

Theme: Jesus prophesied that the Temple would be destroyed and the Old Covenant would end, for in the New Covenant the people of God are God's Temple.

I. Intro - Review and Question

A. This text was about the end of the Temple, not the world

As he was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!"² "Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."³ As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, "**Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?**" Mark 13:1-4

1. Jesus speaks of the destruction of the 1st century Temple, not about the end of the world
2. NOTHING in this text speaks of the end of the world

B. This was to happen within 40 years (this generation)

I tell you the truth, **this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.**³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. Mark 13:30-31

1. Everything in Mark 13:1-30 would happen during THIS GENERATION
2. All 19x the phrase THIS GENERATION is used in the NT it refers to the generation alive at that time
3. Jesus' words came true - the Temple was destroyed during THIS GENERATION - in 70AD!

C. But what about some earth-shattering phrases about stars falling and such - have they been fulfilled?

1. I will cover some of these in this teaching and the next one

2. I will cover the whole passage section by section in special After Hours episodes

II. Heavenly Signs On the Day of the Lord

A. Jesus speaks of heavenly signs

But in those days, following that distress, 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' Mark 13:24-25

1. Some say this is proof Jesus could not have been speaking about 70 AD - no heavenly disruptions!
2. They often say read this passage and Revelation with the newspaper in the other hand to see when it happens.
3. Read this passage and Revelation with the Old Testament and the whole Bible open! Let the Bible interpret the Bible!

B. A quote from Isaiah about the destruction of Babylon

An oracle concerning **Babylon** that Isaiah son of Amoz saw:...⁹ See, **the day of the LORD is coming** — a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger — **to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it.**¹⁰ **The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light.** Isaiah 13:1, 9-10

1. Jesus alludes to Isaiah 13:10; 34:4 in this passage!
2. This passage was about the day of the Lord for Babylon, and it was fulfilled in 539BC!
See, I will stir up against them the **Medes**, who do not care for silver and have no delight in gold...¹⁹ **Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms, the glory of the Babylonians' pride, will be overthrown by God like Sodom and Gomorrah.** Isaiah 13:17, 19
 - a. This was about the end of Babylon, not the world

- b. This text was fulfilled when the Medo-Persian Empire conquered Babylon.
- c. We have no record of any “literal” heavenly signs like this - because that is not what was intended!
- d. The point is not “literal” heavenly signs but stating that it will be a world-shattering day of judgment.

All the stars of the heavens will be dissolved and the sky rolled up like a scroll; all **the starry host will fall** like withered leaves from the vine, like shriveled figs from the fig tree. Isaiah 34:4

- 1. Jesus is alluding to Isaiah 34:4 in this passage!
- 2. This passage was about the day of the Lord for Edom, and it was fulfilled long before the time of Jesus!
- 3. Again, the stars did not all dissolve or fall ‘literally’ - it is apocalyptic imagery saying the nation will be shattered.

C. The day of the Lord and heavenly signs

Woe to you who long for **the day of the LORD!** Why do you long for **the day of the LORD?** That day will be **darkness, not light.** ¹⁹ It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him. ²⁰ **Will not the day of the LORD be darkness, not light — pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?** Amos 5:18-20

- 1. Amos was prophesying judgment on Israel.
- 2. The ‘day of the Lord’ will be a day of judgment
- 3. There will be darkness - no sun, moon, or stars
- 4. This did not ‘literally’ happen - but the Day of the Lord Amos spoke did come on Israel in 722BC.

The **great day of the LORD is near — near and coming quickly.** Listen! The cry on **the day of the LORD** will be bitter, the **shouting of the warrior** there. ¹⁵ That day will be **a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness...** ¹⁸ In the fire of his jealousy **the whole world will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live in the earth.**” Zeph 1:14-15,18

- 5. Zephaniah prophesied during the reign of Josiah, not long before the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple, and the exile to Babylon.
- 6. The day of the Lord is dark and gloomy, clouds and blackness - same as other passages.
- 7. The ‘whole world will be consumed’ and a sudden end to all who live on the earth - this did not ‘literally’ happen. It is apocalyptic language signaling tremendous judgment and destruction.

D. The coming day of the Lord for Israel

But in those days, following that distress, ‘the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ Mark 13:24-25

- 1. Jesus was prophesying a coming day of the Lord - judgment on Israel.
- 2. He uses the Old Testament language common for such pronouncements.
- 3. These are never ‘literal’ but they are true - this will be world shattering judgment on apostate Israel.

III. A New Covenant and A New Temple

A. This is the end of the Old Covenant and its Temple

- 1. This Day of the Lord brought the destruction of the physical Temple forever!
- 2. This Day of the Lord brought the end of the Old Covenant forever!

B. The new covenant age of the Spirit initiated

1. Jesus initiates the new covenant within days

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is **the new covenant in my blood**, which is poured out for you. Luke 22:20

- a. Jesus initiates the covenant at the Last Supper
- b. He then seals it with His death the next day!

2. The Spirit poured out as part of the New Covenant

¹⁶ No, **this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:**
¹⁷ "In the last days, God says, **I will pour out my Spirit on all people.** Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even on my servants, **both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days,** and they will prophesy. ¹⁹ **I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.** ²⁰**The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.** ²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' Acts 2:16-21

- a. Pentecost 30AD fulfilled Joel's prophecy - all of it!
- b. The Spirit is now poured out on all people - not just a few prophets, priests, and kings!
- c. This is before the day of the Lord - and notice the heavenly signs which are very similar to Mark 13:24-25!
- d. Those heaven signs were not 'literally' fulfilled on Pentecost, but Peter says they were, and every part of the prophecy before and after was fulfilled and continues!
- e. The Spirit is still poured out on all of God's people! Everyone who calls on the Lord is still saved!

- f. This is the New Covenant gift of the Spirit, and it began with the day of the Lord shaking the heavens to end the Old Covenant and usher in the far more glorious New Covenant!

C. The new covenant Temple is the people of God!

1. Jesus said the Old Covenant Temple would be destroyed - and it was!
2. In the New Covenant, the Temple is not a building but the people of God!

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? 1 Corinthians 3:16

- a. This was written while the Old Covenant Temple still stood - but it was not the real Temple any longer!
- b. The Temple is where God's Spirit dwells - and in the New Covenant that is the Church!
- c. This is a key reason why the New Covenant is far, far superior to the Old Covenant - and why the Old Covenant is done away with forever, never to return for anyone!

IV. Applying the Word

A. Do I see how to properly understand God's Word?

1. Each week as I teach, I am not only teaching that passage, but also how to properly read and interpret Scripture.
2. One of the most important principles is to understand the text in its original context - what it meant to the original audience rather than jumping straight to our own day.
3. Another important principle is letting Scripture interpret Scripture - how does it use particular words and phrases?

4. This is a major problem for many of us today - we ask what it sounds like to us rather than asking how the phrase was used in other Scripture and how the original people heard it.
5. Today's text shows this - heavenly signs were NOT about literal stars falling from the sky, the sun burning out, etc. - they were Old Testament quotes, and they referred to world-shattering events.
6. This is not hard - a good cross-reference Bible will point out other Bible verses using the same or similar language.
7. This is so important because God's Word is true and will never fade away - but wrong interpretations have no such guarantee!
8. This is also why we mainly teach through books of the Bible - to help us read the Scripture in context as it was written!
9. Let's keep learning to rightly read Scripture!

B. Do I see the glorious New Covenant gift of the Spirit?

1. The main thrust of Mark 13 is the end of the Temple and Old Covenant era
2. This was a world-altering change - a great one!
3. We live under the New Covenant, which means we are the Temple of God, and that God's Spirit dwells in us!
4. The Temple of God will NEVER again be a building in Jerusalem, for in the New Covenant we are the Temple because God's Spirit dwells in us!
5. What an immense privilege given to us through Jesus' death and resurrection - the Spirit is given in fullness to us, not just a few but to every one of God's people!

6. The Spirit dwells in you to help you, guide you, strengthen you, and draw you close to Christ - and you don't have to go to Jerusalem to a Temple!
7. The Spirit helps every one of us pray - no believer has special access to God, for in Christ we are all given full access!
8. Give thanks to God for the work of Jesus, the New Covenant, and the Gift of the Holy Spirit!

C. The Table of the New Covenant

1. By the Spirit, this Table is not a mere ritual!
2. Here the Spirit works so that we eat and drink the grace of God and receive fresh vital life from Jesus!
3. Come, open Yourself to the work of the Spirit, and receive from Jesus all you need!

The New Covenant Temple

Mark 13:1-4; 24-25

October 6, 2024

Communion

1 Corinthians 3:16 paraphrase blessing

Teaching keywords: Tabernacle and Temple; New Covenant; Old Covenant; Israel; judgement; Christology; eschatology

As the New Covenant people of God, you yourselves are God's temple for God's Spirit lives in you to give You every promised blessing of God - so go forth and be a blessing! 1 Corinthians 3:16

As he was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!”² “Do you see all these great buildings?” replied Jesus. “Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”³ As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately,⁴ “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?” ...

²⁴ “But in those days, following that distress, “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ Mark 13:1-4, 24-25