

Understand your Bible

Suggested notes

Mark 13

What we will see in this chapter:

- What Jesus said about the destruction of the temple
- Warnings and signs that the disciples should be aware of
- Signs Jesus gave about his return
- How Jesus encouraged his disciples

1 Read the chapter

2 Questions to help us in our understanding of this chapter. Look at the chapter verses in your Bible and use the questions to help you make your notes.

Chapter verses	Questions (to help with your notes)	Suggested notes
1 to 4	1. What did Jesus say would happen to the temple and then what did the disciples ask him?	Jesus told them that the temple would be totally destroyed. They asked when this would be and what sign there would be before it happened.
5 to 13	2. What warnings did Jesus give?	Jesus warned them to look for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ false christs ➤ wars and rumours of wars ➤ earthquakes and famines ➤ persecution and problems from relatives
14 to 18	3. What advice did Jesus give about leaving Jerusalem? <i>Text note v 14: the "abomination of desolation" refers to a time when offerings made in connection with the worship of God in the temple would be replaced. Sacrifices stopped when the temple was destroyed in AD 70.</i>	When they saw the "abomination of desolation" standing in the wrong place they needed to flee to the mountains immediately. They were not to collect anything from their houses. They were to pray that this would not be in the winter.
19 to 23	4. What further warnings did Jesus give?	They were to expect tribulation and then be ready to ignore false christs.
24 to 27	5. What did Jesus then go on to talk about? <i>Text note: Section 4 looks at the Bible use of the terms sun, moon and stars.</i>	Then they would see signs in the sun, moon and stars followed by his return when his chosen ones would be gathered together.

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28 to 32	6. What was the message of the fig tree parable?	As sure as a fig tree producing leaves indicated summer, so these signs would be certain.
33 to 37	7. What did Jesus tell his disciples to do?	He encouraged his followers always to be ready for his return as no one knew exactly when it would be. He told them to stay awake and watch.

3 Related theme from v 26 and 27: *Jesus Christ will return to the earth.*

Have a look at these related verses and see this theme running through the New Testament. Make a note of the main point(s) in the verse(s).

Verse(s)	Main point(s)
Matthew 16 v 27	Jesus will come in God's glory with his angels to render to people according to what they have done.
Matthew 24 v 30	After a sign has appeared and everyone on earth mourns, Jesus will come on clouds with power and great glory.
Matthew 25 v 31	Jesus will come in God's glory with his angels and sit on his throne.
Mark 8 v 38	When he comes in his Father's glory, Jesus will be ashamed of those who have been ashamed of him.
Acts 1 v 10 and 11	The disciples who saw Jesus go were assured that he would come back in the same way.
2 Timothy 4 v 1	Jesus will judge the living and the dead when he appears in his Kingdom.
1 Thessalonians 4 v 16	Jesus will descend from heaven with much noise and the dead in Christ will be raised.

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4 Bible verses about signs in the sun, moon and stars (from v 24 and 25)

Make a note of the main point(s) in these verses which show how the Bible uses these symbols.

Verse(s)	Main point(s)
Isaiah 13 v 9 to 11	The destruction of ancient Babylon is described symbolically as the darkening of the sun, moon and stars.
Ezekiel 32 v 7 to 9	The end of Egypt as a superpower is described symbolically as the darkening of the sun, moon and stars.
Jeremiah 4 v 23 to 26	The end of the kingdom of Judah is described symbolically as the darkening of the sun, moon and stars.
Joel 3 v 14 to 16	The prophet Joel describes the destruction of the enemies of Israel symbolically as the darkening of the sun, moon and stars.