

Gospel of Mark

Lesson 58 “The Sign of Christ’s Coming Part 2”

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

A. Over the last two weeks we have studied Jesus’s prophecy about the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem out of **Mark 13**. Today, we will finish the prophecy and chapter.

1. If today is your first Sunday here, you're walking into the middle of a conversation. It's a little like watching *Star Wars* for the first time and starting with *Return of the Jedi*.
 - a. You’re thinking, “Why is Han Solo frozen in carbonite? Why is Princess Leia chained up to Jaba the Hut? And Darth Vader is Luke’s father?!”
 - b. If something today doesn't make sense, go back and watch the last two weeks. Each message builds on the one before and it'll help you see the whole picture.
2. This entire conversation started with the Temple. The disciples were admiring its beauty and Jesus said, “Not one stone shall be left upon another.” That blows their minds. So Peter, James, John, and Andrew ask Jesus:
 - a. When will this happen? **In one generation or by 70 A.D.**
 - b. What will be the sign of the end of the age? **Wars, rumors of wars, famines, earthquakes, false Christs, etc.**
 - c. What will be the sign of Your coming? **This is what we began looking at last week. We discovered the coming they were referring to was Jesus coming in judgment to destroy the temple and end the Old Covenant system.**

B. Today, we are going to finish looking at the sign of Christ’s coming and the impact of His coming in Judgment on the temple in Jerusalem.

II. The Sign of Christ’s Coming Part 2

A. Mark 13:26-37

1. **Verses 26-27** Last week we saw that when Jesus talked about the sun going dark, the moon not shining and the stars falling, He was using prophetic language His disciples understood. The prophets used that kind of language when kingdoms fell and an old order came down. That's what's happening here. Jerusalem is falling. The Temple is coming down. The Old Covenant age is ending. **Then Jesus then say they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory and angels will gather the elect from the four winds.**
 - a. **Isaiah 19:1** God rides on the clouds prior to judging Egypt (clouds often represent God’s presence and glory.) Also **Nahum 1:3-6**
 - b. This harkens to **Daniel 7:13-14** where Jesus came to the Ancient of Days to

receive His kingdom. This is a picture of Jesus being vindicated and enthroned as King. They rejected Him. But now Jesus is saying, “You’re going to see who I really am - the one true King from whom salvation comes.

c. Josephus records unusual signs in the heavens leading up to Jerusalem’s destruction—including a star resembling a sword, a year-long comet, and what witnesses described as chariots and armies appearing in the clouds.

d. In **verse 27** Jesus says He sends His angels to gather His elect from the four winds. The Greek word ***angelos*** means messenger and can refer to angels or human messengers. This is a picture Jesus sending His messengers with the Gospel to gather people into His Kingdom. **As the temple comes down, the Gospel goes out.**

2. **Verses 28-30** Just like leaves on a fig tree tell you summer is close, Jesus says, “*When YOU see these signs, YOU will know it’s near.*”

a. This generation is referring to Peter, James, John, and Andrew not to us.

b. The temple was destroyed within 40 years or one generation of this prophecy.

3. **Verse 31** When Jesus says, “Heaven and earth will pass away,” remember that first-century Jews understood the Temple as a picture of heaven and earth—the whole created order. So in the context of a chapter about the Temple’s destruction, Jesus is saying, “This whole Temple-centered world is passing away, but My words will never pass away.”

a. **Matthew 5:17-18** The law and the prophets have been fulfilled, while the physical heavens and earth are obviously still here.

b. Heaven and earth passing away cannot simply mean the destruction of the physical universe. It is covenantal, prophetic language describing the passing away of the Old Covenant order.

4. **Verses 32-37** First, is He talking to them or to us? Them.

a. He’s saying they don’t know the exact day or hour judgment will come on Jerusalem and the temple will be destroyed.

b. Watch and pray....The idea is to pay attention. What are they watching for?

Luke 21:20 Jerusalem surrounded by armies. Is He talking them or us?

c. Jesus then tells a parable which emphasizes staying awake and paying attention. He compares this to a master leaving his servants in charge and expecting them to be doing what he told them when he returns.

The point He’s making is they don’t **know exactly when it’s coming in judgment on Jerusalem , so don’t fall asleep. Stay awake and be ready.**

Jesus isn’t telling them to live afraid of the future. He’s telling them to be stay awake and pay attention in the present. If they do there is nothing to be afraid of.

III. Conclusion - ***Mark 13*** is about Israel's past, not our future—but make no mistake, Jesus is coming again! ***Acts 1*** says He will return, and ***1 Corinthians 15*** says the dead will be raised, but if people had all the prophecies and still missed the details of His first coming, **isn't it possible we could miss some details of His second?**

Some will ask about a double fulfillment? Maybe, but that's speculative so instead of fighting over the nonessentials or fearing the future, let's live in what we know: the temple has been destroyed, that Old Covenant age has ended, and through Jesus we have access to God and have been filled with His Spirit.

Jesus didn't leave us here to hide out waiting for an escape—**He gave us His Word, His Spirit, power and authority, and told us to occupy until He comes and make disciples of nations. Jesus is King, His Kingdom is advancing, and until He returns, let's go change the world!**

A. Pray Closing Prayer