

Theme: Jesus never minimized the dreadful consequences of sin. He never portrayed God as overlooking the sinfulness of mankind- as somehow, too “nice” or loving to punish sin. The destruction of Jerusalem is a warning of what is to come to *all* who refuse to believe and trust in Christ *alone* for forgiveness and life. Find deliverance and rest in the Savior.

Background: Olivet discourse – what are we to expect before the destruction of Jerusalem and before the Final Judgment? We must heed the warnings.

Introduction: How well do you function without street signs?

I. Jerusalem Will Fall

A. The sign?

1. Surrounded by armies (20)
2. The End “has come near”
 - Desolation? (Mark 13:14; Daniel 9:27; 11:3)

B. Flee to the mountains! (21,22)

1. Get out quickly to the mountains.
 - Across the Jordan to Pella (Trans-Jordan)
2. Who left the city?
 - The Christians, in 66-67

C. Suffering, death, captivity (23,24)

- AD 70 Emperor Titus places the city under siege
- The curses of Deuteronomy 28:15-68 find their fulfillment!

D. Till the times of the gentiles are fulfilled.

- Until the kingdoms of this world give way to the Kingdom of God

NOTE: Jerusalem and its people *rejected* the Messiah, the Lord’s Anointed, resulting in their judgment and the outpouring of the Covenant curses. This was a foreshadowing of what would come.

II. The Lord Will Return (25-28)

A. With great *signs* (25, 26)

- Not like those of v.11 - nothing “this worldly” about them
- Distress of “nations” - not “this people” (v23)

B. His appearance in glory! (27)

- Daniel 7:14

C. Raise your heads!! (28)

- Look up! Don’t be downcast.

III. His Word Will Stand

A. You won't miss it (29-31)

1. Like leaves on a tree in spring – you know what is coming!
2. It is near!

B. Don't get side-tracked (32)

1. If these words concern the end of the age?
 - They refer to the Jews as a people.

More likely, I believe,

2. The destruction of Jerusalem is in view.
 - Some 40 years later, every word was fulfilled

C. God has spoken! (v.33)

1. All authority is His
 - He is the Word, not its spokesman
 - He decrees, He declares, and He *directs* it all.
2. Street signs or no – there is still great mystery here.
 - But rest assured...
3. It will surely be!

IV. Can You Read the Signs?

1. Do they strike you with fear, terror?
 - Don't deny the coming judgment!
 - Will you not flee to the savior's mercy and sacrifice?
2. Let them fill you with hope in the promise of the unfailing, eternal Word!
 - The signs will be clear.
 - Lift up your heads, for He is coming!