Fri. Feb. 25

Please bring written answers to all of the questions below. (OK, the last one is optional).

1. Re-read Mark, with special emphasis on Chapter 13, including the footnotes.
   (a) What precisely does Jesus say about just when the end will come?
   (b) After the “desolating sacrilege” in 13.14, the final destruction will start. It is
   so huge: how come there is any life left on Earth at all?
   (c) List echoes heard in this chapter of past reading in this course.

2. Matthew 5.1 to 7.29; 10.1-42; 13.1-52; 18.1 to 19.2; 24.1 to 25.46.
   If you expected that the end of the world was imminent and that it would involve
   judgment and possible punishment, it might be natural to decide to be “extra
   good” – to practice what some have called “apocalyptic morality.” Where, and in
   what ways, in Jesus’s preaching does he advise going beyond the laws and
   commandments in the Hebrew Bible?

3. 1 Thessalonians 4.1-5.28
   (a) Note the apocalyptic morality in 4.1-11. Compare with what Paul says on the
   subject of marriage and sex in 1 Corinthians 7.1-9. If the apocalypse is imminent
   and you are engaged to be married, what would be the very best thing to do?
   (b) 4.13-18. What great hope is offered here? To whom? To what purpose does
   Paul urge the readers to put this passage? (Please answer all three.)

4. And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
   Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?