

Jesus' Farewell Prophecy (Mark 13: 1-37) (Part 1: vvs 1-13)

- Ch 13 records Jesus' Olivet Discourse, the most difficult chapter in Mark
- It is difficult because of the rich nature of the prophetic language that Jesus uses
- Most every verse has multiple allusions to both the OT & Jewish literature
- Nature of the prophecy –multiple fulfillment culminating in a final fulfillment
- Chesterton's dictum: *It is only the fool who tries to get the heavens inside his head, & not unnaturally his head bursts. The wise man is content to get his head inside the heavens.*
- Jesus left the temple, saddened, because wickedness of the religious leaders, false piety
- Peter wanted to say something positive coming out of the temple; one of His disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones & what wonderful buildings!" (v1)
- Jesus shocked his disciple with His response: "Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." (2)
- Jesus' prophecy would come true, when the Romans sacked Jerusalem in 70AD.
- Disciples are troubled and they ask "Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?" (v4).

Events Prior to the Destruction of the Temple (13:1-13)

- 1st, Jesus warned his disciples not to be deceived by disturbing events which were coming.
- And Jesus began to say to them, "See that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!'" (vv. 5, 6).
- The great danger false teaching: "And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom (vv. 7, 8a).
- These terrible signs will not signal the end "There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of birth pains. (8c)
- We are not to be led astray by any of these signs, for false teachers will exploit them.
- Jesus warned them what would happen in the world, He now warns them personally (9-11).
- His disciples would face persecution, ironically, by the Sanhedrin & synagogue
- They would suffer under the secular state and bear powerful witness to the Gospel.
- Persecution would lead to their dispersion, spreading the Gospel, fulfilling the prophecy.
- They would experience intense personal hatred by their own family members (12, 13).
- But those who endure to the end will be saved (13b) Mt 10:34-36; Jn 15:18, 19