

The Tribulation

Mark 13

There will be a seven-year Tribulation period that will follow the rapture of the church and precede the second-coming of Jesus Christ in which God will finalize His discipline of Israel and His judgment of the unbelieving world.

I. Two Questions We Ask:

A. _____? (4a)

B. _____? (4b)

II. Two Answers Jesus Gave:

A. _____ are the signs? (5-27)

1. Negatively: _____ signs

a) _____ (5-8)

(1) False _____ (5-6; 21-23)

(2) Political _____ (7-8a)

(3) Natural _____ (8b)

b) _____ (9-13)

2. Positively: _____ signs

a) _____ (8c)

b) _____ (10)

c) _____ of _____ (14a)

d) _____ (14b-20)

e) _____ (24-27)

B. _____ will it happen? (28-32)

III. Two Responses to Have:

A. _____

B. _____

Historically, the first fulfillment of Daniel's prophetic use of the expression (Dan. 11:31–32) was the desecration of the temple in 167 b.c. by the Syrian ruler Antiochus Epiphanes. He erected an altar to the pagan Greek god Zeus over the altar of burnt offering and sacrificed a pig on it (cf. apocryphal 1 Maccabees 1:41–64; 6:7; and Josephus *The Antiquities of the Jews* 12. 5. 4).

Jesus' use of "the abomination of desolation" referred to another fulfillment—the temple's desecration and destruction in a.d. 70. When (lit., "whenever") His disciples, those present and future, see this desecration take place, it is a signal for people in Judea to escape to the mountains beyond the Jordan River in Perea.

Josephus recorded the occupation and appalling profaning of the temple in a.d. 67–68 by Jewish Zealots, who also installed a usurper, Phanni, as high priest (Josephus *Jewish Wars* 4. 3. 7–10; 4. 6. 3). Jewish Christians fled to Pella, a town located in the Transjordanian mountains (Eusebius *Ecclesiastical History* 3. 5. 3).

The events of 167 b.c. and a.d. 70 foreshadow a final fulfillment of Jesus' words just prior to His Second Advent (cf. Mark 13:24–27).
- John D. Grassmick