

## SERMON OUTLINE

In Mark 13:1-23 & 28-31 Jesus answers 2 questions from the disciples concerning His promise of the temple's destruction (vs. 1-2).

I. What will be the sign that the temple will be destroyed (vs. 3, 4b)?

A. The non-signs (be on guard!):

1. False prophets (vs. 5-6).
2. Wars & rumors of wars (vs. 7-8a, b).
3. Earthquakes (v. 8c).
4. Famines (v. 8d).
5. Persecutions (vs. 9-13).

B. The sign: the abomination of desolation standing in the temple (v. 14a).

1. Then you must flee (vs. 14b-20).
2. Then you must stay on guard (vs. 21-23).

II. When will the temple be destroyed (vs. 3, 4a)?

A. When the abomination of desolation stands (vs. 28-29).

B. Before this generation passes away (vs. 30-31).

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 17, 2016

Passage: Mark 13:1-23 & 28-31

Memory Passage: Mark 13:9-11

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 13:1-37.** By way of review: Explain the significance of Jesus' prophecy in v. 2 (don't neglect what you have already learned in Mark about Jesus, the temple, and his relation to it).
- (b) How do the disciples' questions help us understand how to interpret this difficult chapter?
- (c) According to Pastor Rob's overview sermon on Sunday, to which events do each of these sections refer: 5-13, 14-23, 24-27, 28-31, & 32-37?
- (d) Do you agree with these divisions and their interpretation? Why or why not (remember, it is not sinful to disagree, but you must use the text to prove your answer!)?

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 13:5-13.** Why does Jesus answer questions about signs & times with, "See that no one leads you astray?"
- (b) Why will many be lead astray by those claiming to be Christ (vs. 5-6)? How should the church stay on guard against this?
- (c) How has God used wars (cf. Is. 10:28-34, Jer. 24:10), earthquakes (cf. Is. 13:13, 29:6, Nah 1:5-6) and famines (cf. Is. 14:30, Jer. 11:22) in the lives of the nations, including Israel? What do we learn about God's wrath from these passages?
- (d) Because vs. 5-13 refer to the inter-advent age (i.e. the age between Christ's 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> comings, which includes the events of AD 70), how do vs. 7-8 help you navigate a world full of wars, hunger, and natural disasters?

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 13:5-13.** Explain how vs. 9 & 11 described life in the early church (cf. Acts 4:8ff, 5:17ff, 6:8-8:2, et. al.)?
- (b) Read Matthew 24:14, Col. 1:23, Rom. 1:8, 10:18, & Acts 2:5. Now explain Mark 13:10, including its context in vs. 9-11.
- (c) How do vs. 9-13 bring encouragement to the persecuted church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 13:14-23.** Last week we looked at several passages concerning the Abomination of Desolation so we won't reiterate those here. What aspects of vs. 14-23 present difficulties for the view that these verse refer to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, and how do you answer these difficulties if this is your view?
- (b) What aspects of vs. 14-34 present difficulties for the view that these verses refer to a period of tribulation at the end of the age, and how do you answer these difficulties if this is your view?

### DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 13:28-31.** Jesus has used the illustration of the fig tree to represent Israel in Mark's gospel (see 11:12-14). Do these verses refer to Israel in the same way? Why or why not (in other words, defend your answer from the text itself!)?
- (b) Since these verses are not a reference to Israel (☺), what is Jesus' point in referencing the fig tree?
- (c) To whom does "he" refer in v. 29 ("he is near, at the very gates")?
- (d) If your view of vs. 28-31 is they refer to Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> coming at the end of the age, explain how v. 30 can be understood (if your view is that it refers to the events of AD 70 then it is self-explanatory).

DATE: April 17, 2016

PASSAGE: Mark 13:1-23 & 28-31