

Mark 13:14-23

“When You See This”

- I. **Introduction**
- II. **Vs. 14a The sign**
- III. **Vs. 14b-18 Watch and run**
- IV. **Vs. 19-23 World wide tribulation and deception**
 - I. **Introduction**

The second section of the Olivet Discourse was directed at the twofold question of the disciples as to “*when the destruction of Jerusalem would take place and what would be the sign of its occurrence.*” The challenge of this section as it relates to us is not as much centered upon the “*when or the what*” but **HOW FAR** and to **WHOM** Jesus meant to convey that this sign would extend. There are those that believe that Jesus words only extend to the Jews alive during the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D. or the complete dispersion some 60 years later. In their view this passage of scripture is fulfilled as it was localized and directed only at Israel. The difficulty in maintaining this interpretation is that Mark inserts his commentary “*let the reader understand*”. Again is Mark’s insertion only a reference to the Roman reader or did he by way of the Holy Spirit look beyond to all readers? These are but some of the questions we will need to answer. As already mentioned Jesus doesn’t address the rapture of the church, His focus is centered upon warning the church of the deception that will be employed by satan as the end nears. Jesus is speaking to His disciple’s about what they believed was going to be the time He and they would rule over Israel and set all her enemies at her feet. Simply put these verse deal with the second coming.

II. Vs. 14a The sign

Vs. 14a First notice that this verse IS Jesus' answer to the two sets of brothers question of "Tell us when these things will be?" We know this because Jesus starts off His answer with, "**When you see...**". Now with that said we can get the answer to "**HOW FAR**" this sign extended as only one of those four present, John, lived long enough to see the destruction (he died of natural causes in 100A.D.). I'm of the opinion that the "YOU" here in Jesus' statement was not only directed at John, or even the present disciples. I further submit to you that the context of "when you see" is directly related to **WHAT** they would see namely the "*abomination of desolation*" which as Jesus elaborates was prophesied by Daniel. Further more as we shall see as we go along in this passage that this event has not yet taken place and was not fulfilled in 70 A.D. or 60 years later. The "***abomination of desolation spoken by the prophet Daniel***" is found in Daniel 9:24-27 there we notice several things about this event.

1.) Vs. 24 First the words "*..for **your** people and **your** holy city.*" Tells us that this prophecy was for the Nation of Israel. To apply this to the church or anyone else is to take it out of context. The church prior to the millennial reign of Christ doesn't have a "*Holy city*", but Israel does and it is Jerusalem!

2.) Vs. 25-26 Next you will note this prophecy involves **70 weeks**. In Hebrew the word week means a week of years or 7 years. So 70 - 7's would equal 490 years. And this is broken down for us by Daniel.

A.) "Seven sets of seven's": During the first 49 years the city of Jerusalem would be rebuilt and worship reestablished. As Daniel wrote this he was still in Babylon and the walls were torn down yet they would be rebuilt. We know that the time when the commandment to restore and rebuild Jerusalem went forth Artaxerxes was 445 BC and it took 49 years to rebuild the city.

B.) "..plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One comes." Daniel goes on to tell us that another 434 years would pass until "*the Anointed One comes*". We know that according to 2 Chron. 36:22-23 and Ezra 1 that to the day 483 years or 173,880 days passed until Jesus came riding upon that colt into Jerusalem.

C.) Vs. 26 "*After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and a ruler will arise whose*

armies will destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end.” Daniel goes on in his prophecy and says that Jesus will “*appear to have accomplished nothing*” and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the temple, then there will be a great dispersion and miseries to the very end. It was 40 years from the time that Jesus said these words the temple with the city was destroyed. If you add up the 62 sets of 7’s with that of the 7 sets of 7’s you end up with 69 sets of 7’s which takes us through the destruction of Israel. But Daniel’s prophecy says that there would be 70 sets of seven, where the missing 7 years?

D.) Vs. 27 *“He will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. Then as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the end that has been decreed is poured out on this defiler.”* Daniel is speaking of the Great tribulation period and he says that the Anti-christ will make a “*treaty*” with Israel for 7 years but at 3 1/2 years he will break it by setting up sacrilegious object and demanding people to worship it. this presupposes that the temple will be built by this time and that sacrifices will have been made upon the alter, which has not happened in Israel since the destruction of the temple in 70 AD. There are two more verses that will shed light on this abomination:

- 1.) 2 Thess. 2:3-4 Here Paul was dealing with the false teaching that Jesus had already come back and he says, *“Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed--the one who brings destruction. He will exalt himself and defy every god there is and tear down every object of adoration and worship. He will position himself in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God.”*
- 2.) Rev. 13 Tells us that Antichrist will cause a living statue of himself to be put into the temple and the false prophet will cause the whole world to worship it. This is what is recorded in Mark 13:14 that Jesus calls the “*Abomination of desolation*”.

Notice that Mark says, “Let the reader understand.” It will be important for those living in the tribulation period to, understand this section. So if someone is reading this for the first time during the tribulation period and then they turn on the news they should respond as Jesus says next.

III. Vs. 14b-18 Watch and run

Vs. 14b If you’re in Judea, get out of there quickly! When you read Zechariah 13:8-9 of what follows the abomination of desolation we see that the Jews will flee from Judah but

“Two-thirds of the people in the land will be cut off and die, and a third will be left in the land. Yet He will bring that group through the fire and make them pure, just as gold and silver are refined and purified by fire. They will call on my name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘These are my people,’ and they will say, ‘The LORD is our God.’”

Many Bible scholars believe that the mountains that they will be fleeing to is none other than the rock city of Petra in Jordan. It was founded by Jacob’s twin brother Esau in a volcanic crater 1 mile in length. To get to this crater you have to pass through a canyon that is only 12 feet wide at places with a rock face of 200 feet. The whole city can house over a million people and can be secured by 15 soldiers. One believer is so convinced that this is the city where the Jews will flee too that he has provided 1000 of copies of the N.T. in Hebrew with this passage underlined, putting them in earthen jars throughout Petra so that when they get there the Bibles will be waiting for them.

Vs. 15 The Jewish house tops in Jerusalem are still mostly flat top and you can walk across the city from roof top to roof top with out going down stairs. **The point is that this will all happen very quickly, so they better not waste time.**

Vs. 16-18 If the worker in the field has left his coat at the end of a row just leave the thing and get out. ***It is hard for us to imagine the swiftness of the massacre, but Jesus is warning them to get out quickly.*** Jesus clearly loves that generation and is expressing His heart towards their destruction. Matthew mentions in verse 20 that they ought to pray this not happen on the Sabbath where Mark doesn’t an obvious difference in the readers of these two gospels.

IV. Vs. 19-23 World wide tribulation and deception

Vs. 19-23 Jesus tells us why they will need to get out of Judea. A great tribulation greater than any the world has ever seen will start. By the time it ends 2/3 of the worlds population will be gone.

There are some who try and say that the tribulation has already taken place and right now we are in the 1000-year reign of Jesus will if that is the case some one forgot to tell the devil. Folks, make no mistake about it this time will be obvious to all. By the way the word “elect” reveres to Israel not the church by the context!

Jesus tells them that it will be a time of great deception. Jesus is saying that His second coming will not be a secret one in fact if someone is saying that Jesus comes back the 2nd time secretly it marks them as a false prophet no matter how many signs and wonders they do. In 1917 Jehovah Witness said that Jesus came back into a secret chamber where He now rules the world. In the 1800 Joseph Smith said that He revealed Himself to him and gave him some magic glasses. Folks, Jesus is saying that His second coming is not a secret or invisible one. His coming will be visible to all!