

Session 10: The Coming of the Son of Man

What is the 'coming of the Son of Man'? When and how will it happen? And what should we make of Jesus' end-of-the-world language in Mark 13?

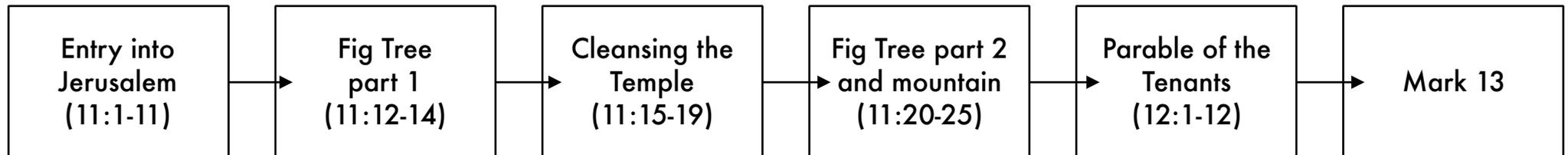
This session will use lessons we've learnt throughout the series as tools to help us interpret Jesus' cryptic sayings.

Mark 13: What is the context?

What led to these sayings? What clues can we get from the context?

'As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!' 'Do you see all these great buildings?' replied Jesus. 'Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.'

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, 'Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?' (Mark 13:1-4)



Mark 13: What is the content?

Why did Jesus choose the words he did? What can we tell from the allusions?

The Trials		
Trial	Mark	Old Testament
Wars and rumours of wars	13:7	Jer 51:46
Betrayal from family members	13:12-13	Mic 7:5-6
Pregnant women	13:17	Hos 13:16
False prophets	13:22	Jer 6:13-14
Fleeing to the mountains	13:14	Ezek 7:12-16

Apocalyptic Occurrences			
Occurrence	Mark	OT	OT Context
Celestial bodies darkened	v24-25	Is 13:10	Judgment on Babylon
		Ezek 32:7-8	Judgment on Egypt
		Amos 8:9	Coming Day of YHWH
		Joel 1-2	Coming Day of YHWH
Heaven shaken	v25	Is 34:4	Judgment on Nations

Zechariah 14	
God gathers the nations to fight Jerusalem. He then wins a victory against them!	v1-3
The Lord's feet will stand on the mount of Olives	v4
Earthquake. People flee to the mountains. The Lord will come with His holy ones	v4-5
Unique day. Neither sunlight nor darkness.	v6
YHWH will reign over the whole earth	v9
Survivors of the enemy nations will gather to worship	v16-19
All Temple vessels will be made holy to the Lord	v20-21

Consider the following passages:

2 Samuel 22 and Psalm 18

Joel 1-2 and Acts 2:14-21

Mark 13: The Abomination of the Desolation

How does the book of Daniel help us understand Mark 13?

'But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where it ought not to be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.' (Mark 13:14)

Daniel 9:26-27

Daniel 11:31

Daniel 12:10-11

'And when the king had built an idol altar upon God's altar, he slew swine upon it, and so offered a sacrifice neither according to the law, nor the Jewish religious worship in that country. He also compelled them to forsake the worship which they paid their own God, and to adore those whom he took to be gods; and made them build temples, and raise idol altars in every city and village, and offer swine upon them every day. He also commanded them not to circumcise their sons, and threatened to punish any that should be found to have transgressed his injunction.' (Josephus, *Ant*, 12.5.4.)

'Let the reader understand' (v14)

'When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near.' (Luke 21:20)

First Jewish-Roman War (66-73 AD)

Destruction of the Temple (70 AD)

Mark 13: The Coming of the Son of Man

How does the book of Daniel help us understand Mark 13?

Who is the Son of Man?

Mankind? (Psalm 8:4)
A particular man? (Ezek 4:1-7; 5:1-4, etc.)
Israel?
Israel's Messiah? (1 Enoch 37-71; 4 Ezra 13)

What is his 'coming'?

Arrival in the court.
Coming or Going
Parousia = presence
(Matt 24:3, 27, 30, 39; 1 Cor 6:17; 2 Cor 10:10)

What is the setting?

Courtroom (v10)

Beasts = nations at war
with Israel (cf v17)

Ancient of Days sits in
judgment (v9)

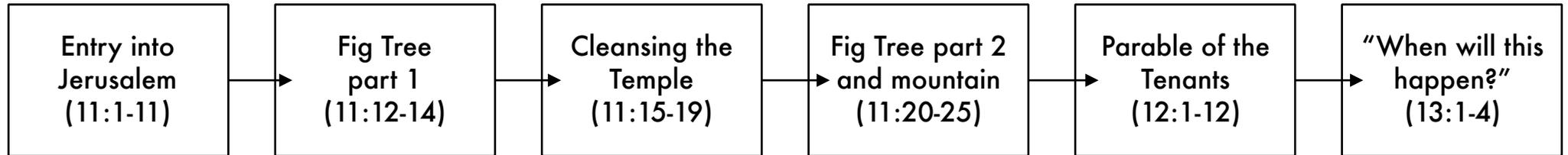
'As I looked, 'thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. 'Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.) 'In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.' (Daniel 7:9-14)

How does he 'come'?

Coming on the clouds =
theophany (Ps 104:3;
Isa 19:1 etc.)

Mark 13: Piecing it together...

How does this background knowledge help us understand Mark 13?



“The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.”

‘At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.’

‘Now learn this lesson from the fig-tree: as soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.’ (Mark 13:24-31)