

Mark 13:-1-8 – Why Jerusalem is not the Throne of God!

TSK, GreekLexicon, JFB, Henry, Geneva, Robertson, Family, Rienecker, Clarke, Barnes, Trapp, Vincent, Poole, PNT, FFG, Calvin, Expositors, Gill, Abbot Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Jesus must have been very angry. He only had a few more days before the cross but the Jewish leaders still **wouldn't listen to the Gospel** and they **put stumbling blocks in front of some** who wanted to listen. These leaders **promoted rebellion against the state and taught salvation by law**. Some even **denied the need for salvation**. These leaders focused on **their own power and influence**. They loved the high positions in the temple and in Jerusalem. **So they had to be punished**. God decided to take everything away from these who corrupted his kingdom. **It is about this punishment you will hear about today**.

Our headings are:

Jesus Prophecies 预言 of the Destruction of the temple in Jerusalem

Jesus Prophecies of the Time of the Destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem

Our goals are: **That you who are Gentile 外邦人 believers will hold on to your Savior, receive and enjoy his blessings, not treat them with contempt, and share those blessings with the world.**

Jesus Prophecies of the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem

1 Then as He **went out of the temple**, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!" 2 And Jesus answered and said to him, "**Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another**, that shall not be thrown down."

1. Jesus left the temple in Jerusalem for the very last time – never to return again.

He had said everything he had to say to the Jewish leaders. His patience had run out. They had put more emphasis on the temple (shadow) than the God of temple. They put more focus on the gold in the temple than the God of the temple. They idolized 偶像化 the temple. **This picture of Jesus leaving the temple in anger was not unique**. Ezekiel spoke of God's anger when he withdrew from the temple and cursed his people for not listening.

Ezekiel 11:23 And the **glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city** and stood on the mountain, which is on the **east side of the city**.

Jeremiah also spoke of the woeful effect of rejecting God's grace: God would leave.

Jeremiah 6:8 Be instructed, O Jerusalem, **Lest My soul depart from you**; Lest I make you desolate 荒芜的.

2. Having heard the Lord's threats concerning the temple, a disciple was concerned about the possibility of the temple being destroyed. Why?

a. He thought the temple was too strong and well-built to be destroyed. The structure was great in size. The stones were massive. The stones were put together very well. According to Josephus, some stones were 60ft long and the pillars were 38ft tall. Herod took 10,000 men over 8 years to re-build this temple. Josephus reported that the Romans battered 连续猛击 the walls for 6 days and could not make a dent in it.

b. The disciples believed that the destruction of the temple would only happen at the end of the world. So this was unfathomable 不可战胜的 to the disciples. They couldn't imagine this to be true. Like all Jews, they rested on their nationality!

c. The disciples hoped Jesus would soon set up his kingdom and set up his throne in Jerusalem and they would get the high positions. So when Jesus insinuated that the temple would be destroyed, he didn't seem to make sense.

3. Instead of Jesus saying he made a mistake and that he didn't mean to say that the temple would be destroyed, Jesus simply reiterated 重申 that not one stone would be left on top of another; all would be thrown down and the temple destroyed.

The fact that the temple was destroyed was beyond doubt. **The Roman general, Titus, ordered the whole city demolished** [JOSEPHUS, Wars of the Jews, 7.1.1]. Titus wanted to save the temple, but his soldiers defied 反抗 him and destroyed it.

Numerous Jews confirmed that the temple was destroyed, many wishing they had died rather than see this take place. **Emperor Julian in the 4th century tried to rebuild the temple to spite 向...表示恶意 Christians**, but an earthquake came and destroyed it all. Fire apparently came out of the ground and consumed it. See also Revelation 18:21.

4. Lessons:

a. God is patient with his people, but his patience will run out on a day we do not know. But God will not allow his people to bring shame on him forever. The church in North America must take note. **God's judgment is severe on those who reject him**. There is not neutral ground with God. **You break the bond of peace with God you must expect a losing war with him**.

b. Don't idolize things like the Jews idolized the temple. Anything that you love more than the Lord is subject to his wrath: Your children...or your job...or your husband...your savings...your nationality...your knowledge...

d. God is not fooled by outward conformity to things (as the Pharisees 法利赛人 showed). He is not fooled by church attendance or a beautiful piano or pipe-organ 管风琴. God wants true worship that starts from the heart.

Jesus Prophecies the time of the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem

3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately,

1. Because of intrigue with what Jesus said, the disciples waited for a time when they were alone and asked follow-up questions.

Just hearing the general statement of the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem was not sufficient. And the disciples did this as Jesus sat opposite Jerusalem on a nearby mountain **from which they could see the temple**. It was a remarkable scene.

4 **"Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?"**

2. What did they ask?

Here they asked about **the signs and timing of the destruction of the temple**. But Matthew (Mt 24:3) said that the disciples also asked **when the end of the world would come**. It seems that **they thought the 2 things would happen together** since it was **incomprehensible 不可理解的 to them that the temple would be destroyed and life continue on earth**. And of course, they were **expecting an earthly kingdom**. Mark did not give all those details as they were not relevant to his Gentile readers.

5 And Jesus, answering them, began to say: **"Take heed 留意 that no one deceives you.**

6 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and will deceive many. 7 "But when you hear of wars and rumors 谣言 of wars, do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet. 8 "For **nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom**. And there will be **earthquakes** in various places, and there will be **famines** and **troubles**. These are the **beginnings of sorrows**.

3. Jesus told them that before the temple would be destroyed many would claim to be him and try to contradict what he said.

And many **people would be fooled**. So he warned **his disciples not to be fooled by those fakes**. The disciples would **protect themselves from deception by remembering Christ's words**.

4. So what specific signs of the times did Jesus give to show the time the temple would be destroyed?

a. Before the destruction of the temple the disciples would hear of wars and rumors of wars. Nations would fight against nations, and kingdom against kingdoms. And there were many wars. There was **war against the Jews in Alexandria, at Seleucia with the slaughter of more than fifty thousand, at Jamnia, and elsewhere. Caligula, Claudius, Nero** threaten war before it finally came with the destruction of Jerusalem and temple by **Titus in A.D. 70**.

b. Then there would be earthquakes in various places before the temple would be destroyed. The twin states of Pompeii were completely wiped out in 68AD. Between Jesus' prophecy and the destruction of Jerusalem there was an earthquake in Crete (A.D. 46 or 47), at Rome (A.D. 51), at Apamaia in Phrygia (A.D. 60), and at Campania (A.D. 63).

c. Famines were so bad that before the temple and Jerusalem were destroyed that people ate their own children. There were 4 famines during the reign of Claudius A.D. 41-54. One of them was in Judea in A.D. 44 and is alluded to in Acts 11:28. Tacitus (Annals xvi. 10-13) describes the hurricanes and storms in Campania in A.D. 65. Famines were predicted before for the Jewish rejection of Jesus.

Isaiah 9:19 Through the wrath of the LORD of hosts The land is burned up, And the people shall be as fuel for the fire; No man shall spare his brother. 20 And he shall snatch on the right hand And be hungry; He shall devour on the left hand And not be satisfied; **Every man shall eat the flesh of his own arm**.

And famines were worse than fires because in fires one would quickly die.

Lamentations 4:9 Those slain by the sword are better off Than those who die of hunger; For these pine away, Stricken for lack of the fruits of the field.

d. There would be troubles – likely, disturbances caused by pestilences 恶性传染病, 瘟疫. These would include diseases that sounded like the bubonic plague 黑死病 and was spread by rats. **But these were just the first signs of labor.**

5. These horrible activities would mark the end of the Jewish order of things, including the destruction of the Jewish temple and Jerusalem being the center of the kingdom; and it would mark the beginning of the inclusion of the Gentiles in earnest.

6. Lessons:

a. Never be satisfied with peripheral 外围的 knowledge of the doctrines of Scripture. Dig deep into the Word of God. **Get tired of little knowledge** and search out the Word of God for deep things. But remember, learning new and deep things is not for boasting. **Learning new and deep things is for worshipping and working for the Lord.**

b. There is no longer any need for the temple. Jesus is now living among his people. So as Christians with knowledge, **Jerusalem only has significance because it needs the Gospel**. Don't pray for the temple to be rebuilt. Don't pray for Christ to come and rule there. He is in Jerusalem now-in you-here. **There is no religious significance of the temple in Jerusalem.**

c. The destruction of the temple was a necessity 必需. We say this for two reasons: First, the destruction of the temple confirmed the opening of the **kingdom to the Gentiles who are now all over the world**. Second, there was no more need for sacrifices there, Christ having died for the sins of the world. **More sacrifices would attack Christ's perfect sacrifice.**

d. There is a reason I am certain that these events could not refer to 2nd coming but to the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem (the plain language of the text). There are direct contradictions to what was said about the destruction of Jerusalem, and what was said of Christ's 2nd coming. Consider 2 examples:

First, a sign for the destruction of Jerusalem: If you are in the field and see the Romans coming, run! But when the 2nd coming takes place, **two will be in a field, one will be taken and the other left.** There will be no need to run. Those two things can't be speaking of the same event.

Second, at the destruction of Jerusalem, there would be troubles of the pregnant, traveling on the Sabbath 安息日, or moving in winter. Surely **there will be no troubles for anyone when Jesus returns!**

Further, and convincing 有说服力的, Jesus, on numerous occasions said that the temple would be destroyed in that **generation.**

Matthew 23:34 "Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes 文士: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge 鞭打 in your synagogues 公会 and persecute from city to city, 35 **"that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar 祭坛.** 36 **"Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.** 37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 38 **"See! Your house is left to you desolate;**

Further, in referring to the end of the world, note the change in language after Jesus gave very specific signs for Jerusalem's destruction.

Matthew 24: 36 "But of that day and hour **no one knows, not even the angels of heaven,** but My Father only. 37 "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 "For as in the days before the flood, **they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage,** until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 **"and did not know until the flood came and took them all away,** so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

e. Distrust anyone who pretends to know the time of Christ's return. Don't fear them. Condemn them.

f. Preach the Gospel (and support the preaching of the Gospel) so men can be saved from the coming judgment. Be motivated, knowing this this is the **only way men can be saved and you have the key.** Work in your homes, churches, neighborhoods, and overseas.

Conclusion:

There was nothing more catastrophic (灾难性的) for the Jews than the knowledge that the temple they prized as the highest thing in the world would be destroyed. **But because they rejected Jesus and the Gospel (pictured by the temple) Jesus rejected them and condemned them to destruction!** Further, there was no need for the temple anymore after the ultimate sacrifice was made. So Jerusalem today means nothing to Jesus. The true Jerusalem, the church, means everything.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Love the Gospel and live the Gospel. Don't substitute morality (道德主义) for the Gospel. **Don't substitute tradition for the Gospel.** Really love the fact that Jesus died in the place of sinners. Then live for Jesus. Live a life of worship to God and service to man.

2. Take God's warning to those who reject this message and trust in their traditions as the Gospel. Warn them that if they continue this way they too will be destroyed. Church going won't save! Becoming very emotional in worship won't save. Being baptized won't save.

Finally: Jesus rejected those who only pretended to know him. Maybe you have attended church a long time. Maybe you have friends who are Christians. Maybe you don't commit adultery. But you will still go to hell unless you ask Jesus to change your heart and help you to receive his gift of the Gospel. And what is that Gospel, that good news? Jesus took the punishment for sinners on the cross so they would go free. Accept it as yours.