occurred in AD70.

This warning makes no sense applied to the second coming of Christ, because nobody can flee or escape from that (Mtt 25:31-33).

Besides Jesus said, Of that day and that hour nobody knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father" (verse 36). There will be no warning of the second coming (2Pe 3:3-4, 1Th 5:1-3).