

Gospel of Mark
Lesson 56 “The End of the Age”

- I. Introduction - We are continuing our series on “The Gospel of Mark” this morning as we discuss the Life and Ministry of Jesus.

A. **Mark 11** began Jesus’s Passion Week in Jerusalem, and everything since has been building to this moment. Jesus entered as King, cleansed the Temple, confronted the religious leaders, and exposed a system that had lost its way. **Now He walks out of the Temple and tells His disciples where it’s all headed—the end of an age.**

B. Over the next three weeks we’ll study the Olivet Discourse from **Mark 13**.

1. My goal out is to build your faith in the word of God. This prophecy is so detailed and accurate, many skeptics say Jesus didn’t really say it; the gospel writers added it later. This means this is something we need to talk about.
2. My second goal is for you to **encounter the love of God**. I taught this three years ago, and people cried as they saw how Jesus tore down the last walls of legalism that separated them from God.

II. The End of the Age

A. **Mark 13:1-13**

1. **Verses 1-2 Imagine** standing in Washington, D.C., pointing at the Capitol, and Jesus saying: “That whole thing is coming down.”
 - a. Except to the Jews, the temple was bigger than a government building.
 - b. It was their religious center, sacrificial system, national identity, and center of the Old Covenant world.
2. **Verses 3-4** then look at **Matthew 24:3**. The disciples asked three questions:
 - a. When will these things be?
 - b. What will be the sign of your coming?
 - c. What will be the sign of the end of the age?
 - d. I’m going to answer 2 of the 3 questions from scripture today, but will save one for next week because it is extremely complicated and I’ll need more time.

B. **When will be the end of the age?**

1. **age** - αἰὼν - aion - age, era, period of time. Not **cosmos** - world, ordered creation.
2. After Jesus tells the disciples the temple will be destroyed, they ask when the end of the Old Covenant/temple centered age will be (not the end of the world).
 - a. When will these things be? **Mark 13:29-30**. These things are the signs of the end of the age we will get to next. These things include false messiahs, wars,

famines, earthquakes, persecution, the Gospel going to the nations, Jerusalem's desolation, great tribulation.

b. He says that generation would see it happen. In the Bible a generation is 40 years. Jesus makes this statement in 30 A.D. The temple was surrounded by the Romans and destroyed in 70 A.D. This ended the temple system/Old Covenant age. Ex: Lost family records in the fire; they cannot restart priesthood.

C. What will be sign of the end of the age? Mark 13:5-13

1. **Verse 5** Jesus says take heed (pay attention) so no one deceives you, which means it is possible. Saying to the disciples, not us in context. Why?

2. **Verse 6** There were multiple false messiah's in the first century.

a. **Theudas (AD 44–46)** gathered a huge following, claiming he could miraculously part the Jordan. Rome crushed the movement and killed him.

b. **The Egyptian (AD 50s)** claimed to be a prophet and gathered thousands on the Mount of Olives to take Jerusalem. **Acts 21:38**

3. **Verses 7-8** This is commonly taught that when we hear of wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes that Jesus is about to come back, but He said the end is not yet.

a. Jesus gave this prophecy during “the Pax Romana” (**Roman peace**) which was 200 years of Roman peace and stability (27 BC–AD 180). Were multiple wars between 30 and 70 AD including Jewish Roman war and Roman Civil War.

b. Jesus predicted earthquakes in various places. Before AD 70, earthquakes shook the Roman world. Ex: Jerusalem, Laodicea, Pompeii.

All of this was simply the beginning of the sorrow for them, not us.

4. **Verse 9** “Jesus wasn't talking about some distant generation—He said **you**. Then **Acts** records exactly what He predicted: Peter and John were arrested, the apostles were beaten, and Paul stood before governors and kings.”

5. **Verse 10** says the Gospel must first be preached to all the *ethnē*—the nations or Gentiles. **Matthew 24:14** clarifies this and says it would happen throughout the *oikoumenē*, the inhabited Roman world.

a. **Luke 2:1** uses the same word *oikoumenē* when Caesar did a census for “all the world”—referring to the Roman world, not the entire planet.

b. Before the end of that age came, the gospel would break out of Israel, reach the Gentile nations throughout the Roman world including Asia Minor, Greece, Spain and Rome—just like Jesus said it would.

6. **Verses 11-12** Jesus was talking directly to the Twelve, and they lived this out. James was executed by Herod, Peter and John were arrested and threatened, the apostles were beaten for preaching Jesus, and early Christian tradition says several of the twelve eventually gave their lives for the Gospel.

7. **Verse 13** In context, what is “the end”? The end of the Old Covenant Temple age. In the final six years leading up to AD 70, persecution intensified dramatically. That's the situation **Hebrews** speaks into with its message not to quit and go back to the old system—hold on to Jesus, because that old system is about to disappear.

III. Conclusion - We've looked at a lot of detail in this message and talked about what happened, but in our final moments, let's answer the why.

A. First, this should build our faith. Jesus told His disciples exactly what was coming, and it happened just like He said. If we can trust His words then, we can trust His words now.

B. Second, I want you to see how much God loves you. Jesus tore down everything that stood between us and God—the veil, the sacrifices, the priesthood, and the Old Covenant system of guilt and condemnation.

He removed every barrier so we could come boldly to the Father and live every day in His presence.

C. Pray