

AN ABOMINATION
MARK 13:14-23 / APRIL 26, 2017 / WED

I. JESUS FORECASTS THE TEMPLE'S DESTRUCTION.

- A. We sometimes compare a current event with an event from the past.
- B. Jesus compared what is going to happen during the Roman destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. with what happened to an earlier event occurring 200 years before.
 - 1. The earlier event Jesus is referring to is the “Abomination of Desolation “ that happened in 168 B.C. when the Hellenistic Greek Seleucid King, Antiochus Epiphanes, persecuted the nation of Israel.
 - 2. The “abomination” during that time included sacrificing a pig on the Temple altar, setting up a statue of the Greek god Zeus and demanding Jews worship it and setting up a brothel in the Temple courtyard.
- C. These desecrations were called an Abomination of Desecration by the Jews.
 - 1. The background of the phrase comes from Daniel 9:27, 11:31 and 12:11.
 - 2. Jesus’ point is that the same kind of thing is going to happen when the Roman’s destroy the Temple.
 - 3. Jesus isn’t talking about the end of the world in these verses because he warns people to flee which would do no good if the world were ending--13:14-20 and Luke 21:20.
 - 4. Jesus further proves he isn’t talking about the end of the world with this warning against false Messiahs--13:21-22.

II. HOW BAD WAS IT WHEN THE TEMPLE WAS DESTROYED?

- A. Josephus, a first century Jewish historian, describes how bad.
- B. Jesus’ advice is again to be on your guard--13:23.