*35* STUDY OF MARK 2020

The Gospel Must First Be Preached

Mark 13:1-23

“And the gospel must first be preached to all nations.” (10)

1. How fascinated was one disciple with the Jerusalem temple?[[1]](#footnote-1) (1) But why did Jesus not share the disciple’s amazement and excitement?[[2]](#footnote-2) (2) Why did the disciples ask Jesus about the end times and what did they want to know? (3-4)
2. What did Jesus teach them about the last days? (5-9) What two warnings does Jesus give? (5, 9) Why should we not be alarmed when we hear of wars? (7) Why does Jesus refer to these times of suffering as "birth pains?" (8b)
3. Who will persecute Christians? (9) Why is this worse than earthquakes and famines? How can we turn the time of suffering into a time of opportunity? (10-11) What must we do (10)? How do the times of suffering become worse? (12-13) What promise is given? (13)
4. What is the sign that shows God’s judgment is about to fall on the earth?[[3]](#footnote-3) (14a, 11:31:12:11[[4]](#footnote-4)) When it appears in Judea one day, what did Jesus advise people to do? Why? (14b-16) How terrible will those very last days be? (17-23) How does God show mindfulness of his elect? (20) With this being said, what should our main focus be in these last days? (10)

1. **The Jerusalem Temple**, built by Herod over a period of 46 years (Jn 2:20), was a marvel to behold. It sat on the highest point in Jerusalem and occupied one-sixth of the city’s territory. It was built of huge marble stones, some of which were 37 feet long, 18 feet wide and 12 feet high. It was covered with a large golden dome. When the sun shone on the temple, the dazzling reflection captured the mind’s eye of any observer. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This was literally fulfilled when the Roman General Titus invaded Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and **destroyed it completely.** More than one million people were killed. The rest were dragged away into captivity as slaves. It was the end of the Jewish nation politically for nearly 2,000 years. This awful event was God’s wrath against those who rejected his Son (Mk 12:9) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. **The abomination that causes desolation**. This is something deliberately and terribly offensive to God that mocks his holiness and righteousness and power. This happened when God’s name and presence was profaned in his holy temple. Those who do this invite Satan to reign over them. This brings complete desolation. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. **Daniel 11:31:** “His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation. **Daniel 12:11** “From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.” [↑](#footnote-ref-4)