

Mark 13

Mark 13.1-2 – events on Tuesday of the last week

-Jesus was discussing two questions here: the fall of Jerusalem and the end of the world

V1 – What statement did the disciples make as Jesus was leaving the temple? What a beautiful place this was

-This was Herod's temple, one of the wonders of the ancient world

-The stones were 40 ft. long, 12 feet high, 18 feet wide - very impressive

V2 – What prediction did Jesus make about the temple? It would all be destroyed

-This came true in 70 A.D., when the Romans totally destroyed the temple and Jerusalem

-Jerusalem basically did not exist for the next 200 years

Mark 13.3-8

V3 – The Mount of Olives was about one-half mile east of the temple

-It was about 200 feet high, and most of the city of Jerusalem could be seen from there

-**Who spoke to Jesus about his prophecy?** Peter, James, John, Andrew

-**Why did they ask him in private?** Maybe so he would not get into more trouble with the Jews

V4 – We know from the parallel accounts of this passage that they also asked him about the Second Coming – **Read Matthew 24.3**

-This is very important: they thought the temple would not be destroyed until the end of the world (it was so horrible to think about)

-**Concerning this terrible event, what did they want to know?** The signs that would precede it

V5 – **What warning did Jesus begin with?** Do not be misled on this subject (many today are being misled today also)

-People seem to have a morbid curiosity with the signs of the end of the world; they will talk for hours about it and miss the truth on the subject of baptism

V6 – **What was the first sign that Jesus told them about?** Many would come and would claim to be the Messiah

-**Read Josephus, *Wars of the Jews*, Book 5**

V7 – **What would be other signs?** Wars and rumors of wars

-**What did he tell them to do when they saw these things?** Not to be frightened

V8 – **What other signs would there be?** Earthquakes (Pompeii, Laodicea in 61-62 AD)

-Famines (Jerusalem, *Acts 11.28*)

-So we have records of some of these things occurring during the days of the New Testament

Mark 13.9-13

V9 – **What did Jesus say would happen to his disciples?** They would go before courts (*Acts 26* – Paul before Agrippa), would be beaten by the Jews (happened to Paul many times), would preach

to government officials (Paul – *Acts 24*, before Felix, *Acts 26*, before Agrippa)

V 10 – **What had to happen before the destruction would come?** The gospel had to be preached to all nations

-**Read Romans 10.18 and Colossians 1.23**

-So before 70 AD the gospel had been taken to the entire inhabited world

V 11 - **What would happen to the followers of Jesus?** They would be arrested

-**How would they know what to say when they stood before others?** Holy Spirit would help them

-We know that the direct operation of the Holy Spirit came to an end when the New Testament was completed

V 12 – **What else would happen?** Family members would betray family members

V 13 – **What would be the attitude that many people would have toward Christians?** They would hate them

-**But who would be saved?** Those who would endure to the end – **Read Revelation 2.10**

Mark 13.14-23

V 14 – The Old Testament prophet Daniel told of a terrible desolation that was to come: *Daniel 9.27, 11.31, 12.11*

-Daniel was talking about the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

-**Read Luke 21.20** (parallel passage)

-**What advice did Jesus have for Christians who were caught in that destruction?** Flee to the mountains

-There is nothing wrong with running from persecution; in fact, that is one of the ways that the church grows

V 15 – **What other advice did Jesus give?** If one is on the housetop, don't go into the house

-Just "run for it" – First century houses had flat roofs; people would go up there to cool off at night

V 16 – **What about the person in the field?** Not to go and get his coat

V 17 – **What special problem would some have?** To be nursing babies

-So it was going to be hard on women

V 18 – **What were the disciples to pray for?** That the destruction would not come in the winter

-**Why?** That would make it especially hard on people who were trying to escape

V 19 – This would be an awful time, a time of great violence

-**Read Josephus, *Wars of the Jews*, p. 826ff**

-Josephus tells us that about 1 million people died during the Roman siege of Jerusalem

-Many of the people died from starvation, because the Romans had surrounded the city

V 20 – **What would Christ do in those days?** Shorten the time of the attack

-**Otherwise, what would happen?** All life would have ended

V 21 – **What warning did he give them?** Not to follow false Messiahs

V 22 – Many false Messiahs would arise in those days

V 23 – Christ had now warned them about that awful time that was coming

Mark 13.24-27

V 24 – He is still talking about the fall of Jerusalem (the heading in the New American Standard and other translations is incorrect here)

-Paragraph headings are not inspired; they are just comments by the translation committee, hoping to clarify a passage, but in this case the heading is not correct

-In *Matthew 24.34*, he said that these things would take place in that generation

-**What kind of language do we have here?** Apocalyptic (same as in Minor Prophets and in *Revelation*)

-In this kind of language, what would happen? The sun and moon would be darkened

V 25 – **What else would happen?** The stars would fall; powers of heaven would be shaken

V 26 – **What would the people see?** The Son of Man coming in great power and glory

V 27 – Then Christ would gather his people together

-Remember: *Acts 2.17-21* – similar signs were fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost

Mark 13.28-32

V 28 – The fig tree is used several times by Jesus to teach lessons and is used again here

-**What was the characteristic of the fig tree?** When the branch became tender, leaves would come out, and then people would know that summer was there

-**What was the lesson?** You could tell when summer was coming; the "signs" were right

V 29 – **What was the application?** He had told them the signs; they had to take it from there

V 30 – **What was the time schedule for these events?** In that generation (about 40 years)

V 31 – **What would pass away at the proper time?** Heaven and earth (at the Second Coming)

-**But what would not pass away?** The words of Christ – they have not ceased to exist over the last 2000 years, although many attempts have been made to stamp out the Bible

V 32 – This refers to the Second Coming – no-one would know what time it would be (no signs)

Mark 13.33-37

V 33 – No-one would know the appointed time

V 34 – This is a continuation for the material about the Second Coming

-What did Jesus compare it to? A man who goes away, leaves his slaves in charge of the house, and has told the doorkeeper to stay on the alert

-Who might the doorkeepers be? Elders, preachers, those charged with warning the people

V 35 – The Second Coming could occur at any time of the day or night

V 36 – We do not want to be found asleep at the Second Coming

V 37 – Be on the alert – the final warning of Jesus about these events

-This is the end of the events on Tuesday of the week of the crucifixion

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