

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 3, 2016

Passage: Mark 13:1-23

Memory Passage: Mark 13:9-11

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 13:1-37.** As we begin our study of this difficult passage, read through the entire chapter several times taking note of its structure. Notice the questions the disciples ask (v. 4) and how Jesus answers them (vs. 3-ff). Also look for repeated words or phrases that give you hints as to the structure of Jesus' response.

(b) Identify the time period to which Jesus is referring in vs. 3-13, vs. 14-23, vs. 24-27, vs. 28-31, & vs. 32-37, providing evidence for your conclusions.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 13:1-23.** In lieu of questions for today, I'll take this space to briefly convey how I approach the structure of chapter 13. In vs. 1-2 the disciples misunderstand that the locus of God's presence with His people has shifted from the temple (already condemned in chapter 11) to the person of Jesus, and their questions in v. 4 reveal they are also confusing the immediate condemnation of the temple with the future end of the age.

(b) Jesus answers their questions of "when" the temple will be destroyed and "what sign" will precede it by describing those things that should *not* be considered a sign (vs. 5-13), but which are the "beginning of birth pains" and not yet the end (v. 7). This is also the description of the inter-advent period (i.e. between Jesus' 1st & 2nd comings).

(c) Verses 14-23 describe *the* sign of the destruction of Jerusalem and its temple in AD 70: the abomination of desolation, and give instructions concerning what should be done when it is visible.

(d) Verses 4 & 23 form an inclusio: both verses contain "these things," and vs. 5, 9, and 23 all contain the same Greek word (translated "See that," in v. 5 and "be on guard" in vs. 9 & 23) marking it out as one continuous section.

(e) "After that tribulation" (v. 24) refers to a different time. The use of end-of-age language from the OT, "the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory," and the gathering of the elect describe Christ's 2nd coming at the end of the age.

(f) Verses 28-31 return to the events of AD 70 ("this generation will not pass away until all *these things* take place"), while vs. 32-37 return to a description of the time, unknown except to the Father, of Christ's 2nd coming.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 13:1-23.** What does Jesus predict in v. 2? Should this have been a surprise to the disciples after 11:11-25?

(b) What questions do the disciples ask, and to what do "these things" refer?

(c) To what does "the end" refer (v. 7)?

(d) Explain what the word "first" refers to in v. 10. Has the gospel been "proclaimed to all nations" (see Rom. 16:26; Col. 1:6, 23; cf. Rom. 1:5, 8; 10:18)?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Thess. 2:1-13, Dan. 9:24-27, & 11:1-12:13.** Though there are obviously many truths found in these passages, focus on those truths that help you understand Mark 13:14-23, and record the ways in which they provide clarity.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 13:1-23.** Remember that many prophecies in the Bible have both a near (in this case the destruction of Jerusalem and its temple in AD 70) and far (these events as an example of the final Day of Judgment) reference.

(b) With this in mind, write down at least 5 applications for your own life that you draw from these verses, and then write down at least one way for each that you will endeavor to appropriate these applications.

DATE: April 3, 2016

PASSAGE: Mark 13:1-23