



## The New Covenant People of God

### Key idea:

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.

### Key text:

Mark 13:1-4, 26-27, 30-31

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

<sup>26</sup> "At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

<sup>30</sup> I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

### Key points:

1. Jesus' prophecy in Mark 13 is primarily about the destruction of the temple in 70 AD, not the end of the world.
2. The "Son of Man coming on clouds" refers to Jesus' ascension and enthronement, not his second coming.
3. Jesus, as the exalted Son of Man, is currently ruling and reigning over all creation.
4. The "elect" in the New Covenant includes believers from all nations, not just ethnic Israel.
5. The gospel is spreading through spiritual warfare, not political means or human ingenuity.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How does understanding Mark 13 as being about the temple's destruction rather than the end of the world change your perspective on this passage?
2. The sermon emphasized Jesus' favorite self-designation as "Son of Man." Why do you think this title was so important to Jesus, and what does it reveal about His identity and mission?
3. How does the reality of Jesus being enthroned as the Son of Man impact your daily life and faith, especially in times of difficulty or cultural challenges?
4. Bret mentioned that we often only believe Jesus is on the throne when we see it with our eyes. How can we cultivate faith that trusts in His reign even when circumstances seem to contradict it?
5. Consider the significance of God's plan to include people from all nations in His covenant. How does this shape our understanding of the church and its mission?
6. The sermon touched on the spiritual nature of gospel advancement. How can we be more intentional about engaging in spiritual warfare through prayer for the spread of the gospel?

### **Practical Applications:**

1. Commit to praying daily this week for missionaries and for lost friends and family members.
2. Identify one person in your life who seems far from God, and make a plan to share the gospel with them this month.
3. For parents: Set aside time this week to have an intentional conversation with your children about the gospel and their faith.
4. Reflect on areas in your life where fear or discouragement may be overshadowing your trust in Christ's reign. Write down specific truths from Scripture to combat these doubts.

5. Research and learn about how the gospel is advancing in different parts of the world. Share these encouraging reports with the group next time you meet.
6. Memorize a key verse from Daniel 7 or Revelation 7 as a reminder of Christ's ultimate victory and the gathering of people from all nations.
7. Evaluate your media consumption. Are you allowing voices of fear to dominate, or are you actively seeking out hope-filled, kingdom-focused perspectives?