

Intro.

- A. TIME – the stuff life is made of.
1. Solomon speaks of a time & place for everything (c. **Ecc. 3:1-8**)
  2. When studying history, it is always import. to set an event in the appro. time frame.
  3. That's also true in looking at historical events as recorded in the Bible.
- B. Text is set at end of 1<sup>st</sup> third of the 1<sup>st</sup> cent., during the week of Jesus' crucifixion. (**Mt. 24 & Lk. 17, 21**)
1. (c. **Mt. 23**) Christ had just strongly upbraided scribes & Pharisees, *the sons of them that slew the prophets*
  2. Lord had said that just punishment & destruction would come upon *this generation*, **Mt. 23:36 & 24:34**
  3. Following in **Mt. 24:35** Jesus took up the second question the disciples asked re: the end of time.
- C. Yesterday, I was reminded as I sat in the presence of a "pastor" & heard him espouse the doct. of premill.
1. Jesus bemoaned the corruption of God's chosen that led to the stoning & death of the prophets.
  2. If only they had been penitent, Christ would have protected them (c. **23:37**), but their condition spelled destruction. (**23:38**)
    - a. They rejected salva. thru Christ.
    - b. Result: Jewish system was bankrupt, God's presence was gone!!!
- D. The "?"'s the disciples now raised were sparked by Jesus teaching & their being in the temple's shadow.
1. No stone shall be left upon another (Josephus: stones were 37 ½' x 12' x 18')
  2. Matt. Account (**24:1-2**) seems to deal w/ 2 or 3 "?"'s", while Mark's only mentioned 1 specifically, although 2 separate events are obviously here discussed.

Discuss.**I. THE APOSTLES' QUESTION(S) Mk. 13:1-4 (Mt.24:3)**

- A. Observation: *What wonderful stones ... & buildings!*
1. Jesus – these will all be torn down
  2. Peter, James, John & Andrew want inside info.---*When...? & What will be the sign...?*
  3. Matt. Records "?"'s" – *When will these things be? What...sign of Your coming, & end of age (world)?*
- B. Destruction of temple would be absolute.
1. Christ was *gtr. than the temple* (**Mt. 12:6**), & He would always be.
  2. Temple & sacrificial system pointed way to Christ, & had fulfilled purpose, but were now defiled.

**II. JESUS' ANSWER BEGINS—Events Preceding Jerusalem's Fall Mk. 13:5-13**

- A.. First, a word of warning re: many deceivers.
1. Deception has always been Satan's primary device (c. **1 Tim. 2:14**)
  2. There have always been those who anticipated Christ being an earthly king, as was David.
  3. During the 1<sup>st</sup> Cent. there were numerous individuals who claimed to be the Messiah.
  4. *Wars & rumors of wars* were not to be a concern for Jesus' followers, but living faithfully was a concern.
    - a. These things were not a sign of the end of Judaism, but just the beginning of the collapse.
    - b. Between this prophecy (c. A.D. 30) & A.D. 70, earthquakes in Crete, Rome, Phrygia, Campania.
    - c. Persecutions were common, & often severe (c. **Ac.22:19; 1 Pt. 4:12-19**), even to the point of death.
    - d. **13:10** – Gospel would 1<sup>st</sup> be preached in all nations, (c. **Col. 1:23** written in A.D. 63)
- B. Genuine *sign* of Jerusalem's ultimate fall = *the Abomination of Desolation*, **vs. 14**.
1. In 167 B.C., Antiochus Epiphanes IV (kg. of Syria) offered sow on alter of the Lord in the temple, & sprinkled pig's broth in the holy place & most holy place. [effectively shut down temple worship 3 ½ yrs]
  2. (had been predicted by Daniel (Dan. 8:9-14))
  3. This prefigured the actual profaning & destruction of the temple by the Romans in A.D. 70.
  4. When Christians saw this *sign*, they were providential cared for in escape to the mountains. (>> 2<sup>nd</sup> Com)
    - a. When see these things happening, drop everything & run!!! (**vs. 14f**)
    - b. Some circumstances could make escape especially difficult (e.g., pregnant, nursing, winter).
    - c. Josephus wrote that 1,100,000 died in the siege & destru. of Jerusalem.
  5. **vs. 20** reminds us that God was in control of *those days* \*(test of true prophet, **Dt.18:18-22**)
  6. **vs. 21-23** warning not to believe teachings (or mis-interpret.) other than what Christ & apostles gave.!!!

### III. Mk. 13:24-27 APOCALYPTIC DESCRIPTION OF JERUSALEM'S DESTRUCTION. (times)

- A. Nature of apocalyptic writing in codes, symbols & signs is familiar to Daniel, Rev. (hope in desperate \
1. *Those days* = same as in **vs. 17, 19 & 20** still re: destru. of Jeru. (**Mt. 24:30** = sign of Christ in heaven)
  2. Christ told H.P. during His trial that they would see Son of Man enthroned in heaven, & coming on clouds, **Mt. 26:64**. *This = death knell to Max Kingism AWA Premillennialism.*
  3. **Isa. 13:10, 17** similar language described God's judg. Upon Babylonia via the Medes.
  4. Also in **Ezek. 32:7-16** ref. to Pharaoh's destruction. (see also **Joel 2:1-10; Amos 8:9; Zeph. 1:14, 16**)
- B. Displacement of heavenly bodies = leaders (those in high places) lose their power & influence.
1. At end of time, sun, moon & stars will be dissolved (**2 Pt. 3:10ff**), but that  $\ll$  what this is about.
  2. **Vs. 26** = parallel to **Mt. 24:30**, & has ref. to Christ's reign in heaven (as in **vs. 24**), not 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.
  3. Gathering of God's elect (**vs 27**) alludes to many Gentile converts, as in **Ac. 18:6-10**.
  4. Destru. of Jeru. brought a virtual end to Jewish opposition & persecution.
- C. **vs 29-30** points Bible students again to proper application of *these things*  $\longrightarrow$  to *this generation*.

### IV. NOW "WATCH" ...FOR THE 2<sup>ND</sup> COMING, VS. 31-37.

- A. Surety of God's word is the one thing everyone can absolutely "bank on", including events of *That Day!*
1. No signs to precede Judgment, so timing of that event is *unknown*.
  2. *Take heed, stay alert...* because there will be no advanced warning.
- B. *Like a man on journey who gave assignments to slaves, & told them to stay on the alert*

#### Concl.

1. Are you alert, ready, prepared for when Christ comes again???
2. Last thing Jesus said in this text: ***Be on the alert!*** (**STAY READY**)