**Follow – Gospel of Mark - Wk 33 – Last Days According to Jesus**

**We’ve are walking w/ Jesus in Mark, 3 days before Jesus death Jesus has spent 2 days teaching and answering attacks.**

**(MONDAY)**

* **Mk 11:12 - Jesus Curses the Fig Tree - Pointing to Israel.**
* **Mk 11:15 - Jesus cleanses the temple in judgement on Jerusalem.**

**(TUESDAY) Priests, Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes want a fight…**

* **Mk 12:1 Jesus responds w/ a parable about the destruction of Israel**
* **Mk 12:10 Jesus added because he’s been rejected judgments coming**

**The authorities were mad and planning on killing him.**

**4 scathing judgments on Israel in 2 days - Jesus ends the day with the most blistering words of judgement on Israel yet.**

**Mark 13:1 As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!”**

**Walking out of the temple - Isn’t that amazing!! 2nd temple of Ezra and Zerubbabel Temple – expanded by Herod (Herod’s Temple) well-documented great ancient wonder of the world.**

**Outer court 500 yds long / 300 yds wide / 35 acres of land. Massive white marble stones - 50’ long, 11’ high, 8’ deep. Temple wall 150’ high – can still see the stones in the rubble.**

**The temple was called a Marble Mountain - covered in gold. It literally shined for miles - and still being added to by Herod.**

**Jesus was sure to let them know - Matt 12:6 - I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. (Himself, the temple w/ skin)**

**(The structure had become an idol – people sweared by it. Speaking badly of it was blasphemous and worthy of death…) 13:2 “Do you see all these great buildings?” replied Jesus. “Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”**

**Isn’t it amazing Jesus? He responds, “It’s all coming down.” Think of the shock! Not one massive stone left standing. Unimaginable & unlikely - but it happened in 70AD in their life.**

**3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, (the Olivet Discourse, Ma 24, Lk 21 - longest discourse in Mark. Video was the verse in full) 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?”**

**THE QUESTION - Jesus you just said the temple is coming down, when will it happen and what are the signs it is about to happen?**

**Clear question – Jesus gives them an answer to that question.**

**What follows is Jesus’ answer. As Jesus answers notice the “You’s” - “These” - “This” - Jesus is very specific about what and when.**

**Some Bible headings: Signs of the End Times - The Return of Jesus - the End of the World” Telling what and how to read it before we even read it…**

**I have titled this - Last Days According to Jesus – not – End times according to Jesus**

**With everything happening in the Middle East today – many see to this passage and read into it - a sign of the end.**

**\*\* I contest and so did every major scholar for 1800 yrs ago and still many today, that Jesus was talking about an event in their lifetime.**

**Controversial passage Why? Because Jesus ends his answer by saying this is when - He will be coming in the clouds – but it seems he says it will happen in their lifetime… It has fuel’s speculative teaching & skeptical critiques.**

**One of the greatest passages declaring Jesus’ authority and ability to prophetically tell the future with amazing detail.**

**Get ready - This will be possibly the most difficult passage to read, understand and follow in all of Mark. He who has hears…**

**Jesus just said the temple is coming down, they ask when will it happen and what are the signs it is about to happen? Something I have never done before, unpack an entire chapter in one sermon. Eavesdrop**

**Watch - You will see these signs when it is close**

**Mark 13:5 Jesus said to them: “Watch out that no one deceives you. (1st thing - be careful many will try to twist my words - How would they have heard this?) 6 Many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many. (False Messiahs – after Jesus 100’s of false Jesus are recorded) 7 When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 8 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. (leading to 70AD, wars escalated yearly) There will be earthquakes in various places, (massive earthquakes including one in 63AD that took out Pompeii) in - and famines. (41-54AD several serious famines that affected the empire) These are the beginning of birth pains. (This is just the beginning…)**

**All of these took place in their lifetime – just as Jesus said.**

**Watch - You will be persecuted**

**13:9 “You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. (arrested, flogged – brought before authorities - happened to each of them) 10 And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. (more on this in a minute) 11 Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit. (LK 12:12 - says he is talking about the disciples) 12 “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. 13 Everyone will hate you because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. (Your family will turn against you and turn you in – people will hate because of me. All of which happened to them…)**

**Basically, this is the book of Acts – their story following Jesus’ resurrection – all happened before 70 AD.**

**What About Verse: Mark 13:10 …gospel must first be preached to all nations.**

* **The gospel will be preached to the “ethnoi” (the gentiles)**

**It did happen in their lifetime. Paul even says so (Romans 10:16-18 - the gospel went “into all the earth, to the ends of the world.” Really? North America, Argentina, Australia - How? When they spoke of the world and nations – they are referring to the Roman world and gentiles.**

**Compare - Matt 10:23 - Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. (actual – the other figurative)**

**Watch - You will see a false Idol in the Temple**

**13:14 “When you see ‘the abomination that causes desolation’ standing where it does not belong—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. (AD 40 Caligula put statues of himself in the Temple but removed. AD 70 Titus slaughtered pigs in temple to gods – declared self god)**

**Some see this as a future event – which means the Temple will need to be rebuilt – for that to happen the Mosque of the rock would need to be torn down – which would be a catastrophic war in the Middle east. But this actually happened in their life.**

**Watch - You will see incredible suffering**

**13:15 Let no one on the housetop go down or enter the house to take anything out. 16 Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. (make a beeline for the hills) 17 How dreadful it will be in those days (the days when the temple is destroyed) for pregnant women and nursing mothers! 18 Pray that this will not take place in winter, 19 because those will be days of distress unequaled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now - and never to be equaled again. 20 “If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive. But for the sake of the elect, whom he has chosen, he has shortened them.**

**Josephus describes the siege and fall of Jerusalem summer 70AD.**

**At that moment 1.1 million Jews were slaughtered in a few months.**

**People ate their dung and their own babies – starving…**

**But miraculously all Christians left (warned by Jesus) before the siege and escaped to the Mountains – just as Jesus foretold.**

**13:21 At that time (time temple is destroyed) if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it. 22 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 23 So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time. (I am telling you in advance what you will see – warn others)**

**Jesus uses common apocalyptic literature style to describe it further - using hyperbole and exaggerated words to describe real events – i.e. Revelation)**

**Watch - You will see signs in the sky**

**24 “But in those days, (time temple is destroyed) following that distress, (What Jesus just described) “‘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.’ of the heavens. (quoting Isaiah 13, 34 - language to describe the fall of empires)**

**Recorded that in 70AD – many comets shaped like a sword fell and a long blood read moon during the siege. Ancient reports of seeing armies in the sky - Fulfilled in their lifetime.**

**26 “At that time (When the temple is destroyed) people (they) 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 Heaven. (This seems to be the verse that really gets people - Jesus didn’t come back… what do we do with this? Can we trust Jesus? … the Bible?)**

**Some critiques - Jesus is a false prophet, liar, untrue Bible**

**Some teachers - Jesus is referring to distant future events - “these things” “those days” “this generation” is not really them. But a far distant future not them. But the context says…**

**What About Verse: Mark 13:26 “At that time people will see the Son of Man (the Messiah) coming in clouds with great power and glory.**

**We need to be consistent with the Bible. Coming on the clouds is a common Jewish phrase used throughout the OT.**

**Coming on the Clouds??**

**Job, Psalms** - cloud-related phenomena described as evidence of **God's Power**

**Duet 33:2, Isaiah 19:1, Zech 1:16, Mal 3:1-2 -** The Lord is coming (not physical…)

**God’s Judgement**

**Ez 30:2-3, 34:12 ; Joel 2:2 ; Zeph 1:15** – Clouds referred to as God’s judgment…

**Is 19:1** - judgment on Egypt by Assyria / **Is 30:27** –judgement on Israel’s by Assyria

**Dan 7:13-14** –judgement on Babylon by Persia / **Ps 104:1-4** – Judgment on King Saul

**Jer 4:13-14** – judgement on Israel by Babylon **/ Ez 1** –judgement on Israel by Assyria

**Nahum 1** - God’s judgement on Nineveh / **Ps 96:13, 98:9, Is 26:21** (warning to Israel) – “Lord is coming to judge” / **Micah 1:3** LORD is coming down to tread on his enemies

**Psalm 18** – (Song of deliverance from David) God came riding in the clouds in the sky and delivered me (w/ hail, fire, and a thundering voice) the whole earth shook.

**2 Samuel 22:7-16** (When God delivered David and judged his enemies – he wrote this song) “he parted the heavens and came down” riding the clouds.

**“Coming on the clouds” is not a reference to his return – but a reference to his coming in judgment on Israel – occurred in 70AD.**

**What About Verse: 13:27 And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth (land)to the ends of the heavens.**

**This is a simple answer – the word “angelous” = delegated messenger. A refence to people and to angelic beings. It is the root word for – evangelist - From 33AD-70AD the gospel was evangelized - spread throughout the entire Roman world!**

**(We know he is talking about Israel) 13:28 “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: (Mark 12 – remember the day before my fig tree prophecy Israel) As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. 29 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door.**

**When you see these things it’s near. Jesus is answering their question of what to look for concerning the temple demise.**

**Here is the kicker… Watch - You will see it happen**

**30 Truly I tell you; 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. (18X in Mark says - you will, you are, to you – at what point did Jesus say it was a generation 2000 yrs from now. Generation = within 40 yrs)**

**Similarly, Jesus says even clearer - Matthew 16:28 Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”**

**Jesus said he was coming in their lifetime. The apostles believed and often said Jesus was coming in their lifetime.**

**Were they all false prophets? Were they all wrong?**

**If they were wrong could the rest of what they said be wrong?**

**Well, Jesus was talking about a future events thousands of years away and the apostles were just enthusiastic and mistaken. But Jesus said “some here will not die and see it – this generation will not pass away”**

**Again, Jesus says at his arrest – Mark 14:61- the high priest questioned Him, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?” 62 “I am,” said Jesus, “and you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.” (again, referring to his fav verse Ps 110:1)**

**I believe Jesus was answering their question and telling them what to look for because this was to happen in their lifetime.**

**It would be nice to say it’s the future, but ignores textual rules. We are not to read out selves into every passage- this was about them.**

**So, as he is talking to Peter, James, John, and Andrews… Jesus answers “what the signs are” – but in regard to “the when” he says…) Mark 13:32 “But about that day or hour (exact moment) no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.**

**What About Verse: 13:32 “…no one knows… nor the Son, but only the Father.**

**Did Jesus really not know something? Was he ignorant?**

**We interpret scripture with scripture – The Bible says Jesus is fully God (not part) He is ONE with the Father (not part) He is omniscient and knows all things in full (not part) – then how can Jesus not know?**

**Option 1- He chose not to know in his humanity (only part God)**

**Option 2 – He intentionally mislead his disciples (a lying God)**

**Option 3 – older manuscript do not include “nor the son” (bible?)**

**Option 4 – word son is not a reference to Jesus but to sons of man**

**\*Option 5 - He does know but in submission, not his place to reveal**

**(Jesus final words on this) Mark 13:33 Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. (temple falling) 34 It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. (disciples = servants in that story)**

**35 “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. 36 If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”**

**Two things to Walk away with:**

**1. LISTEN! Jesus is who He says He is - His word always comes true.**

**It is reliable – it is trustworthy – it is the truth!!**

**Mark is calculated to have been written in 42AD, 30 yrs before any of this happened. This truly was the end of the age as Jesus said – the age of the temple was over! (Hebrews 9:26)**

**God bless the reading of God’s word!**

**2. WATCH! Be ready for Jesus can return at any moment.**

**Jesus said he was coming back in their lifetime. The apostles believed it and said Jesus was coming back in their lifetime. And he did in power and judgment, but that was not his return.**

**As sure as He came… he is coming again. It might not be like you think. We do not know when the owner is coming… live ready!**

**We are on the welcoming committee – not the planning committee.**

**Mark 13: 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”**