

# THE DESTROYED TEMPLE & THE END TIMES

Sunday, January 28, 2024 -- GOSPEL OF MARK series -- Msg 60 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

## MARK 13:1-31

English Standard Version (ESV)

### The Destruction of the Temple

**1** And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" **2** And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."

### Signs of the End of the Age

**3** And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, **4** "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?" **5** And Jesus began to say to them, "See that no one leads you astray. **6** Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. **7** And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. **8** For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.

**9** "But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. **10** And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. **11** And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. **12** And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. **13** And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

### The Abomination of Desolation

**14** "But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. **15** Let the one who is on the housetop not go down, nor enter his house, to take anything out, **16** and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. **17** And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who

are nursing infants in those days! **18** Pray that it may not happen in winter. **19** For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be. **20** And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days. **21** And then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. **22** For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. **23** But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.

### The Coming of the Son of Man

**24** "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, **25** and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. **26** And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. **27** And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

### The Lesson of the Fig Tree

**28** "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. **29** So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. **30** Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. **31** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

### No One Knows That Day or Hour

**32** "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **33** Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. **34** It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. **35** Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— **36** lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. **37** And what I say to you I say to all: **Stay awake.**"

## CONTEXT, SETTING and SIGNIFICANCE of MARK CHAPTER 13:

- 1) This is called the 'Olivet Discourse' because it happened on the Mount of Olives which is just across from the Temple. (also found in Matthew 24-25 and Luke 21)
  - It is Mark's longest recorded teaching by Jesus.
  - It is just three days before the Crucifixion.

## CONTEXT, SETTING and SIGNIFICANCE: *continued*

### 2) Mark chapters 11-12 records the climatic events of 'Passion Week'

- Jesus's Triumphal Entry to Jerusalem ('Palm Sunday') Mark 11:1-10
    - the crowds (even the disciples) exalted Him as an earthly deliverer/ruler
  - Jesus curses the fruitless fig tree, Mark 11:12-25
    - Jesus is exposing utter failure of God's fruitless chosen people
  - Jesus 'cleanses the temple' of ungodly profiteering around the upcoming Passover Mark 11:15-18
  - Jesus blasts the religious leaders with the Parable of the Tenants/Vineyard owner Mark 12:1-12
- He ends it by quoting **Psalm 118:22-23**

*The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord's doing,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.*

- Jesus engages, debates and denounces the religious leaders as they try to entrap Him--
  - His authority is questioned: 'By what authority do you do these things?' Mark 12:35-37
  - His loyalty and politics are questioned: 'Should we pay taxes to Caesar?' Mark 12:13-17
  - His theology is questioned:
    - 'Who will a remarried widow be married to in heaven?' Mark 12:18-27
    - 'Which is the greatest commandment?' Mark 12:28-34
    - 'Whose son is the Messiah?' Mark 12:35-37
- Jesus blatantly declares the coming judgment of fraudulent religious leaders Mark 12:38-40
- Jesus loudly exalts the sincere widow-woman's sacrificial offering Mark 12:41-44

### 3) Mark chapter 13 is about a severe reckoning that is coming to Jerusalem and the world.

- Jesus says it will begin 'soon' -- an imminent urgency. vs 1-2, 29
- Jesus says it will be severe -- cataclysmic, utter destruction. vs 2, 8, 19-23
- Jesus says it will be sudden -- unforeseen, a surprise. vs 15-17, 32-36
- Jesus says it will be for sure -- inescapable, for certain. vs 30-31

### 4) Mark chapter 13 is about the ultimate safety and salvation of God's true people.

- Jesus warns His people. vs 5-6,
- Jesus informs His people. vs 7-10, 19-23
- Jesus comforts His people. vs 11-13
- Jesus charges His people. vs 35-37

### 5) Mark chapter 13 begins with God's coming judgment on the TEMPLE of the corrupt, failed and finished sacrificial system under the Mosaic Law (the old covenant vs the new covenant).

- Herod's Temple was the center of Jewish life -- that had become mainly corrupt.
- Solomon's Temple (1,000 BC) was 'the First Temple' -- that the Babylonians eventually destroyed.
- Herod's Temple was 'the Second Temple' rebuilt in 513 BC -- that Herod the Great enlarged
- Herod's Temple was the largest temple of any type on the earth at that time.
- Herod's Temple was a symbol of pride, power, position and prestige-- cultural religion.
- Jesus leaves this Temple forever and pronounces its utter destruction.

### 6) In 70 AD Jesus's prediction came true. Titus Vespasian led the Roman army to squash the Jewish rebellion by destroying Jerusalem -- especially Herod's Temple.

- The fire was so hot it melted the gold that covered the Temple and surrounding colonnade. The gold ran down between the massive stones and so the Roman looters toppled every stone to get the gold as a prize of war. God's sure and fierce judgment on apostate religion.