

The “Mountain” of Prophecy

One prophecy, multiple fulfillments

A Question and Its Significance

Non-Signs (vss. 3-13)

Mark 13:10, compare to Colossians 1:5-6, Colossians, 1:23, Romans 10:16-18, Romans 16:25-26

Colossians 1:5-6 “Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the **gospel**,⁶ which has come to you, as indeed in the **whole world** it is bearing fruit and increasing.”

Destruction of the Temple/Jerusalem (vss. 14-23)

A sign – the abomination of desolation

It’s a “he”

From book of Daniel, first fulfillment seems to be when Antiochus IV Epiphanes desecrated the temple in 168 B.C. by erecting a small altar dedicated to Zeus over the altar of burnt offering, and sacrificed a pig.

In AD 40, Caligula (3rd Roman Emperor) laid plans to have an image of himself set up in the Jerusalem Temple.

In AD 67-68, a new high priest named Phanni was installed who was, according to Jewish historian Josephus, a total clown and made a joke of the temple.

Great tribulation

Two problems

Vs. 19 – “For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be.”

Vs. 20 – “And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved.”

Be ready to flee!

Unlike the end of time, when fleeing will be useless (Rev. 6:15-17)

The Return of Christ (vss. 24-27)

The Lesson of the Fig Tree (vss. 28-31) → You will know!

The Parable of the Absent Homeowner (vss. 32-37) → Nobody will know!

Commands and Promises

Commands

Stay awake! Always be ready for Jesus to return.

Don't be anxious, because God will give you words to say.

Don't follow false christs and prophets.

Promises

The world won't last forever, but the words of Jesus will.

The one who endures to the end will be saved.

Jesus is going to come in great power and glory.

Questions for Personal Study

1. Why is it important to know that our hope is in the future, and is going to happen at a time known only to God?
2. What does it matter for us that Jesus' prophecy concerning Jerusalem has already come true?
3. In what way do you make sure to always be ready for Jesus' return?
4. How does this passage give you hope?