

## **Recap of 4/14/24 message by Pastor Steve (Mark 13:14-23):**

*In answering the disciples' question from Mk 13:3-4 Jesus gives them (and us) more than they asked. They were seeking information on the destruction of the temple which Jesus foresaw (Mk 13:1-2). Jesus gives them information on His return. They were wondering "when" and looking for a sign. Jesus tells them that many signs will happen (Mk 13:6-13) but they should not be misled (Mk 13:5), these are not signs of the end, but normal occurrences in a fallen world. "But", He says, "when you see the abomination of desolation standing where it should not be," then you should flee. This is the only sign they need be concerned with. In other words, the temple will be destroyed, but that is not the end. As we are told Mt 24:15 Jesus is referring them to the prophecy Daniel was given of the seventy sevens or seventy weeks in which God gave much information that will make more sense to them (and us) after Jesus' death and resurrection.*

*In Daniel 9:20-27 we get the prophecy of the seventy weeks decreed for Israel. The weeks are understood as sets of seven years. From the time of a decree to rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah would be sixty-nine weeks after which the Messiah would be cut off. This part of the prophecy has already occurred in our time and was occurring at the time Jesus spoke these words. After an indefinite amount of time that we call the church age, or "times of the gentiles" (Lk 21:24), the "prince who is to come" (anti-Christ) will make a covenant with Israel which starts the seventieth week. At that time, Israel will once again be at the center of God's plans and purpose. Dan 9:27, 11:31, and 12:11 tell us that at the mid-point of the seventieth week (seven-year period we often call the tribulation), the abomination of desolation will desecrate the temple and stop Israel's regular sacrifices. This is the sign Jesus says to watch for and when Israel sees it, they should flee to the mountains; head for the hills, because it will usher in a period of tribulation such as has never been before nor will ever be again.*

*Jesus then encourages His people by saying that despite how bad it will be,*

- 1) God is still sovereign; He is in control and will shorten the days appropriately.*
- 2) They are chosen by God.*
- 3) God's people will not be deceived even by convincing false signs and wonders; and*
- 4) They should be watchful and hopeful of His return because He has told them these things in advance.*

*As Chris will discuss this week, Jesus will return in power and glory to set all things right!*