

## DISCUSSION IDEAS

### THE END

Mark 13:1-23

April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016

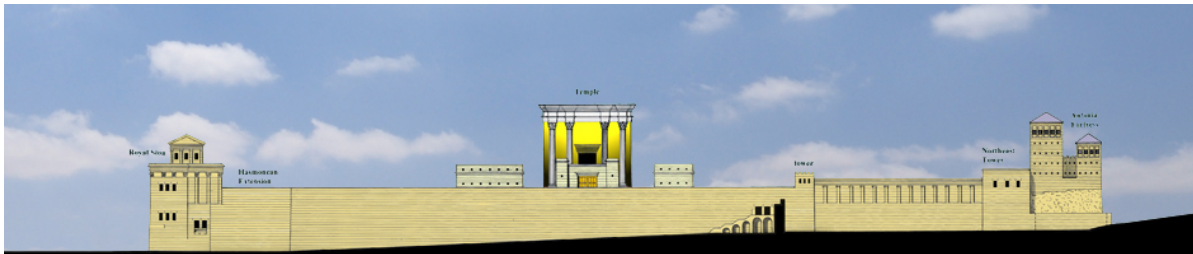
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**About the Jerusalem Temple, the Jewish historian Josephus wrote:**

*The exterior of the building wanted nothing that could astound either mind or eye. For, being covered on all sides with massive plates of gold, the sun was no sooner up than it radiated so fiery a flash that persons straining to look at it were compelled to avert their eyes, as from the solar rays. To approaching strangers it appeared from a distance like a snow-clad mountain; for all that was not overlaid with gold was of purest white. Some of the stones in the building were forty-five cubits in length, five in height and six in breadth.<sup>1</sup>*

**[That would be about 81 x 8 x 10 feet. Being limestone, each stone would weigh over one million pounds, or 567 tons. One stone in the western wall has been actually measured and is recorded as one of the heaviest objects ever lifted by humans without the assistance of any machinery. This stone is about 45 feet in length, about 13 ft. wide, and weighs about 570 tons.]**

[http://jerusalem.com/videos/western\\_wall\\_tunnels\\_the\\_largest\\_stone](http://jerusalem.com/videos/western_wall_tunnels_the_largest_stone)



#### ♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: JESUS' PROPHECY.**

And as he came out of the Temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” (Mk. 13:1–2)

This was literally fulfilled in 70 A.D.

How does that help validate Jesus' claims to Who He is?

How does Jesus' answer in verses 5 to 23 show that He is guiding the disciples well beyond the temple destruction to understand key end-times events?

(Note: If you compare Luke 21:5-36, do not be confused by the order in which Jesus answered their questions. Although this is the same event as in Mark, Luke clarifies that they asked three questions, and Jesus answered them in reverse order.)

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<sup>1</sup> Wars of the Jews 5.222-223, Josephus.

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#### ♦ DISCUSSION POINT TWO: SIGNS OF THE END.

Look at Mark 13:7 and 13.

There is a key word here – what is not yet?

How does this word make clear that Jesus was talking about a completely separate time from the Temple's destruction?

Why is understanding all this important to us today?

Mark 13:5-8 talks about two different divisions of world events.

How does verse 7 separate these events? Compare Luke 21:9.

What is the key word in the last part of Mark 13:8?

Discuss the comparison of the last part of a pregnancy with the how we are to recognize the approach of the end.

How do World Wars 1 and 2 fit the words in verse 8?

If the end is getting close, what does it mean to "be on your guard" in verse 9?

How are we to prepare ourselves?

How would you prepare, if you knew that you were going to be persecuted for the Lord?

Where does our familiarity with God's Word fit in?

#### ♦ DISCUSSION POINT THREE: READ THE CONTEXT.

There is a false teaching which confuses the events of Mark 13:14-19 with those of Luke 21:20-24.

What key wording in Mark 13:14 and 19 shows that Jesus is talking about a future event? Compare Daniel 12:1.

How does the description in Luke 21:20 make clear that this is a completely different event?

How does this show the importance of paying attention to the entire context of a passage?

Discuss the love of God, as shown in Mark 13:20.

#### ♦ FOR MEDITATION:

For your future study, note that the word "saved" in verse 20 does not refer to salvation from sin. It is salvation from physical death.

What part of the context makes that obvious?

A good study would be to look up the various passages where the words "saved" or "salvation" are used. These terms do not always mean salvation from sin.

How would knowing this help in avoiding some mistaken teachings?

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♦ **PRAYER:**

Pray for our individual relationships and our witness to those in our lives.

In what ways will my life influence them?

How significant are my prayers for them?

Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there.

Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Baranganan Island.

Pray for Eddie, as he grows in Christ and takes on greater responsibilities on Baranganan Island.

Thank God for Seth, who insisted on sharing his testimony openly and in person (not videotaped), even though he is very shy.

Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!

Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.