

Theme: Jesus prophesied that with the destruction of the Temple and the end of the Old Covenant era the Gospel would go to all nations, gathering people from every nation into God's people.

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 the Gospel being preached to all nations, Son of Man on the clouds, the angels gathering the elect?

1. I will cover some of these items in this teaching

2. I am covering the whole passage section by section in special After Hours episodes - and go into more detail there.

II. The Son of Man Calls His People

A. The Son of Man will come on the clouds with power and glory

At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. Mark 13:26

1. Again, many think this must refer to Jesus' return at the end of the world, but it does not.
2. Once again, Jesus is alluding to an Old Testament text, Daniel 7:13-14

In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a **son of man, coming with the clouds** of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.¹⁴ He was given authority, **glory** and sovereign **power**; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. Daniel 7:13-14

- a. Jesus is clearly referencing Daniel 7:13-14
- b. Daniel's vision is not about the end of the world, but the enthronement of the 'Son of Man'.
- c. Notice that in Daniel the Son of Man is riding the clouds UP to heaven, not down to earth!
- d. The focus in Daniel, and therefore in Jesus' words, is Jesus the Son of Man ascending to the Father's right hand to be enthroned as Lord of heaven and earth!
- e. As the Son of Man, Jesus is enthroned with great power and glory, and has been since the ascension!

3. As the exalted King, the Son of Man receives worship from people of every nation!

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- a. The Son of Man is exalted as the King, and calls people from every nation to be His people and worship Him!
- b. The power and glory of Jesus are seen in His calling people from everywhere to be part of His New Covenant people - and they have been coming for 2,000 years!

B. The Gospel call to the elect from all nations

At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ 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.** Mark 13:26-27

1. As the exalted Son of Man Who is the Universal King, the Son of Man sends out 'angels' to gather people into His Kingdom!
2. This is speaking of the reality in the Daniel 7 text - the Son of Man riding the clouds with power and glory and exercising His rule by calling people through the Gospel to come and worship Him.
3. Thus, the elect are those from every nation who come to worship Jesus, the exalted Son of Man. In the New Covenant, this is believing Jews and Gentiles who are now the elect people of God.

As you come to him, the living Stone — rejected by men but **chosen** by God and precious to him... ⁹ But you are a **chosen** people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:4, 9

Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the **elect**, that they too may obtain the **salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.** 2 Timothy 2:10

- a. Jesus Himself is the Elect and Chosen One - and everyone who is in Him is part of God's Chosen people.
 - b. The elect (or chosen - same Greek word) are those who find salvation and eternal glory in Christ Jesus.
 - c. These elect/chosen ones are no longer just from Israel, they are from the ends of the earth - every nation under heaven. This is again a fulfillment of Daniel 7:13-14.
 - d. Conversely, everyone who rejects Jesus has no claim to be part of God's Chosen people.
4. The elect of every nation - believing Jews and Gentiles, will be gathered into the people of God, the Church.
 5. The Son of Man sends out His angels/messengers
At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ 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. Mark 13:26-27
 - a. The basic meaning of ἄγγελος is a messenger
 - b. The Greek word ἄγγελος can refer to angels, supernatural heavenly beings

The **angel** answered, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news." Luke 1:19

1. This is the most common way the word is used in the New Testament
2. Jesus could be saying that angels are helping the Gospel to spread to all the nations.

Then I saw another **angel** flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth — to every nation, tribe, language and people. Revelation 14:6

3. The Gospel does go forth via spiritual warfare and perhaps this is what is being communicated - but it would be very unusual to speak of angels taking the Gospel forth in this way.

- c. The Greek word ἄγγελος can refer to human 'messengers'.

This is the one about whom it is written: "I will send my **messenger** ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Matthew 11:10

And he sent **messengers** on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; Luke 9:52

- d. The Greek word ἄγγελος (and the Hebrew word) referred to human 'messengers' about 50% of time, usually to refer to people carrying a message from a king or to refer to the prophets of the LORD.

Now Sennacherib received a report that Tirhakah, the Cushite king [of Egypt], was marching out to fight against him. When he heard it, he sent **messengers** to Hezekiah with this word: Isaiah 37:9

The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent word to them through his **messengers** again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place. ¹⁶ But they mocked God's **messengers**, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the Lord was aroused against his people and there was no remedy. ² Chronicles 36:15-16

- e. Given the context of the quote of Daniel 7:13-14, the Old Testament usage for messengers of a King and for prophets/messengers of the LORD, and the New Testament emphasis on people (rather than angels) taking the Gospel to the nations, I think the better idea here is 'messenger'.

- f. But in either case, the idea is not a supernatural gathering (such as the rapture or something similar) but rather the proclamation of the Gospel which gathers people from every nation into the people of God.

III. Applying the Word

A. Do I see that Jesus is the exalted Son of Man?

1. Jesus' favorite self-designation was 'the Son of Man'
2. He is called the 'Son of Man' in the Gospels 82 times, more than 'Christ' and 'Son of God' combined!
3. At this point in the Gospels, the reason is clear - He is the Son of Man in Daniel 7 - the One Who rides the clouds to the Ancient of Days, is seated on the throne of God, and rules over the kingdom of God forever!
4. This should strengthen our faith in difficult times - Jesus is ruling over all things, and His Kingdom will continue to expand and will last forever!
5. When Daniel saw the vision, he was an exile in Babylon and ruled by the Medo-Persian empire! And the most fearful empires (Greece and Rome) were yet to come! But the vision came to pass!
6. Within days of Jesus proclaiming this to the disciples He was put to death as Rome and the wicked religious rulers of Israel conspired to kill Him.

7. But He was raised from the dead, ascended to the Father, and was seated on the throne - the vision came true!
8. Many voices constantly call us to fear, promote conspiracy theories, and say that the faith will not survive - but Jesus is on the throne!
9. Many of us face real trials and difficulties in this broken world, and Satan whispers we will not survive - but Jesus is on the throne!
10. Does the reality of Jesus the Son of Man enthroned sustain my faith, hope, and joy each day?
11. Do I focus more on the problems in my life (or our culture) or on Jesus as the enthroned Son of Man?

B. Do I see the reality of God's New Covenant people?

1. God's plan from the beginning was to open the Gospel to all nations - and Jesus proclaimed this would happen!
2. The Son of Man does not just rule over Israel, but over all nations!
3. The Son of Man is not just calling people from Israel but from all nations!
4. We are a fulfillment of Jesus' words in Mark 13:26-27!
5. And He is still calling people from every nation upon the earth to worship Him - and they are coming!
6. Despite all of the predictions of the end of Christianity, it is larger than ever and growing faster than ever!
7. The empires of Babylon, Persia, and Greece rose and faded - but God's Kingdom endures!

8. Rome tried to crush the Church, but Rome fell and God's People continue to grow!
9. Paganism, barbarism, and Islam all tried to conquer the Church, but she still endures and is more widespread and growing faster than ever before!
10. How I can be part of God's continuing gathering of people to Himself:
 - a. PRAY - for lost family and friends, our missionaries
 - b. SHARE - with those who do not yet know Jesus
 - c. PARENTS - share with your kids!
11. Let's do this with renewed zeal and confidence!

C. The Table of the New Covenant

1. This is the Table of the New Covenant given to us by Jesus, made by His broken Body & shed Blood.
2. It is celebrated by believers from every nation!

The New Covenant People of God

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

October 20, 2024

Communion

Revelation 1:4-6

Teaching keywords: Evangelism and missions; Church; New Covenant; Old Covenant; Israel; judgment; Christology; eschatology

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from His Spirit before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth, Who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father — to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. Rev 1:4-6

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³⁰ 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 13:1-4, 26-27, 30-31