

# A Study of Mark – Lesson 37

## Mark 13:1-36

### The Destruction of the Temple. The End Days

**13** <sup>1</sup> As Jesus was leaving the temple, / one of his disciples said to him, / “Look, Teacher! / What massive stones! / What magnificent buildings!

<sup>2</sup> “Do you see all these great buildings?” / replied Jesus. / “Not one stone here will be left on another; / every one will be thrown down.”

<sup>3</sup> As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives / opposite the temple, / Peter, / James, / John / and Andrew / asked him privately, / <sup>4</sup> “Tell us, / when will these things happen? / And what will be the sign / that they are all about to be fulfilled?” /

<sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them: / “Watch out that no one deceives you. / <sup>6</sup> Many will come in my name, / claiming, / ‘I am he,’ / and will deceive many. / <sup>7</sup> When you hear of wars / and rumors of wars, / do not be alarmed. / Such things must happen, / but the end is still to come. / <sup>8</sup> Nation will rise against nation, / and kingdom against kingdom. / There will be earthquakes in various places, / and famines. / These are the beginning of birth pains.

<sup>9</sup> “You must be on your guard. / You will be handed over / to the local councils / and flogged in the synagogues. / On account of me / you will stand before governors / and kings / as witnesses to them. <sup>10</sup> And the gospel must first / be preached to all nations. / <sup>11</sup> Whenever you are arrested / and brought to trial, / do not worry beforehand / about what to say. / Just say whatever is given you at the time, / for it is not you speaking, / but the Holy Spirit.

<sup>12</sup> “Brother will betray brother to death, / and a father his child. / Children will rebel against their parents / and have them put to death. / <sup>13</sup> Everyone will hate you / because of me, / but the one who stands firm to the end / will be saved.

<sup>14</sup> “When you see / ‘the abomination that causes desolation’ / standing / where it does not belong / —let the reader understand / —then let those / who are in Judea / flee to the mountains. / <sup>15</sup> Let no one on the housetop / go down / or enter the house / to take anything out. / <sup>16</sup> Let no one in the field / go back to get their cloak. <sup>17</sup> How dreadful it will be / in those days / for

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pregnant women / and nursing mothers! / <sup>18</sup> Pray that this will not take place in winter, / <sup>19</sup> because those will be days of distress / unequaled from the beginning, / when God created the world, / until now/ —and never to be equaled again.

<sup>20</sup> “If the Lord had not cut short those days, / no one would survive. / But for the sake of the elect, / whom he has chosen, / he has shortened them. / <sup>21</sup> At that time / if anyone says to you, / ‘Look, / here is the Messiah!’ / or, / ‘Look, there he is!’ / do not believe it. <sup>22</sup> For false messiahs / and false prophets / will appear / and perform signs and wonders to deceive, / if possible, / even the elect. / <sup>23</sup> So be on your guard; / I have told you everything ahead of time. / And they were amazed at him.

<sup>24</sup> “But in those days, / following that distress, /

“the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light;  
<sup>25</sup> the stars will fall from the sky,  
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

<sup>26</sup> “At that time / people will see the Son of Man / coming in clouds / with great power and glory. / <sup>27</sup> And he will send his angels / and gather his elect / from the four winds, / from the ends of the earth / to the ends of the heavens.

<sup>28</sup> “Now learn this lesson / from the fig tree: / As soon as its twigs get tender / and its leaves come out, / you know that summer is near. / <sup>29</sup> Even so, / when you see these things happening, / you know / that it is near, / right at the door. / <sup>30</sup> Truly I tell you, / this generation will certainly not pass away / until all these things have happened. / <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, / but my words will never pass away.

<sup>32</sup> “But about that day / or hour / no one knows, / not even the angels in heaven, / nor the Son, / but only the Father. / <sup>33</sup> Be on guard! / Be alert! / You do not know / when that time will come. / <sup>34</sup> It’s like a man going away: / He leaves his house / and puts his servants in charge, / each with their assigned task, / and tells the one at the door / to keep watch.

<sup>35</sup> “Therefore keep watch / because you do not know / when the owner of the house will come back / —whether in the evening, / or at midnight, / or when the rooster crows, / or at dawn. / <sup>36</sup> If he comes suddenly, / do not let him find you sleeping.

## **Vocabulary**

1. **Massive:** Very very large. Huge. Enormous.
2. **Magnificent:** Beautiful. Superb. Exceptional.
3. **To Deceive:** To fool someone. Betray, cheat.
4. **Flogged:** Beat someone very hard. Repeatedly hit until the blood comes. Punishment given to sailors and prisoners.
5. **Abomination:** Something shameful and horrible. Atrocity.
6. **Desolation:** Misery. Great unhappiness. Despair.
7. **Distress:** Hardship, Suffering, Danger or difficulty.

## **Questions**

1. Why were the disciples admiring the Temple?
2. What prophecy did Jesus make concerning the Temple? Did it happen?
3. Jesus spoke privately to which four disciples?
4. What do you think Jesus meant by telling the disciples these difficult thing?
5. Do we have prophecies of the END today?
6. One prophecy tells us the world ends in 2012. Which calendar does this?
7. What is a false prophet or a false messiah?

## **Notes**

1. Mark 13 is one of the most difficult chapters in the New Testament for the modern reader to understand. All the Jews listening to Jesus would understand, even as most Americans today understand references to *Star Wars* or *Harry Potter*. We cannot disregard this chapter for it is where we get most of our ideas of the second coming of Jesus. Just balance this with the other teachings of Jesus and don't get tied up in only this part.
2. There are five different strands in this chapter:
  - A. Prophecies of the destruction of Jerusalem.
  - B. Warning of persecution to come.
  - C. Warnings of the dangers of the last days.

D. Warnings of the Second Coming.

E. Warnings of the necessity to be on the watch.

All of these strands go back to the Old Testament and imagery from the Book of Daniel, Isaiah, and Ezra.

3. The Abomination of Desolation imagery goes back in time to the time of the Greek Antiochus. About 168 B.C. He turned his army on Jerusalem. He killed over 80,000 men, women and children, and sold 40,000 into slavery. The temple was robbed and defiled. He forbade the worship of the Jews and the reading of Holy Scripture. He turned the temple into a pleasure palace and sacrificed a pig on the altar. All Jews remember the terrible times of this governor who served under Alexander The Great. He is considered the *AntiChrist* of the Old Testament.
4. The Maccabees ruled Jerusalem from 164BC to 63BC and reasserted the Jewish Religion. The Hellenistic Age (323-146 BC.) lasted until the Maccabean revolt. The Roman Army took Judea in in about 63BC and kept it for about 400 years. During that time they destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem.
5. Josephus in *The Wars of the Jews, book 5*, tells of the siege of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple. His description of the Temple is the best one we have. The army of Titus took the slaves and the treasures back to Rome.
6. Only God knows what will happen in the future.



**Arch of Titus**



**Carving on the Arch of Titus**

You can see the Menorah, the horns and other treasures of the Jerusalem