

GOOD NEWS and BAD NEWS



GROWTH GUIDE NOVEMBER 17, 2024

26th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Mark 13:1-8

AUTHOR

The Gospel of Mark is the shortest gospel and was probably the first gospel written. The author is John Mark who accompanied the Apostle Paul on his first missionary journey and who is thought to have also been a friend of Peter, one of Jesus' twelve disciples. Mark was probably written between A.D. 55 and 65. The setting for Mark is the Roman Empire under Tiberius Caesar. Mark writes to encourage Roman Christians and prove beyond a doubt that Jesus is the Messiah.

CONTEXT

About 15 years before Jesus was born, Herod the Great began to remodel and rebuild the Temple. It was one of the most beautiful buildings in Jerusalem. Herod had the Temple built to appease the Jews rather than honor God. The building was not completely finished until A.D. 64. Jesus' prophecy that not one stone would be left on another was fulfilled in A.D. 70, when the Romans completely destroyed the Temple and the entire city of Jerusalem. In Mark 13, also referred to as the Olivet discourse, Jesus talked about the end times and his second coming. Jesus urges all his followers to be watchful and prepared for his coming. We are to serve Jesus faithfully so we will be ready when he returns.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Mark 13:1-8. What word or phrase stands out to you in this passage?
2. Does this passage comfort you or challenge you?

3. What does Jesus say will happen to the buildings?
4. The Mount of Olives is mentioned in verse 3. Read Zechariah 14:1-4. What does it predict will take place here?
5. Some believe Mark 13 talks about the end times, others believe that Jesus is talking about the destruction of the temple, and some think he is talking about both. When the disciples ask Jesus what sign will show them that Jesus' prophecy is about to be fulfilled, what does Jesus say will take place?
6. Do you think any of these signs have taken place?
7. What does Jesus warn his disciples about in verse 6?
8. How can we recognize and guard against false teachers? Have you seen false teachers?
9. Many people have tried to predict when Jesus will return, even predicting a date. What does the Bible say about this? Read Mark 13:32.
10. What does Mark 13:33 say we should do since we do not know when Jesus will return?
11. As followers of Jesus, how should we live our lives while we await his return?
12. What does Mark 13:8 say about the events described?
13. According to the Bible, there is one clear sign of Jesus' return. What is it? Read Mark 13:26 and Revelation 1:7