

Trusting God's Word

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, June 2, 2019; Steve Thiel

Sermon Theme – Jesus predicts the coming 70 A.D. judgment with tremendous clarity. As we consider this event, we realize everything God says will certainly come to pass. Therefore, we must be people who know the Word, believe the Word, trust in the Word, and live the Word for our eternal spiritual wellbeing.

I. Questions About the 70 A.D. Judgment – Read Mark 13:1-4

- A. There is often a fascination with eschatology (“the end times”). Do you think on eschatology or do you tend to dwell more on the here and now? Do you find yourself drawn to outside voices when it comes to the last days or are you content with God’s Word concerning the last days?
- B. What are the three primary historical interpretations for the events predicted in Mark 13? What do you find convincing and unconvincing about each interpretation? Why is it plausible to conclude that Mark 13 speaks of BOTH the 70 A.D. Judgment AND Christ’s 2nd return?
- C. The disciples’ question in verse 3, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?” frames the following words of Christ. What is the context of the disciples’ question? What are the disciples referencing?

II. Signs Around the 70 A.D. Judgment – Read Mark 13:5-22

- A. What are some of the non-signs of the 70 A.D. Judgment? Why are these occurrences considered non-signs and how is it that the gospel would be proclaimed to “all nations” prior to 70 A.D.?
- B. According to verse 14, what is the one true sign of the 70 A.D. Judgment? How is this sign fulfilled in the 70 A.D. Judgment and how does Daniel 11:29-31 help us understand that sign?
- C. Why were so few Christians killed in Jerusalem during the Roman siege in 70 A.D.? What does this mean for your life? Do you trust Jesus’ words as “the words of life” (John 6:68)?

III. Reality of the 70 A.D. Judgment – Read Mark 13:23

- A. Jesus tells the disciples to “Be on your guard” three times in Mark 13 (v. 9, v. 23, v. 33). How can you “be on your guard” amidst all the non-signs that still occur today?
- B. When you think about eschatology, what emotions arise? Fear, doubt, and anxiety? Peace, confidence, and joy? How can today’s text bolster your faith in the last days?
- C. Jesus tells His disciples, “But the one who endures to the end will be saved” (v. 13). How can you persevere in the faith? In light of last week’s sermon on Abiding in Christ from John 15, how can you continue abiding in Christ to the very end?