

Mark 13:1-2 | The Destruction of the Temple

- The temple was simply the most beautiful building in Jerusalem, and perhaps in all the world.
- In these verses, Jesus was predicting that which took place almost 40 years later, the destruction of Jerusalem.
- This event became one of the most well-known events, and 70AD one of the most well-known dates of all of history.
 - Josephus described that day, “Yet was the misery itself more terrible than this disorder; for one would have thought that the hill itself, on which the temple stood, was seething hot, as full of fire on every part of it, that the blood was larger in quantity than the fire, and those that were slain more in number than those that slew them; for the ground did nowhere appear visible, for the dead bodies that lay on it; but the soldiers went over heaps of these bodies, as they ran upon such as fled from them.”

Mark 13:3-4 | Two Important Questions from Four Important Men

- The four men: Peter, James, John, and Andrew – two sets of brothers.
- The first question: **when shall these things be?**
- The second question: **what shall be the sign?**

Mark 13:5-7 | Answer to the First Question: *When?*

- Rather that set a date, Jesus gave two warnings.
- Warning #1: *beware of the danger of deception* (vv. 5-6).
 - Note the Jewish nature of the answer: **Many shall come in my name, saying, I am.**” (v. 6).
 - That is, a day is coming when people both *affirm Jesus Christ as Messiah*, and claim to be Jesus Christ themselves.
 - A possibility to consider: After the rapture many will recognize they were wrong, and recognize Jesus Christ as the “I Am.” However, the eager desire to see the salvation Jesus can provide will also lead many to be deceived.
- Warning #2: *do not be troubled* (v. 7).
 - The **wars and rumors of wars** are indicators of *when*, but not the signs of when.
 - The imperative for the Jewish people was **be ye not troubled**.
 - There is a **peace of God, which passeth all understanding** (Phil 4:7) which is available to every believer!
 - There is a mark of mature faith when one can rest in their future rather than worry over their present.
- Note that these *warnings* are valid when applied to the *signs* below (as well as many other times).

Mark 13:8-27 | Answer to the Second Question: *What?*

- Verses 8-13 are a description of the sorrows of the time of tribulation.
 - General troubles are **the beginning of sorrows** (v. 8).
 - Persecution of the Jews is within the sorrows (v. 9).
 - The publication of **the Gospel** takes place during this time (v. 10, compare to Rev. 14:6-7).
 - A supernatural ability to answer before the court will be given to the elect Jews (v. 11).
 - The family structure will fall apart and will turn on itself (v. 12).
 - An endurance to the end, even through a worldwide hatred, is required (v. 13).
- Verses 14-20: SIGN #1
 - The **abomination of desolation** is the sign to **flee to the mountains** (v. 14).
 - A time of total government control is coming on the world (and that which we experience today is just a rehearsal).
- Verses 21-23: SIGN #2
 - False Messiahs will show up (previously we had a warning about these, now the same is given as a sign of the end).
 - During a time of distress, people look for a “savior.” Sadly, some will put themselves forth as a false savior.
 - The Lord gives two instructions:
 - Believe not (v. 21) the words and miracles.
 - Take heed (v. 23) that this prophetic word was given.
- Verses 24-27: The ULTIMATE SIGNS
 - After the tribulation, the ultimate signs begin. The first is the falling of the heavens. This was seen in Isaiah 34:4, and explained further in the book of Revelation.
 - When this occurs, the **Son of man** will come **with great power and glory** (v. 26).
 - As He comes, He will **gather together his elect** (the Jewish people) from all parts of the universe (v. 27).

What Can We Do With this Information?

- Prophecy to the Jewish people is not prophecy *for* the church.
 - It is prophecy the church needs in order to have a fully Biblical worldview.
 - If you do not have the full counsel of the Word, you will misapply this passage (and become a post-trib premillennialist).
- We can see from our world how easily these things will come to pass. A one-world leader, a mark for purchasing/selling, a worldwide fear: they are *powerful* tools for *weak* people.
- We can know that there is ultimately only one answer to the problems of a cursed world: *a Risen Savior!*

There is Power in the Blood

Would you be free from your burden of sin? There's power in the blood, power in the blood;

Would you o'er evil a victory win? There's wonderful power in the blood.

Refrain

There is power, power, wonder working power in the blood of the Lamb.

There is power, power, wonder working power in the precious blood of the Lamb.

Would you be free from your passion and pride? There's power in the blood, power in the blood. Come for a cleansing to Calvary's tide. There's wonderful power in the blood.

Refrain

Would you be whiter much whiter than snow? There's power in the blood, power in the blood.

Sin stains are lost in its life-giving flow. There's wonderful power in the blood.

Refrain

Wonderful Words of Life

Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life;
let me more their beauty see, wonderful words of life;
words of life a beauty, teach me faith and kindness:

Refrain

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life;

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

Christ, the blessed one gives to all wonderful words of life;
Sinner list to the loving call, wonderful words of life;
All so freely given, wooing us to heaven:

Refrain

Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life;
Offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life;
Jesus only Savior, sanctify forever,

Refrain

There Shall Be Showers of Blessing

There shall be showers of blessing; this is the promise of love;
There shall be seasons refreshing, sent from the Savior above

Refrain

Showers of blessing, showers of blessing we need:

Mercy drops round us are falling, but for the showers we plead.

There shall be showers of blessing, precious reviving again;
Over the hills and the valleys, sound of abundance and rain.

Refrain