

Scripture and Background Information for August 5-11

Before Sunday, August 12, we would like each group member to personally study **Mark 13:14-23** and to discuss it with their group. Group members should complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns in our new **Discussion Guide**.

Background Information for Mark 13:14-23

This is the 2nd message in a series called "The End of the World (As We Know It)." Mark wrote primarily to respond to Gentile Christians living under Roman persecution and in a hostile world. Mark 13 is a private message that Jesus gave to his disciples in response to their questions about the end times and the signs of its coming (v4). In Jesus' answers, he reminds them to stay faithful in times of trial and to remain in a state of anticipation since they would not know the exact timing of these events.

The reference to *the abomination of desolation* (v14) is an allusion to a prophecy in Daniel 9:27. The abomination of desolation would be something associated with idolatry that would so defile the temple that it would result in its desertion. Though there seems to have been some fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy in historical events, the words of Jesus seem to indicate that there was another fulfillment yet to come. The ultimate abomination would be led by a *false messiah* (v22) [later referred to as "Anti-christ"] during a time of great tribulation at the end of the age.

The Summer of 10,000 Blessings, June 10 – August 19

Our calling as Christ-followers is *to display and declare who God is and what He's like everywhere we go*. Join with us this summer in being intentional to find at least one way each week to BLESS someone who does not know Christ. Let's make a difference wherever we go! **Sign up by texting "Bless" to 33222**. We'll send you a weekly reminder and encouragement.

Here are the Scriptures for your group to discuss during the week of...

August 12-18

Revelation 20:11-15

August 19-25

Micah 4:1-4

August 26- September 1

Revelation 21:-15

Background Information is posted weekly at <http://www.mckinneychurch.com/leaders>.