

# The Temple of Doom

## Mark 13

### Outline of Mark 13\*

#### 13:1-31: The destruction of the temple and signs leading up to it

- A. The temple will pass away (1-2)
  - B. When will it happen? What will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled? (3-4)
    - C. False christs (5-6)
      - D. Sufferings of the last days beginning (7-8)
        - E. You will suffer and bear witness for Jesus' sake (9)
          - F. The gospel will be preached to all nations (10)
            - E.' You will suffer and bear witness by the Holy Spirit (11-13)
              - D.' Sufferings of the last days shortened for the sake of the elect (14-20)
                - C.' False christs, false prophets (21-23)
                  - B.' The Son of Man will come; all these things will happen in "this generation" (24-30)
                    - A.' Jesus' words will not pass away (31)

#### 13:32-37: Warnings concerning the destruction of the temple

- A. "Take heed, watch and pray" (32-33a)
  - B. "for you do not know when the time is" (33b)
    - C. Doorkeeper commanded to watch (34)
      - C.' Command to "Watch therefore" (35a)
        - B.' "for you do not know when the master of the house is coming" (35b)
          - A.' "And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!" (36)

### Outline

#### Introduction

The centrality of the temple in the Old Covenant

#### The Meaning of Mark 13

- I. What is Jesus talking about? (1-4)
  - ⇒ The critical time text (30; "this generation") and the fulfillment of the prophecy in 70 A. D.
  - ⇒ The destruction of the temple and the dawn of a new age in the New Testament (**Luke 3**, **Luke 13**, **Luke 19**, Luke 21, Luke 23, Matthew 11, Matthew 12, Matthew 16, Matthew 21, **Matthew 22**, **Matthew 23**, **Mark 8**, **Mark 9**, **Mark 11**, **Mark 12**, Acts 6, **1 Corinthians 10**, **1 Thessalonians 2**, **James 5**, **Hebrews**, **1 Peter 4**, **1 John 2**, Revelation, etc.)

## II. Anchoring fulfillment in the first century

⇒ Three test cases:

- \* The gospel preached to all nations (10; compare to Luke 2:1, Acts 2, Romans 1:8, Romans 10:18, **Romans 15:18-24**, **Colossians 1:6, 23**)
- \* Abomination of desolation (14-18; compare to **Luke 21:20**)
- \* A collapsing universe: sun, moon, and stars (24-25; compare to Isaiah 13:1, 9, 10)

⇒ The key is understanding Old Testament prophetic language

## Application of Mark 13

### I. The vindication of Jesus and his suffering church

⇒ A persistent New Testament theme (compare to Matthew 16:28)

⇒ Foreshadowing his final coming

⇒ “It could happen to you”

- \* An object lesson for the church (compare to the warning of **Romans 11**)

### II. The end is a new beginning

⇒ The destruction of the temple is not simply an action *against* the rebellious, unbelieving Old Covenant church, but also an action *for* the faithful church of the New Covenant

⇒ Jesus, the church, and the temple (**Ephesians 2**, **1 Peter 2**)

- \* Jesus as temple-in-person
- \* Sharing in Jesus’ vocation to be the new temple
- \* The foundation is laid, the house is being built

⇒ The fig tree (again)

## Conclusion

The centrality of the new temple in the New Covenant

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\* This kind of literary structure is known as a chiasm. Chi is the Greek letter “x” and a chiasm has an x-shape, as seen in the diagrams above. Chiasms are found throughout the Scriptures. The outer sections match one another (A.-A.’, B.-B.’, etc.) and interpret one another. The center of the chiasm is the hinge or pivot point. It is the central idea of the passage. The upper half of the chiasm usually introduces the basic themes, which are then expanded upon in the lower half of the chiasm.