

# Mark



## Lesson 15-Troublous Times and Christ's Return

Focus: Mark 13:1-37

### 1. Jesus' prophesied about Jerusalem's destruction (v.1-4)

- a. **Note:** Christ's teaching on last day events, as found in this chapter (Mark 13), can also be found in Matthew 24 and Luke 21. The gospel of John does not have a chapter to mention about Christ's teachings on last day events. However, the apostle John does share about Christ's teaching on last day matters; This can be found in the book of Revelation (written and recorded by John as God showed him in vision); So, John devotes an entire book of the Bible to Christ's teachings on last day events; we just don't find them mentioned particularly in his gospel.
- b. (v.2) Jesus prophesied about the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. This happened not to long after the time when Jesus was here. In A.D. 70 the temple and the city of Jerusalem was destroyed by the Roman armies under the leadership of General Titus. **Jesus could share this information based on the prophecy of Daniel 9. This prophecy pointed to the time and events of Messiah's coming and those just beyond it.**
  - i. **See Daniel 9:25-27.** (The total time period to be covered by the prophecy is 70 sevens (weeks of years), as we find in v.24). The Jews were captives in Ancient Persia at the time this prophecy was written (this was from their captivity by the Babylonians who had now been conquered by the Medes and Persians). Jerusalem had previously been destroyed by the Babylonian armies. **The Persians made their decree in the "7<sup>th</sup> year of King Artaxerxes"** (Ezra 7:7, 10-13). **This decree enabled them to "restore and rebuild" Jerusalem. History shows us the year of this decree was 457 B.C.** Sixty-nine "sevens" (483 years) would bring us to the time of Messiah. **This was 27 A.D.**—the year Jesus was baptized and anointed by the Holy Spirit for His public ministry (Luke 3:1,2, 21-23). The term Messiah means "anointed one"—Jesus was anointed (Luke 4:18). After 3 ½ years of public ministry, Jesus was crucified and died for our sins. He was "cut off" for our sakes on the cross (**31 A.D.**). This was in the middle of the last week of the prophecy. The sacrifices and offerings were put to an end (John 1:29; Hebrews 10:1-16); there was no more need for them. The disciples of Jesus continued confirming the covenant in Christ's blood specifically with the Jewish people for another 3 ½ years. Finally in **34 A.D.** the gospel was carried primarily to the Gentiles (non-Jewish people). **After this time, the "city and the Sanctuary" were to be destroyed** according to Daniel's prophecy (Daniel 9:26). Jesus was talking about this event!!
- c. (v.4) The disciples of Jesus wanted to know "when" these things would be and also "what" would be the "sign of Christ's coming and of the end of the world [sinful age]" (Matthew 24:3). **They thought such a terrible event must signify the end of the world.** So, in Jesus' answer he blended his explanation to include about both things—the coming destruction of Jerusalem, and also the events pointing to the end of the world [sinful age].

### 2. Jesus began to explain the future events which His disciples could expect to see as leading up to the very end (v.5-9)

- a. (v.5,6) This first point was "don't be deceived!"
- b. (v.7-9) Jesus then pointed out the wars and rumors of such, troubled nations, earthquakes, famines, etc. that would come. There would also be the persecution of God's people. They

would have to **testify before kings and rulers** about the truth of the gospel. In the 1<sup>st</sup> century Paul had to speak before Felix, Festus, King Agrippa and other political and religious rulers (Acts 24,25,26). This testimony was necessary whether they accepted it or not!—"for a testimony against them" (v.9).

3. **The Gospel was to be proclaimed "to all nations;" persecution would break out against Christ's followers (v.10-13).** *Families and family members were against each other because of Jesus Christ. Christ promised that all ungodly men would hate the true and faithful followers of Christ. A number of people would have to speak for their faith before counsels and public trials. The Holy Spirit would give them the proper words to say. This happened to Stephen in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century (for one example) (Acts 7:51-60). This work of Christ's true followers continued throughout the centuries to come. The nation of Rome persecuted them in the early centuries. Later, the faithful followers of God were persecuted by the controlling religious powers of Europe during the Dark Ages (for the 1260 years especially, which is mentioned in Daniel and Revelation).*
4. **Christ mentions the "abomination of desolation" spoken of by Daniel in the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter (v.14-23)**
  - a. (v.14-18)-This event happened when the Armies of Titus surrounded Jerusalem. (That was the awaited sign—Christ's followed then fled from the city). The armies then retreated and came back later in AD 70 to destroyed the city. The Temple caught fire and all the gold melted down into the rocks. Later the Romans soldiers overturned all those rocks in search of the gold. Not one stone was left upon another. **Over one million people died in the siege, the Jewish historian Josephus records for us. The majority of them were Jews. (See Luke 21:20-24).** Many terrible persecutions towards God's people continued on from that time, throughout the centuries to come.
  - b. (v.19-23) Although an event happened back in the 1<sup>st</sup> century which was a terrible "desolation," the Bible also tells us that similar events would happen in the future from that time. In the middle ages another event took place which began a great and lengthy persecution. In the very last days just before Jesus appears there will be a terrible "time of trouble such as never was" (Daniel 12:1; Mark 13:19,20; Rev. 13:13,14).
5. **Jesus tells us that after these events He will surely appear in the sky to deliver His people (v.24-27; Daniel 12:1,2).** He will come with His power and great glory to deliver them. All the wicked will be destroyed by the brightness and power of His coming (1 Thess. 4:16,17; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; Revelation 6:12-17).
6. **When we see all of these final signs then we can know that the end is at hand (v.28-31).** *Just like the changing seasons give us signs so that we can know the time of year, so also, these signs in the sky, etc. will declare to us the nearness of Christ's Coming! The generation who sees and beholds these very final signs will not pass away until everything happens—Jesus comes! (v.30).*
7. **No one knows "the day or the hour"—Christ tells us to watch, pray, and be ready!! (v.32-37)** *Christ has given to all his followers their appointed work. We are to be faithful in seeking the Lord and also in sharing Him with "all nations." We do not want to be found sleeping when He comes!!*

### **Question (s) for the Heart:**

**Will you choose to daily "watch and pray" so that your soul will be ready for Christ's soon return? \_\_\_\_\_**