

Small Group Study Notes

Mark 13:1-23

In this chapter Jesus deals with the future;

1-24 & 28-31 the immediate future and 24-27 & 32-37 the distant future.

1. What are the “these things” (v4) that the disciples are so worried about and why would they be so concerned about “these things”?
2. In verses 5-23 Jesus lays out many of the things that will be the fate of the church in its first 40 years. What stories from the book of Acts confirm what Jesus predicted? (Note for a start – Acts 11:28, Acts 4 & 7:58 & 12:2 & 16:16). And what do we know from history; note for a start, Pompeii in AD 63 and Phrygia in AD 61 and Nero’s suicide in AD 69?
3. In verses 5-23 Jesus lays out many of the things that will be the fate of the church in its first 40 years. Which of these warnings have relevance for us today?
4. It is commonly believed that V14-23 deal with the Roman destruction of the temple in AD 70. Would you agree with this interpretation and if so why?
5. What sort of a message would these false Christs bring?
6. What is it about the destruction of the temple that caused Jesus to say the distress would be unequalled?
7. Jesus warned his people to run (v14) when they saw the temple being desecrated. And in fact the destruction of the Jews was not as bad as it could have been because God was determined to save the church (v20). In what ways was the church “saved” when Israel came to its end in AD70?
8. To what extent do the troubles described in v5-23 hinder the proclamation of the gospel?
9. In verse 31 Jesus gave an emphatic statement about the reliability of his word. He said the temple would go within a generation (v30) and it did. Logic should then lead us to assume that v26 will come true. Although a logical argument it does not seem to carry much weight with non Christians – why?