

Grace Fellowship
The Gospel of Mark (Week 33)
Text: Mark 13:1–18

Theme: The Signs of the Temple's Destruction

Context – Jesus leaves the Temple, predicts its destruction (13:1–2).

The Disciples' Questions – When will this happen? What will be the signs? (13:3–4).

Jesus' Answer – Not about the “end of the world,” but about their temple, their generation.

The Chiasm of Mark 13

Jesus' answer follows a chiastic pattern (centered structure):

A (13:5–6) – False Messiahs will deceive many

B (13:7–8) – Wars, earthquakes, famines (birth pains)

C (13:9–13) – Persecution of disciples

D (13:14–18) – The Abomination of Desolation (center)

C' (13:19–23) – Tribulation, false Christs, more warnings

B' (13:24–27) – Cosmic signs, Son of Man coming

A' (13:28–37) – Exhortation to watchfulness

Centerpiece: The “Abomination of Desolation” refers to Rome's armies and Caesar's idolatrous standards desecrating the Temple (AD 70).

Key Insights

False Messiahs: Revolt leaders like Menahem & Simon bar Giora confirm Jesus' warning.

Wars & Earthquakes: Josephus, Tacitus, and others record upheavals across the empire.

Persecution: The gospel had to go to all nations; Paul pushed even to Spain, the last “end of the earth.”

The True Sign: Jerusalem surrounded by armies (Luke 21:20) — fulfilled in AD 70.

Theological Point: The Temple's fall marked the end of the Old Covenant age. Christ Himself is the true Temple.

Application

Read Scripture in Context – Resist twisting prophecy to fit today’s headlines.

Take Heart – Wars, disasters, and false messiahs are not the end; Christ reigns.

Persevere – True disciples endure. The Spirit equips us in trials.

Reflection Questions

- Why is it important to read Mark 13 in its original context?
- How does knowing Jesus’ prophecy was fulfilled in AD 70 strengthen our confidence in His Word?
- Where are you tempted to look for “signs” instead of trusting Christ’s finished work?