

REVEALED

An Exposition of the Book of Mark



Be Prepared

Mark 13:1-37

Main Idea

Be prepared for the certain, yet unexpected return of Jesus.

Chapter Outline

- Verse 1: Disciples in awe of the temple
- Verse 2: Jesus tells the disciples the temple will soon be destroyed
- Verses 3-4: Disciples ask two questions (cf. Mt. 24:1-2)
 - When will the temple be destroyed?
 - What are the signs of the end of the age?
- Verses 5-13: Jesus gives the disciples a warning about global and personal suffering before answering their question
- Verses 14-20: Jesus answers the disciples first question
- Verses 21-23: Jesus warns the disciples of false teaching
- Verses 24-27: Jesus answer the disciples second question
- Verses 28-37: Jesus wraps us his teaching with two parables
 - 28-31: Parable of the fig tree wrapping up the first question
 - 32-37: Parable of the doorkeeper wrapping up the second question

Overview

I. Trust in Christ

- “Abomination of desolation” is the destruction of the temple as predicted by Daniel 9 (cf. Lk. 21:20)
- History tells us this is exactly what happened – 70 AD temple destroyed
- Just as Jesus said, his words remain forever true (cf. Is. 40:8)
- Jesus tells his disciples to flee – not concerned for persona safety (see next point)
 - Jesus is saying, it’s one thing to give your life for the sake of the gospel, but don’t give it for the sake of the temple
 - His concern is that they trust in him and his words, and not trust themselves or their religion
- The destruction of the temple is an object lesson: those who trust in themselves will receive God’s divine judgment while those who trust in Jesus will be saved
- Combat both external and internal false teaches by trusting in Christ – the work of Christ and the word that points to Christ

II. Endure Suffering in the Name of Christ

- Jesus warns of global suffering (7-8) and personal suffering (9-13) that will happen until he returns
- Jesus warns of wars, natural disasters and famines are just the beginning
- As devastating as these events are, they bring death not the kingdom of God
 - Wars, natural disasters, famines remind us of nothing more than human sinfulness
 - We can endure global suffering in the name of Christ because he knows our deepest pains

- Faithfully proclaiming and living out the gospel results in opposition and rejection – even from those closest to us
- In the midst of persecution the Holy Spirit is our comfort and guide – and the gospel spreads under the cloud of persecution to every tribe, tongue, nation, and people (cf. Acts 1:8; 8:1)

III. Eagerly Await the Return of Christ

- Jesus promises the he will return
 - His second coming is completely opposite of his first
 - The one who predicted his humiliation, rejection, and death is now predicting his glorification, reigning, and honor
- Jesus will not forget those who trust in him on that great day – the first thing he does is gather his elect
- Destruction of the temple was a preview of the second coming
 - Just as those who trusted in Christ were saved at the destruction of the temple, so will be those who trust in Christ be saved at his second coming – they were judged on the cross where Christ absorbed the wrath of God in their place
 - Just like those who trusted in themselves faced judgment at the destruction of the temple, so will those who trust in themselves at the second coming of Christ face judgment
- No one knows, except God the Father, when Jesus will return
- Our greatest concern is not looking for signs but caring for our soul

IV. Conclusion

- Heed the advice of Martin Luther – “Live as if Jesus died yesterday, rose today, and is returning tomorrow.”

Questions

Discussion Starter: Just over a month ago Harold Camping predicted the return of Christ. He's not the only one to predict the end of the world – what does the fact that many people are concerned with the end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it tell us?

Transition: Here in our passage we have Jesus' words on the end of the world and what we should be doing until then.

1. In verse 2 Jesus predicts the destruction of the temple, what's the significance of this given the role the temple played in the life of the Jewish people?
2. Read verses 14-20. Jesus tells his disciples to flee from the ensuing destruction of the temple, yet he had just told them to expect suffering in verses 9-13; so why is he telling them to flee?
3. What's the significance of Jesus claim in verse 31?
4. How is the destruction of the temple and object lesson for the second coming of Jesus?
5. We see that right relationship with God hinges on trusting in Christ – what are some things people trust in to reconcile them to God? What are the problems with trusting in these things?
6. How does trusting in Christ help us combat the false teacher within our heart? What are some promises of God that you turn to in difficult time? In joyous times?
7. Read verses 7-13. What are the two types of suffering Jesus predicts?
8. What do you do with the objection that suffering means that the all-good, all-powerful God of Christianity cannot exist?
9. How does the Christian God comfort us during times of global suffering?
10. Jesus promises those who follow him will be opposed and rejected, how does this comfort you?
11. Jesus says that persecution will lead to the spread of the gospel – why do you think this is true?
12. In verse 26, Jesus predicts his return in glory and power; why is this ironic and does this tell us about the nature of Jesus?
13. Read verses 32-37. What is the reoccurring theme of these verses?
14. What are signs of spiritual sleepiness and how do we fight against them?