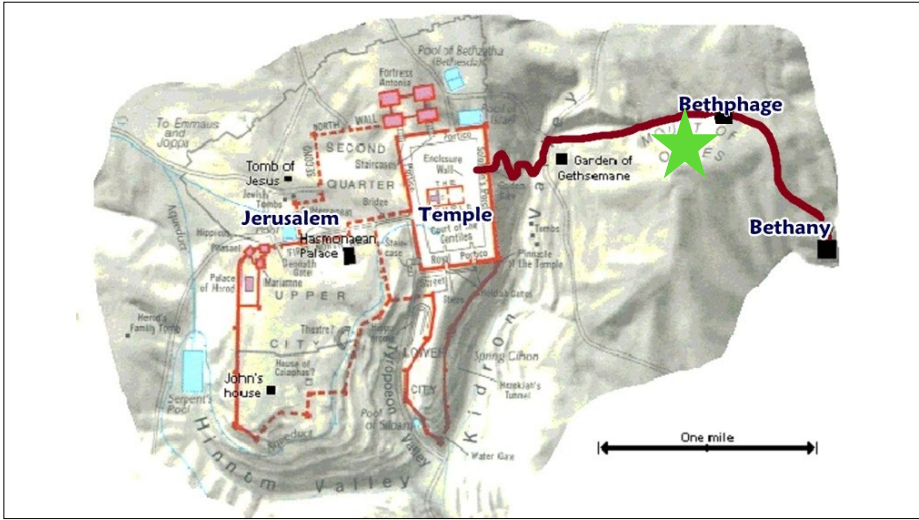


The Destruction of the Temple and the Second Coming

Mark 13:1-37

- Introduction: The Destruction of the Temple Foretold (13:1-4)
- Warnings against Deception (13:5-8)
- Endurance under Persecution (13:9-13)
- The Appalling Sacrilege (13:14-23)
- The Coming of the Son of Man (13:24-27)
- The Lesson of the Fig Tree (13:28-31)
- Conclusion: The Call to Watchfulness (13:32-37)





Setting and Themes of Mark 13

- **Place and Time:** Jerusalem, Holy Week
- **Perseverance:** stand firm in faith amid trials and tribulations
- **Hope:** Christ's return provides hope for believers to live righteously and be prepared for his second coming
- **Readiness:** Jesus calls his followers to be alert and prepared for the unexpected, living each day in anticipation of his return
- **Eschataology or Apocalypse:** Signs and events that will signal the coming of the Son of Man and the end times
- **Anti-apocalyptic:** repeated warnings against mistaking events as signs of the end

The Structure of Mark 13



Exhortation

v. 5 "Beware . . ."

v. 7a "Do not be alarmed"

v. 9 "Beware"

v. 11 "Do not worry beforehand about what you are to say"

v. 14 "Flee to the mountains"

v. 18 "Pray that it may not be in winter"

v. 21 "Do not believe it."

v. 23 "But be alert"

v. 33 "Beware, keep alert"

v. 35 "Therefore, keep awake"

v. 37 "Keep awake"

Explanation

v. 6 "[For] Many will come . . ."

v. 7b "[For] This must take place . . ."

v. 8 "For nation will rise against nation . . ."

v. 9b "For they will hand you over to councils"

v. 11b "For it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit."

v. 19 "For in those days there will be suffering . . ."

v. 22 "For false messiahs and false prophets will appear . . ."

v. 23 "[Behold] I have already told you everything."

v. 33 "For you do not know when the time will come."

v. 35 "For you do not know when the master of the house will come."

Introduction: The Destruction of the Temple Foretold 13:1-4

- What was implicit in Mark 11 becomes explicit here
- "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down"
- The disciples ask for more information
- Prophecy fulfilled in AD 70 when the Romans demolished Jerusalem and the Temple



Warnings against Deception

13:5-8

- There will be deceivers who will claim to be the messiah and perform miracles in order to lead Christians astray.
- There will be historical and natural events that will be misinterpreted as signs of the end.



Endurance under Persecution

13:9-13

- Like Jesus, Christians will be handed over, betrayed, brought to trial, and put to death
- Persecuted Christians are not to be afraid, because the Holy Spirit will enable them to bear witness
- They must continue to preach the gospel. "The one who endures to the end will be saved." (13:13)



The Appalling Sacrilege

13:14-23

- "Technically, it is a narrative aside, where the narrator interrupts the narrative to make a comment to the reader."
- Echo of Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11
- In a vision, Gabriel revealed to Daniel that Jerusalem and the Temple would be destroyed and that "the prince" would end sacrifices in the temple



The Appalling Sacrilege pg 2

13:14-23

- Scholars are divided on what this means
- Reference to a specific event in the Jewish War? 66-70
- Paul's prediction of the antichrist in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4
- Phanni named high priest
- Suffice to say that this served as a genuine, prophetic warning when war was coming to Jerusalem and it became obvious what was happening



The Appalling Sacrilege pg 3

13:14-23

- “Flee to the mountains”
- Urgency
 - Don’t go back home
 - Pregnant and nursing women
 - Winter travel is difficult
- “There has never been anything like it.” Daniel 12:1
- vv 21-23 Conclusion



The Coming of the Son of Man

13:24-27

- “In those days”
- Theophany
 - Darkened sun and moon
 - Falling stars
 - Powers in heaven shaken
- “the Son of Man coming in clouds”



The Lesson of the Fig Tree

13:28-31

- Reminder of the parable of the seed growing secretly (4:26-29) and the cursing of the fig tree in connection with Jesus’ judgment (11:12-14, 20-21)
- The fig tree is suited for this parable because it loses its leaves in winter and blossoms late in the spring. When you see leaves on a fig tree, you know summer is near.



The Call to Watchfulness

13:32-37

- The sun is setting on Jesus’ earthly ministry. He is giving his followers instructions on how to be his followers even after his death.
- Staying awake, being alert, and praying all point to the urgent tasks of discipleship: bearing your cross, being a witness, preaching the gospel.

