

Jesus' Farewell Prophecy (Mark 13:14-23)

- A disciple's comments to Jesus about the temple to say something positive (v1)
- Jesus' answer was a devastating pronouncement on Israel & her hollow religion (v2)
- The disciples, astounded by this prophecy, ask Jesus when this will happen (v4)
- Jesus explains to them events prior to the destruction of the temple (vs.5-13)
- Jesus turns to the signs that would be evident before the destruction of the temple

I. The Specific Sign (13:14-18)

- Jesus gave several general signs of coming judgment but there was a specific one
 - Three times He told them a specific sign would be seen before the fall of Jerusalem
 - They'd see the abomination that causes desolation, prophesied by Daniel (Lk 21:20)
- 1) Roman invasion: Vespasian tried to negotiate with the Jews, they rejected his offer
 - 2) Historical record: armies of Rome advanced against Jerusalem (13:14-18)
 - When the Christians saw the sign, they remembered Jesus' words & made an escape
 - 3) A way of escape: to protect the church the Lord gave a practical instruction as well
 - Once the armies gathered around the city the Christians were to flee to the mount
 - Prayer was to be made for favorable weather and proper timing lets the Jews accuse the Christians of violating the Sabbath (Acts 21:20)

II. The Great Tribulation: A Historic Reality (13: 19-23)

- From AD 66-70 the stage was set for a period of great tribulation to engulf the Jewish nation as the cup of God's wrath was poured on Israel for rejecting Messiah
 - These were "days of vengeance" (Luke 21:22-23) Time of Jacobs trouble (Jer 30:7)
 - A period of God focusing His wrath upon His elect nation in particular (Dan 12:1)
- 1) Shortened Days: comparing parallel versus, yet another prediction concerning the great tribulation Jesus envisioned for the people of His generation.
 - So terrible would be the time period that God himself would have to intervene to shorten the days of divine discipline. Jesus promised the Father would do that (20)
 - 2) More warnings of false deceivers :To confirm that the elect would be protected, not by removal but by the power of God,
 - Jesus again warned about false prophets who teach his silent return (13:21-23)
 - These words teach the Lord's protection & preservation of His church (Mal 3:17,18)
 - God will judge those who reject His Son (Ps 2: 12; Lk 19:42; Romans 11:17-22)