



## LESSON 134 MARK 13:5-8

**And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you: For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And when ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows.**

Read Mark 13:4. What two questions concerned the disciples?

When the destruction of the temple would happen, and what would be the signs of the fulfillment of all the things that Jesus had spoken to them. In Matt 24:1-3 account of this, the disciples also ask other questions: "And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to show him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

Jesus' answer to the question of the temple's destruction is given in Luke 21:20-22. And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter there into. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

As prophesied, the destruction of the temple occurred in 70 A.D. The Great Revolt began in the year 66 AD, initially due to Greek and Jewish religious tensions, but later escalated due to anti-taxation protests and attacks upon Roman citizens.

The Roman military garrison of Judaea was quickly overrun by rebels and the pro-Roman king Agrippa II fled Jerusalem, together with Roman officials to Galilee. Cestus Gallius, the legate of Syria, brought the Syrian army, reinforced by auxiliary troops, to restore order and quell the revolt. The legion, however, was ambushed and defeated by Jewish rebels at the Battle of Beth Horon, a result that shocked the Roman leadership.

The Roman command of the revolt's suppression was then handed to General Vespasian and his son Titus, who assembled four legions and began cleansing the country, starting with an invasion of Galilee, in the year 67 AD, and then proceeding south toward Jerusalem. Word was received that emperor Nero had died and Vespasian was called back to Rome to become the new emperor. His son, Titus, assumed command of the army and completed the siege of Jerusalem. The revolt ended when legions under Titus destroyed the center of rebel resistance in Jerusalem in the year 70 AD, destroyed the temple, and defeated the remaining Jewish strongholds later on.

The Roman historian, Tacitus, in his 'Histories' in 109 A.D. wrote:

"...Jerusalem, standing upon an eminence, naturally difficult to approach, was rendered still more impregnable by redoubts and bulwarks by which even places on a level plain would have been competently fortified. Two hills that rose to a prodigious height were enclosed by walls constructed so as in some places to project in angles and in others to curve inwards. Consequently, the flanks of the Romans were exposed to the Jewish weapons. The extremities of the rock were abrupt and craggy; and the towers were built, upon the mountain, sixty feet high and in the low ground, one hundred and twenty feet high. These works presented a spectacle altogether astonishing. To the distant eye they seemed to be of equal elevation. Within the city there were other fortifications enclosing the palace of the kings, including the tower of Antonia, with its conspicuous pinnacles...The temple itself was in the nature of a citadel, enclosed in walls of its own, and more elaborate and massive than the rest. Even the porticoes that surrounded it were a capital defense. A perennial spring supplied the place with water. Subterranean caverns were scooped out in the mountains, and there were basins and tanks as reservoirs for rain-water."

The Jewish historian Josephus, who was personally present during the Roman siege of Jerusalem described the event in great detail. The Romans built entrenchments against the arrows and missiles of the Jewish defenders, and they constructed a gigantic earthwork leading up to the top of the walls so that a large number of Roman soldiers could pour into the city right over the top of the wall. Jerusalem's walls were so high that this massive earthwork had to reach to the height of a ten story building.

The Romans also used immense battering rams against the gates. All this took a good deal of time, a commodity of which the Romans had ample supply. In fact, they could have simply waited outside until the defenders starved to death, but Tacitus wrote that Titus and his Roman army were too proud to secure the victory this way. Therefore they engaged in all the activities the prophecy of Ezekiel predicted. Not only that, but Tacitus revealed in his writings that these very prophecies were widely known at the time and were believed by the Jews to be omens for their survival and victory, not for their defeat.

When Titus conquered Jerusalem he tore down the temple and the other structures there, stone by stone, until no evidence of any buildings remained. His demolition of the city left Jerusalem in complete ruin.

What Jesus had told the disciples about the destruction of the temple came true in 70 AD. What Jesus has said will always come true, because He is the Truth and does not lie. That's one of the reasons why it is important to study the scriptures. We can rely on the Word of God. Hebrews 4:18 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things (D: His promise and His oath), in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast...

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart.**

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