

The Gospel of Mark
Session 25 – July 24th – Chapter 13

Chapter 13: An aside

What has Jesus been predicting up to this point? Now? Why more predictions?

More to this story: Just as Jesus' coming rejection is certain, so too, is the divine response. This isn't just about proving Jesus right, but about persistent rebellion.

1-31 Be prepared for persecution and Jerusalem's fall (w/ some glimpses beyond)
32-37 About the end of the Age.

vv. 1-4 A prediction and the disciples' (unwitting?) two questions.

Jesus answers:

vv. 5-8 What isn't the end.

v. 9 What the disciples should be prepared for.

v. 10 A glimpse toward the final day.

v. 11 Back to the point of what the disciples will face

vv. 12-13 Notice the change in subject/object. A general picture of the future.

vv. 14-23 The events regarding the fall of Jerusalem

Daniel 11:30-31, Antiochus Epiphanes, Matthew 24:15, & Luke 21:20

vv. 15-18 The options reflect Jerusalem's fall, not the end of time

v. 19 A figure of speech (2 Kings 18:5 & 23:25, also 1 Kings 3:12)

vv. 24-27 Generally understood as another glimpse forward to the End.

(Alternatively understood as part of the Jerusalem conversation with only v. 27 pointing forward in the context of human "messengers".)

vv. 28-31 Jerusalem's predicted fall will have signs to watch for and it will happen in your lifetimes.

vv. 32ff "But about the other thing"... No signs given! Don't sleep. Be alert!

The chapters ahead:

- 14 The plot against Jesus & arrest – Jesus’ prophecies come true, Pt. I
- 15 Delivery to Gentiles, mocking, & killing – Jesus’ prophecies come true, II
- 16 The resurrection – Jesus’ prophecies come true, III

Concluding topics: The end of Mark’s Gospel; What has St. Peter taught us?