## THE COMING OF THE SERVANT OF GOD - Mark 13

### INTRODUCTION

A. Many of the teachings of Jesus perplexed His disciples.

B. Occasionally, the apostles would ask Him about the meaning of what He had said at an earlier time.

C. Mark 13 involves just such an incident.

D. The conversation will center upon the temple in the city of Jerusalem.

### THE CONVERSATION (Mark 13:1-2)

A. The Awe of the Disciple (Mark 13:1).

“And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master, see what manner of stones and buildings are here!”

1. This temple was called the temple of Herod.

2. It had been 46 years in construction.

3. It was a majestic structure that held much value to the Jews.

a. It was the dwelling place of God (Hab. 2:20).

b. It was a symbol of God’s covenant with the Jews.

c. It was the place of worship (Ps. 5:7).

d. It was a place of sacrifice (Ezra 7:17).

e. It was the place toward which all Jews prayed each day (Dan. 6:10).

4. All of the Jews were proud of their temple.

a. Psalm 52:8

“But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God…”

b. This disciple of Jesus expressed his delight in the temple with his words to Jesus.

B. The Answer of Jesus (Mark 13:2)

“And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? There shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”

1. Jesus admitted that the buildings were great.

2. However, He predicted a time when they would be completely destroyed, not one stone would be left upon another.

3. What a shock this was to the Lord’s disciples. However, they did not immediately ask Him about His words.

### THE CURIOSITY (Mark 13:3-4)

A. The Place: The Mount of Olives (Mark 13:3a)

B. The People: Peter, James, John, and Andrew (Mark 13:3b)

C. The Privacy: …asked him privately (Mark 13:3c)

D. The Probing (Mark 13:4)

“Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?”

1. Jesus had said the temple would be destroyed.

2. Here, the disciples ask two questions about the event.

a. When would it happen?

b. What would be the signs that would announce its coming?

3. NOTE: It is extremely important to understand the context of Mark 13.

a. Many make it refer to the Second Coming of Jesus at the end of the world.

b. Most of the chapter deals with the destruction of the temple and the fall of Jerusalem that would come to pass in A.D. 70.

### THE COMING OF DESTRUCTION (Mark 13:5-31)

A. A list of signs of the fall of Jerusalem:

1. Many will come in the name of Christ (Mark 13:6, 21-22).

2. Wars and rumors of wars (Mark 13:7-8a)

3. Earthquakes (Mark 13:8b)

4. Famines and troubles (Mark 13:8c)

5. Persecution of God’s ministers (Mark 13:9-13)

6. The abomination of desolation (Mark 13:14)

7. The powers of hell will be shaken (Mark 9:24-25)

8. Mark 13:29

“So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors.”

B. A general timeline:

1. …these are the beginnings of sorrows (Mark 13:8)

2. And the gospel must first be published among all nations (Mark 13:10)

3. …know that it is nigh, even at the doors (Mark 13:29)

4. Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done (Mark 13:30).

5. But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation…then let them flee to the mountains (Mark 13:14).

6. But in those days, after that tribulation… (Mark 13:24)

C. Interesting statements that show the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple are under consideration:

1. …then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains (Mark 13:14)

2. Woe to them that are with child… (Mark 13:17)

3. And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter (Mark 13:18)

4. And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved… (Mark 13:20)

D. The destruction described:

1. Affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be (Mark 13:9)

2. The need for the days to be shortened, or no flesh would be saved (Mark 13:20)

3. Powers that are in heaven shall be shaken (Mark 13:25)

4. Son of man would come in great power and glory (Mark 13:26).

5. …there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down (Mark 13:2).

E. The certainty that this prophecy would come to pass (Mark 13:31)

“Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.”

1. The destruction of Jerusalem came in A.D. 70.

2. Roman forces under the command of Titus devastated Jerusalem after a 143 day siege

3. Josephus, a Jewish historian, documented the horror of that event well.

4. LESSON: God’s word is true. It will come to pass.

### IV. THE COMING OF JUDGMENT (Mark 13:32-37)

A. Note the first word in verse 32, “But.”

1. This word sets this section apart from the previous section.

2. Jesus was talking about the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. Now He is speaking about a different subject.

B. Four major points:

1. The day is unknown to all but the Father in heaven (Mark 13:43).

“But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father only.”

2. There is a need to watch for that day.

a. Four times the word “watch” is found in these verses.

1) Take heed, watch and pray… (Mark 13:33)

2) …and commanded the porter to watch (Mark 13:34)

3) Watch ye therefore… (Mark 13:35)

4) And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch (Mark 13:37)

b. Another word for the term “watch” is “prepare.”

3. The coming will be sudden, or unexpected (Mark 13:36).

4. It is possible for one to be unprepared at the Second Coming (Mark 13:36).

“Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.”

a. The unfaithful

b. The lukewarm

c. The troublers

d. The ones who hide their talents

e. Those involved in secret sins

### CONCLUSION

A. Judgment came upon the city of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

B. The Lord is coming again in judgment for all men. That word is as true as His prediction about the destruction of Jerusalem.

C. The Question: “Are You Ready?”