**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

Sermon

*The Good News According to Mark,*

*An Apostle of Jesus Christ*

 *365 Day Disciple ~ Mark 13: 14-37*

*Carry on In The Lord – Be Alert*

July 29nd, In the Year of Our Lord 2018

The next passage of Scripture contains some of the more quoted text people tend to memorize due to the end-times prophecies that are forecasted by Jesus. Over the centuries, many have lost focus on the daily mission of Believers. Some have made their views a test of fellowship and still others have held that if you do not believe their view then you are not a Christian. That may sound silly to most but serious to some.

We should never get so caught-up in the end-times prophecy as to neglect our daily mission to the Lord. We should not make it a test of fellowship or salvation. There is no indication that Jesus did. Jesus focused primarily on the day-to-day life-mission of Believers: love God and your neighbor, pray, learn and serve each other. All this is to be accomplished with the Spirit of the Lord working inside each of us. We see this in the fruits of the Spirit as Believers are automatically kind and gentle with each other putting forth the love, joy and peace of the Lord in their relationship. This is our focus. When Jesus said that only the Father knew when the end would come, I believe that statement. Jesus’ focus was on being ready for the end whenever the end came.

When is the Second Coming? When you meet Jesus face-to-face. How does this meeting take place? At the end of time and when you graduate from this life to the next. Your loved ones may shed a tear for your passing, but Believers will be at peace in the presence of the Lord.

The Second Coming awaits us all. Believers and non-believers will all go before the Great White Throne Judgement described in Revelation 20:11ff. Sinners and Saints stand before the Lord, and the names contained in the books of Deeds and the Book of Life are reviewed and judgement is leveled. Those that chose to be judged by their deeds and have rejected (not surrendered to) the Spirit of the living God to direct their life are sent to the lake of fire to be tormented forever (Revelation 20:10,14,15). The lake of fire burns forever. Some see the lake of fire as a place where real flames burn and others see the lake of fire as a place of eternal regret and isolation from God, complete darkness, where there isn’t any love and internal peace can never be found. One thing is for sure, the lake of fire is a place without God.

Those whose names are in the Book of Life are to live an eternity in Heaven with the Lord. These will live in the New Earth, the New Jerusalem forever (Revelation 21). The Spirit never dies.

We can also read parallel Scripture in: Matthew 24:15-16; Luke 21:10-24; Matthew 24:1-2. JESUS predicts Temple to be destroyed A.D. 33.

Mark 13

14 "But when you see

 the **abomination of desolation**

standing where it should not be (let the reader understand),

then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

 15 "And let him who is on the housetop not go down,

or enter in, to get anything out of his house;

 16 and let him who is in the field not turn back to get his cloak.

 17 "But woe to those who are with child

and to those who nurse babes in those days!

 18 "But pray that it may not happen in the winter.

 19 "For those days will be a *time of* tribulation such **as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created,** until now, and never shall.

 In verse 14, Jesus talks about the **abomination of desolation.** Wow, to those who are not familiar with these terms, understanding can be challenging. Historians point to two events specifically that fit these terms. We can also read about King Solomon and the result of him marrying many foreign women. He built places of worship for their pagan gods.

2 Kings. 23:13 (See also 1 Kings 11:5,7)

 13 And the high places which *were* before Jerusalem, which *were* on the right of the mount of destruction which Solomon the king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the **abomination** of the Sidonians, and for Chemosh the **abomination** of Moab, and for Milcom the **abomination** of the sons of Ammon, the king defiled.

**The Two Events**

  **Before Christ:** Antiochus IV (Epiphanes), the king of Syria, captured Jerusalem in 167 BC and desecrated the Temple by offering the sacrifice of a pig on an altar to Zeus (the Abomination of Desolation). In seeking to prohibit Judaism and Hellenize the Jews, Antiochus forbade their religious practices and commanded that copies of the Law be burned, all of which is related by Josephus in the *Antiquities of the Jews* (XII.5.4).

 **After Christ:** In 70 A.D., the Romans destroy the Temple less than 40 years from the time Jesus said it would be destroyed. 40 years is considered a generation in the Bible. As in the generation of the Hebrew people who left Egypt and wandered in the Wilderness for 40 years, so that rebellious generation of leaders would die off due to their rebellion and not enter the Promised Land. (Numbers 14:27-35)

This is the verse that leads many to say that Jesus is predicting the Roman destruction in 70 A.D. Jesus made the prophecy in 33 A.D. Forty years ~~is~~ being accepted as a generation in the Bible lends to the Roman destruction theory. The **abomination of desolation** didtake place with the Romans as they brought their pagan gods into Jerusalem and destroyed the Temple.

**On-line source**

The **abomination of desolation,** **abomination that makes desolate**, or **desolating sacrilege** (Hebrew: הַשִּׁקּוּץ מְשׁוֹמֵֽם, [Modern](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_language): Haššikkutz M'shomem [Tiberian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiberian_Hebrew): Haššiqqūṣ Məshōwmêm)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abomination_of_desolation#cite_note-1) is a term found in the [Book of Daniel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Daniel) which means literally "an abomination that desolates" or "an abomination that appalls".

According to Roman historian [Cassius Dio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cassius_Dio), after the Temple was destroyed in 70 AD, the worship overseen by the [High Priest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kohen_Gadol) ceased.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abomination_of_desolation#cite_note-biu.ac.il-8) The [Temple Mount](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_Mount) was covered over with rubble and a pagan temple dedicated to [Jupiter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jupiter) was built when [Hadrian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadrian) became Caesar (117 - 138 AD).[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abomination_of_desolation#cite_note-9)[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abomination_of_desolation#cite_note-10) Hadrian installed on the mount two statues: one of [Jupiter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jupiter_%28god%29) and another of himself; this was seen by the Jews as idolatry. In addition, Hadrian expelled the Jews from Jerusalem altogether, only allowing them into the city on the fast of [Tisha B'av](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tisha_B%27av) (the ninth day of the lunar month of Av), a day of mourning for the destruction of the First and the Second Jewish Temples. This appears to have caused a [second Jewish revolt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bar_Kokhba_revolt) with the intent of recapturing Jerusalem and restoring the Temple.

In response, Rome sent six full [legions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_legion) with  [auxiliaries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auxiliaries_%28Roman_military%29) and elements from up to six additional legions, which finally managed to crush the revolt.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abomination_of_desolation#cite_note-Israel-Tour-Day-11)[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abomination_of_desolation#cite_note-biu.ac.il-8) The temple appears to have been rebuilt during the early [Umayyad period](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umayyad_dynasty) as the [al-Aqsa Mosque](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Aqsa_Mosque), which stands on the site today.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abomination_of_desolation#cite_note-12)[[*need quotation to verify*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AVerifiability)]

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abomination_of_desolation>

In Leviticus 20:13 – Abomination = sexual values in relationships

I Kings 11:7, and 2 Kings 23:13 – Abomination = Idolatry

Daniel 9-11, 9:26-27; 11:31 Abomination = Acts of evil to the people and in the Temple

**Strong’s 08441** תּוֹעֵבָה or ) תֹּעֵבָה*toebah or toebah*) (1072d(

**Meaning:** *abomination* **Origin:** from an unused word

**Usage:** abominable (5), abominable act (1), abomination (39), abominations (60), detestable (2), detestable act (1), detestable thing (3), detestable things (3), loathsome (2), object of loathing (1). **Notes:** 1 Kings 11:5,7;Numbers 21:29

**Strong’s 08251** שִׁקּוּץ or ) שִׁקֻּץ*shiqquts or shiqquts*) (1055a(

**Meaning:** *detested thing* **Origin:** from the same as 8263

**Usage:** abominable idols (1), abomination (4), abominations (5), detestable (1), detestable ido l(3), detestable idols (2), detestable things (10), detested things (1), filth(1). **Notes:** Lit., *before* Numbers 21:29; Judges 11:24; 2 Kings 23:13

Leviticus 20:2-5; 2 Kings 23:10; Acts 7:43

<http://penelope.uchicago.edu/~grout/encyclopaedia_romana/miscellanea/trivia/no-man.html>

Go to the link and read Josephus’ account which witnesses the brutality that is shocking to most.

**Mark 13 continued**

 20 "And unless the Lord had shortened *those* days,

no life would have been saved;

**but for the sake of the elect whom He chose,**

He shortened the days.

 21 "And then if anyone says to you,

'Behold, here is the Christ';

 or, 'Behold, *He is* there'; do not believe *him*;

 22 for **false Christs** and false prophets will arise,

and will show signs and wonders, in order,

if possible, to lead the elect astray.

 23 "But take heed;

behold, I have told you everything in advance.

Many historians see the Roman destruction of the Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 A.D. as the fulfillment of Jesus’ prophecy. Remember that the Roman’s destruction took place within the lifetime of those who heard Jesus speak. As we have read, Josephus, the famed historian, chronicles the devastation which is most severe. However, reading the book of Revelation, we see parallels. Jesus also lends to a time in the end (Mark 14:19) by stating that there will be devastation not seen since the creation. The Roman destruction was severe, but not to the level Jesus predicts as like the beginning of creation. Jesus’ statement depicts geological power of a world that is coming apart. There will be a new earth and heaven. Revelation 21:1 states that the first heaven and earth pass away. This can be received that the creation God created will no longer be. In Mark, Jesus is talking about the~~se~~ forces that will do away with the earth and the heavens as we know them. We are told in Revelation that the first heaven and earth and sea will pass away. From reading other passages in Revelation, we see that people will exist in two places, a place with God and a place without God. Revelation 20 tells of the lake of fire reserved for the Devil and followers of the Devil. In the next chapter, we see described the New Earth, New Jerusalem and the tabernacle of God ~~to~~ that will dwell among the people. This is consistent with the book of Hebrews where Jesus replaces the entire Temple, High Priest and sacrificial system. Jesus pointed to himself when he said that if you destroy this temple, He would rebuild it in three days:

**John 2:19**-22 19 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 The Jews therefore said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" (Jn. 2:20 NAS) 21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body. 22 When therefore He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture, and the word which Jesus had spoken.

**Matthew 27:40** and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

**Acts 6:14** for we have heard him say that this Nazarene, Jesus, will destroy this place and alter the customs which Moses handed down to us."

**Mark 14:58** "We heard Him say, I will destroy this temple made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands. "

**Mark 15:29** And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads, and saying, "Ha! You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days,

**Revelation 21:1-4 1** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. (Isaiah 24:20)

 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them,

 4 and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be *any* death; there shall no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

So, we know that destruction will come. We know that world history is full of destruction as Jesus describes. In our modern nuclear age, there has been the most devastating destruction the world has seen. We live in an age that man could bring about the end of life as we know it on the surface of the earth. However, the forces that Jesus is referring come from God the Creator. Destroying life on the surface man can achieve, but God, the Creator, is the one to cause the earth and heaven to pass away.

**Mark 13 Continued**

24 "But in those days, **after that tribulation,**

the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,

 25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,

 and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken.\*

Jesus speaks just like the Old Testament prophets particularly quoting from Isaiah 13:10, Ezekiel 32:7, Joel 2:10, 31, 3:15 and Amos 5:20; 8:9. Mark 13:24, 25\* is a direct quote to some of the references.

 Many believe these prophetic statements direct attention to the pagan gods that fallen man depicts as represented in the night sky by stars and star constellations. Remember, Satan is viewed as a star falling from heaven.

**Luke 10:18** And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.

 **Revelation 12:9** And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

**Isaiah 14:12** "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!

This verse in Isaiah has two applications. One is directed toward the king of Babylon and the other is directed at Satan. Satan obviously works through this king of Babylon as Satan works through many people who are not Believers. “You have been cut down to earth” is very similar to “fall from heaven like lightening.”

**End time Scripture**

**Isaiah 34:4** And all the host of heaven will wear away, And the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; All their hosts will also wither away As a leaf withers from the vine, Or as one withers from the **fig tree.**

**Isaiah 51:6** "Lift up your eyes to the sky, Then look to the earth beneath; For the sky will vanish like smoke, And the earth will wear out like a garment, And its inhabitants will die in like manner, But My salvation shall be forever, And My righteousness shall not wane.

**Isaiah 65:17** "For behold, I create **new heavens and a new earth**; And the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.

**Isaiah 66:22** "For just as the **new heavens and the new earth** Which I make will endure before Me," declares the LORD, "So your offspring and your name will endure.

**Psalm 102:26** "Even they will perish, but Thou dost endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing Thou wilt change them, and they will be changed.

**Psalm 102:25** "Of old Thou didst found the earth; And the heavens are the work of Thy hands.

**Matthew 5:18** "For truly I say to you, **until heaven and earth pass away,** not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished.

**Matthew 24:35** "**Heaven and earth will pass away**, but My words shall not pass away.

**2 Peter 3:10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the **heavens will pass away with** a roar and **the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.**

**2 Peter 3:13** But according to His promise **we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.**

**Revelation 9:1** And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him. (good angel)

**Revelation 20:11** And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

All this leads to Jesus’ coming, the Second coming, as many see it.

**Mark 13 Continued**

 26 "And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds

with great power and glory.

(Daniel 7:13; Revelation 1:7; Matthew 25:31)

 27 "And then He will send forth the angels,

and will gather together His elect from the four winds,

from the farthest end of the earth, to the farthest end of heaven.

Deuteronomy 30:4; Isaiah 11:12; Zechariah 2:6; Matthew 24:31; Jon 11:52;

Perhaps specifically Revelation 7:1 which starts the account of sealing the 144,000 with angels holding back the four winds.

 28 "Now learn the **parable from the fig tree:**

when its branch has already become tender,

 and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.

 29 "Even so, you too,

when you see these things happening,

recognize that He is near, *right* at the door.

 30 "Truly I say to you,

this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

See also: http://revelationrevolution.org/the-abomination-that-causes-desolation-explained/

 But then Jesus speaks of a time after that tribulation (verse 24). The reference to the end-time is compelling.

Jesus continues to talk to His disciples and is conveying many truths about future events. He points to the Roman destruction and, at the same time, to the time of the end when Believers will be gathered. Jesus leaves them with the anticipation of when all these events will take place. Jesus, being the all-knowing God, knows that man will stop doing his work if he knows when the end will be. It is human nature. This is what the Thessalonians did, and Paul had to correct them. 1 Thessalonians 5 and 2 Thessalonians 2 detail Paul’s concern for the Believers in Thessalonica. They had been, to some degree, consumed with the Second Coming and events surrounding end-times. Many people do this today, and they become an irritant to others.

Dispensational Premillennialists interpreted Mark 13: 28-30 literally to mean that when Israel (The Fig Tree) became a nation again in 1948 that a generation would not pass until the end came. So, these verses interpreted their way led so many astray in the 1970’s and 1980’s with their anticipation of the end being some time in 1988. They were compelling and sincere.

**Mark 13 Continued**

 31 "Heaven and earth will pass away,

but My words will not pass away.

 32 "But of that day or hour no one knows,

not even the angels in heaven,

nor the Son, but the Father *alone*.

The Dispensationalists interpreted this verse to mean that no one will know the exact day or hour but can know the season or year.

 33 "Take heed, keep on the alert;

for you do not know when the *appointed* time is.

 34 "*It is* like a man, away on a journey, *who* upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, *assigning* to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert.

 35 "Therefore, be on the alert—

for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrowing, or in the morning--

 36 lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.

 **37 "And what I say to you I say to all,**

**'Be on the alert!'"**

God knows people, and He knows what is good for us. God desires that we keep focused on the Gospel Message. God has chosen to work through us. We are valuable in God’s plan of redemption. We are part of the eternal work of God. We have the living God of the ages living in us and at work in us. So, we live everyday as the Lord’s day.

God comes to John in a time when the world banished him to an island, because they no longer wanted to hear the Message. But, in this solitude, man is not alone. God comes to us and talks to us, and we are not forgotten. The world can throw us away, but God comes and plants in us an eternal message that will continue. Through John on that isolated island, God’s message went to the world and changed the world. Here we are almost 2000 years later hearing what God told John to write. What fallen man strove to extinguish to ~~a~~ darkness, God deemed that there shall be light, and the light God created was good (Genesis 1:4).

**Revelation 1:7-10** 7 Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Even so. Amen.

 8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

 9 I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance *which are* in Jesus,

was on the island called Patmos,

because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

 10 **I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day**,

 and I heard behind me a loud voice like *the sound* of a trumpet,

 We may, because of the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus, be banished to an island but then there is the Spirit of the Lord that comes to us, a voice like a trumpet, and we listen and we carry on in the Lord. We Believers will never have an end to LIFE.

AND SO, IT IS WITH THE LORD.

BE ON THE ALERT!

AMEN