

Mark 13.1-37

Watch Out!

LONGEST Section of TEACHING and Longest Speech of JESUS in Mark  
 MOST DIFFICULT & DEBATED Passage in Mark: **& its MY TURN to Preach!**

DIFFICULTY is ANSWERING Questions: v. 4 "Tell us, *when* will these things happen? And *what* will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?"

Fall 2007 > Taught 10 week Class on Revelation in Home Church in Hawaii  
 Every Week one man had SAME Question – Just ONE Word --- “WHEN”!?  
 DISCIPLES ask SAME Question & Add Another > WHAT and WHEN

Jesus gives TWO WORD ANSWER: v. 5 Jesus said to them: "Watch out..."  
 Most IMPORTANT Issue > NOT DATE but your FINAL DESTINATION  
 END Will Come but WHERE will YOU Go?! 5 X's 'Watch Out!' (5,9,23,33,37)

### 1. Trusting in Symbols? Watch Out!

a. Impressive > END of 2<sup>nd</sup> full day of HOLY WEEK in Jerusalem

v. 1 As he was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!"

DISCIPLES from GALILEE IMPRESSED with Herod's MAGNIFICENT Temple

See VILLAGE People visit Almaty > FAMILY PHOTOS in front of SIGHTS

MEGA Mall – KZ Eifel Tower – Golden Man > We take them for GRANTED

Herod's Temple 1 of ARCHITECTURAL WONDERS of the ROMAN WORLD

3<sup>rd</sup> Jewish Temple > TWICE the Size of FIRST Temple built by SOLOMON

v. 2 "Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus.

Stones > 15 meters long and 2 ½ meters wide; they weighed 420 to 600 tons

b. Invaded > Destruction of Temple CONNECTED to HORRIBLE EVENT

v. 14 "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."

Teaching from DANIEL > IDOLATROUS Pollution of Temple by Gentiles

The expression came to symbolize as unspeakable affront to the sanctity of God's house and to God himself. C.A. Evans

NATURAL to ASK WHEN > because at THAT TIME you BETTER RUN!

167 B.C. Syrian King Antiochus IV > statue of Zeus poured PIG'S Blood on Altar

39 A.D. Roman Emp CALIGULA – Declared Self DIVINE > IMAGE in Temple

66 A.D. ZEALOTS shed Blood of PRIESTS in the Temple

68 A.D. Clown PHANNI was INVESTED as HIGH PRIEST

70 A.D. Roman General TITUS DESTROYED TEMPLE > and City of Jerusalem

"It would have been far better for me to have died before I had seen the house of God laden with *such abominations* and its' unapproachable and hallowed places crowded with the feet of murderers." Retired High Priest Ananus, 69 A.D.

Warned by Jesus > Christians FLED City & took REFUGE in Pella in Mtns.

"Before the war (of 70 A.D.), the people of the Church of Jerusalem were bidden in an oracle given by revelation to men worthy of it to depart from the city and to dwell in a city...called Pella. To it those who believed in Christ migrated from Jerusalem. Once the holy men had completely left the Jews and all Judea, the justice of God at last overtook them, since they had committed such transgressions

against Christ and his apostles. Divine justice completely blotted out that impious generation from among men.” Eusebius, 4<sup>th</sup> Century Church Historian

Jesus LINKS Destruction with DISOBEDIENCE of Jewish LEADERS & Nation

"The people of Judah have done evil in my eyes, declares the LORD. They have set up their detestable idols in the house that bears my Name and have defiled it...So beware, the days are coming when people will...call it...the Valley of Slaughter”  
Jeremiah 7:30,32

The LEADERS REJECTION of Jesus put PLAN of FINAL Judgment in MOTION

c. Invited > Came to TEMPLE like HOMECOMING

Jesus to Pharisees: “I tell you that one greater than the temple is here.” Matthew 12:6

Jesus ENTERED Jerusalem to PRAISES of Crowds on PALM Sunday, then:  
Jesus entered Jerusalem and *went to the temple. He looked around at everything*  
Mark 11:11

Wanted to Tell people in Temple how to FIND their HOME in GOD

One Way > STRANGER to Temple > Held NO Formal Position, Titles, Importance  
Temple’s PURPOSE > MEETING Place with God / thru Him - Truly HIS Temple

On reaching Jerusalem, *Jesus entered the temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there*  
Mark 11:15

Like a GENERAL Surveying the PLACE of BATTLE > Battle of HIS LIFE!

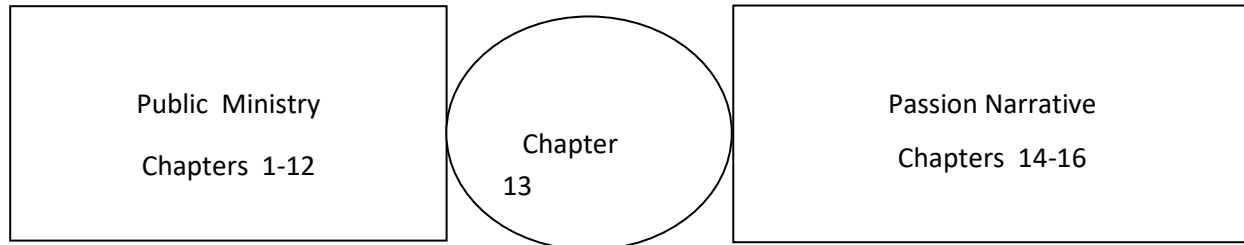
*while Jesus was walking in the temple courts, the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?"*  
Mark 11:27-28

PUBLIC Ministry > ENDED with CONFLICT with TEMPLE Authorities

MOST NOTABLE and RIGHTEOUS ONE Jesus sees in ENTIRE Temple

NOT Priest – Prophet – King – Sadducee - Pharisee – Sanhedrin – High Priest

“this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others” Mark 12.43



d. Indicted > PASSION Narrative > TEMPLE CONFLICT led to His DEATH

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death...Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: "We heard him say, 'I will *destroy this man-made temple* and in three days will *build another*, not made by man.'" Mark 14:55-58

they crucified him...Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! *You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days*, come down from the cross and save yourself!" Mark 15:25-30

But *the temple he had spoken of was his body.* John 2:21

As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace - but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, *because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you.*" Luke 19:41-44

They THOUGHT they were ENGINEERING HIS Death > but it was THEIR OWN

What REALLY IS the ABOMINATION of DESOLATION in the TEMPLE?

Since Jesus is KEYSTONE of God's True TEMPLE

Nailing Him to CROSS is ULTIMATE ABOMINATION of HOUSE of God

If Jesus is the keystone of God's new temple, then to crucify him is surely the supreme act of temple profanation. Rikk E. Watts

TEARING of Veil > God's SIGN from Heaven that OLD System is DEAD

v. 2 "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

JEWS had DEFILED It / JESUS DEPARTED from It / ROMANS will DESTROY  
Now called ICHABOD because the GLORY of GOD had DEPARTED

"The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?" Mark 12:10-11

Because THEY REJECTED God's Stone > No Stone on their Temple will Stand

Impossible to IMAGINE the MASSIVE Temple GONE: Will Exist FOREVER!

NOT Surprising JEWS TRUST shifted from GOD of Temple to Temple ITSELF

SYMBOL Substituted for SUBSTANCE > FORM Replaced FUNCTION

For Many when SYMBOL Destroyed > their FAITH was SNUFFED OUT

LOVE CHURCH more than INVISIBLE GOD who is PRESENT Among US

LOVE BIBLE more than VOICE of GOD that can be HEARD through IT

Love TRADITIONS more> God our HELP in AGES Past & Hope for Yrs to Come

SOMEDAY – Sooner or Later – ALL SYMBOLS, Traditions, & Substitutes GONE

v. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away

## 2. Teaching of Swindlers? Watch Out!

### a. Many Deceivers

TRUE Redeemer will be REMOVED from World by a SHAMEFUL CROSS

MANY Come forward trying to FILL His PLACE > Come in HIS NAME

vs. 5,6 Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many.

Do NOT TRUST in RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS or RELIGIOUS LEADERS!

"A horrible and shocking thing has happened in the land: The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way. But what will you do in the end?" Jeremiah 5:30-31

vs. 21-23 At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and miracles to deceive the elect-if that were possible. So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time.

RABBI Jesus was Teaching and WARNING His DISCIPLES

Explaining JEWISH APOCALYPTIC Literature > Daniel and Ezekiel

HISTORY is FILLED with SAD stories of FALSE Messiahs, Prophets, Pastors

SIGNS & MIRACLES are NOT always PROOF of TRUTH from GOD

Deuteronomy 13.1-5

Elect will NOT be DECEIVED because Jesus TOLD them All in Advance

SATANIC Deception will CONTINUE to the VERY END

A lie has run around the world while Truth is putting on her shoes. Mark Twain

## b. Most Important Doctrines

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1 John 4.1

MEASURE of TRUE Teacher is their FAITHFULNESS to God's TRUTH

NOT Human Ability (Drama, Comedy) – Achievements (Buildings, Programs)

4 Meetings YOUNG PROFESSIONALS > Relating to those of Other Religions

Focused on TWO Most IMPORTANT Questions – DOCTRINE & All of LIFE

1. WHO is God? 2. HOW can we KNOW God? > 1 word Answer to Both > Jesus

1) WHO is God? – Jesus! “Jesus is Jehovah” > God in Human Flesh

Every religion holds Jesus in high regard, but only the Christian religion considers Him fully God, co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Yours Truly

All Religions WANT him – in some way – ONLY Christians WORSHIP HIM

To worship Christ with false beliefs about Him is to worship a false Christ, by whatever name we call Him. R. Alan Cole

2) HOW can we KNOW God? – Jesus!

At the end of the day there are only two religions in the world. Either a person tries to find God by what they do, or they are found by God. Either a person thinks they can do something to please God and earn His favor, or they realize we have absolutely nothing to offer Him and appease His wrath. Faith in Jesus is our confession of desperation. Yours Truly

The only thing we contribute to the plan of salvation is the sin to make it necessary.  
Eric Alexander

### 3. Turmoil in Society and Space? Watch Out!

Disciples Thought > DESTRUCTION of Temple = END of the Age / 2<sup>nd</sup> COMING

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately.  
"Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, *and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?*"  
Matthew 24.3

#### a. Conflict of Nations

vs. 7,8a When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

The temple could not fall without shaking the whole world. John Calvin

Soon the PAX ROMANA (Peace of Rome) would be BROKEN FOREVER  
(UNIQUE Global Peace, Travel, Language created to SPREAD GOSPEL?)  
CHURCH would expand thru times of FRACTURED Nations and Tribes  
WAR is often FOLLOWED by FAMINE

4 HORSEMEN race Across Earth > Conquest, Bloodshed, Famine, Death

NOTHING NEW > Story of Fallen Humanity > from Cain and Abel in Eden

WHITE Horse of WAR – Followed by RED Horse of BLOODSHED – then  
BLACK Horse of FAMINE – followed by PALE Horse of DEATH



He describes both the imminent end of the Jerusalemite's world and the ultimate end of the age.

Craig S. Keener

NEITHER Messiah nor Anti-Christ will FLY in on AIR FORCE ONE

b. Crisis in Nature JEWISH Idea > TEMPLE is CENTER of CREATION

DESTRUCTION of Temple brings DEMISE of ENTIRE CREATED ORDER

v. 8b There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.

Ezekiel 6.11

LABOR Pains mean the BIRTH is COMING > but NO ONE knows WHEN!

We must not allow ourselves to be led into panic by a wrong diagnosis of the 'contractions' in the universe.

Sinclair Ferguson

Romans 8.22

vs. 24,25 But in those days, following that distress, 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'

Old Testament prophecies blended together events according to the kind of event rather than the time they would occur, Jesus likely means that the end would follow the temple's destruction and the ensuing tribulation; hence the end remains imminent.

Craig S. Keener

See, the day of the LORD is coming --a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger-- to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it. The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light.

Isaiah 13:9-10

The thrust of Jesus' discourse, as Mark has recorded it, is to warn the disciples not to be disturbed by the preliminary signs nor to confuse them with the end itself.

William Lane

#### 4. Terrified by Suffering? Watch Out!

v. 9 "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.

Followers of Jesus Faced INCREASING OPPOSITION and PERSECUTION  
 PERSECUTION > BEGINS LOCAL and goes GLOBAL > Councils to KINGS  
 USE OPPOSITION as OPPORTUNITY to WITNESS to GOSPEL of Jesus  
 STAND as WITNESSES > PERSECUTION should lead to PROCLAMATION

v. 11 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.

When we remember that most of the early Christians were simple and unlearned people, for whom a speech in court would have been a terrible ordeal, we realise how much such a promise will have meant to them. D.E. Nineham

v. 12 "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death.

OFFICIAL Persecution is PAINFUL > MOST Painful from OWN FAMILY  
 Even FAMILY and FRIENDS would TURN AGAINST Believers and Gospel

v. 13 All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

True FAITH is seen in Tested FAITHFULNESS  
REAL CAUSE of Persecution > HATRED of Jesus

Jesus: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. John 15.20

v. 15 Let no one on the roof of his house go down or enter the house to take anything out.

HouseTOPS were FLAT > Used for PRAYER, Drying Food, SLEEP on Hot Nights

v. 16 Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak.

WORKER wear COAT to Fields on Cold AM > Leave at Field's Edge as Warmed

v. 17 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!

What normally is a blessing will become a bad situation.

v. 18 Pray that this will not take place in winter

Winter streams swell from the rain, making movement next to impossible

vs. 19,20 because those will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now-and never to be equaled again. 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.

This chapter does not hold out great encouragement for 'triumphalism' or 'prosperity' versions of Christianity. The descriptions chill the spine...Persecution,

false teachers, natural disasters are not elements of a future age, they happen now.

Donald English

**Trusting in Symbols? Harassed by Teaching of Swindlers?  
Fearing Turmoil in Space and Society? - Terrified by Suffering?**

**5. Trust in the Son! Watch Out for Him!**

a. Wisdom > KNOWS what NO ONE Else CAN KNOW

v. 2 Jesus: "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

Who Could IMAGINE the MASSIVE Temple GONE: Only True & Final Temple

v. 30 I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.

GENERATION was about 40 Years > Jesus spoke about 30, Temple Destroyed 70

v. 32 "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Only Place in Mark – Jesus refers to self absolutely as THE SON

Contrast > Destruction of JERUSALEM – OBVIOUS SIGNS

RETURN of JESUS – NO ONE KNOWS – URGENCY of Constant VIGILANCE

Jesus' IGNORANCE part of VOLUNTARY Limitation of becoming FULLY MAN

Mark 10.40

...being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

Philippians 2:7-8

ASCENDED & EXALTED Lord RESTORED to FULL DIVINE OMNISCIENCE

Revelation 22.16,20

Jesus coming SOON!?! > RETURN of Jesus is NEXT Event on God's Calendar  
WISDOM in UNDERSTANDING plan of GOD – and FOLLOW It to END  
MEANWHILE He is Reaching WORLD with SAVING LOVE > So Should WE!

Every description of the end time is also an exhortation to the church.

E. Schweizer

b. Winner v. 10 And the gospel must first be preached to all nations.

GOSPEL reached every POLITICAL State will Soon Reach every PEOPLE Group  
When THAT Happens NOTHING Preventing the GLORIOUS COMING of Christ

vs. 26,27 "At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great  
power and glory. 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.

Very ENCOURAGING for Mark's 1<sup>st</sup> Readers in Rome > Facing Persecution  
GREAT News for ALL the People of God in ALL TIMES and ALL PLACES

31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.  
His word is more permanent than the creation (Isa 40:7–8).

John 14.1

Romans 14.4

We multiply whenever we are mown down by you. The blood of Christians is seed.  
Tertullian to his persecutors

The glory of faith in Christ is that we are not saved *from* hard times but *in* them.

Donald English

c. Watch!

vs. 28,29 "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. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door.

Mt. of OLIVES FAMOUS for FIG Trees > Some were 10 Meters High  
 MOST TREES in Palestine are EVERGREEN > No Dramatic Seasonal CHANGE  
 FIG Tree – One of LATEST to LEAF in Spring > SIGN that SUMMER is NEAR

vs. 33-36 Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. "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. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping.

TRUSTED SLAVE > DOOR Keeper – Held Master's KEYS – Controlled IN / Out  
 ROBBERS – BAD ROADS – DARKNESS > NOT Expect Master Travel at Night

Special Ref to PASTORS & ELDERS – Watchmen in GOD'S HOUSE

We live EVERY DAY in the MASTER'S House – NOT our OWN – Responsible

v. 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

Clear Ref to ALL of US in His HOUSE - TODAY and Until He COMES AGAIN

Greek = GREGOREITE > Christian Name “Gregory” – one who WATCHES!

TIME of His Coming is UNKNOWN > FACT of Coming is UNDISPUTABLE

As John WESLEY traveled on Horseback from one Preaching Event to Another  
 Someone asked “What would you DO if you know Jesus was returning tomorrow?”  
 Wesley pulled out DIARY > Showed Tomorrow’s Page > I would DO THIS!  
 He was LIVING EVERY DAY ready for COMING of His MASTER

LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O LORD.  
 Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.  
 Habakkuk 3.2

\*\*\*\*\*

### Mark 13

13:1 As he was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!" 2 "Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down." 3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, 4 "Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?" 5 Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. 6 Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. 7 When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 8 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. 9 "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. 10 And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. 11 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. 12 "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. 13 All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. 14 "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. 15 Let no one on the roof of his house go down or enter the house to take anything out. 16 Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. 17 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! 18 Pray that this will not take place in winter, 19 because those will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now-and never to be equaled again. 20 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. 21 At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. 22 For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and miracles to deceive the elect-if that were possible. 23 So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time. 24 "But in those days, following that distress, "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; 25 the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' 26 "At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. 27 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. 28 "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. 29 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. 30 I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. 32 "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. 34 It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. 35 "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. 36 If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: "Watch!"