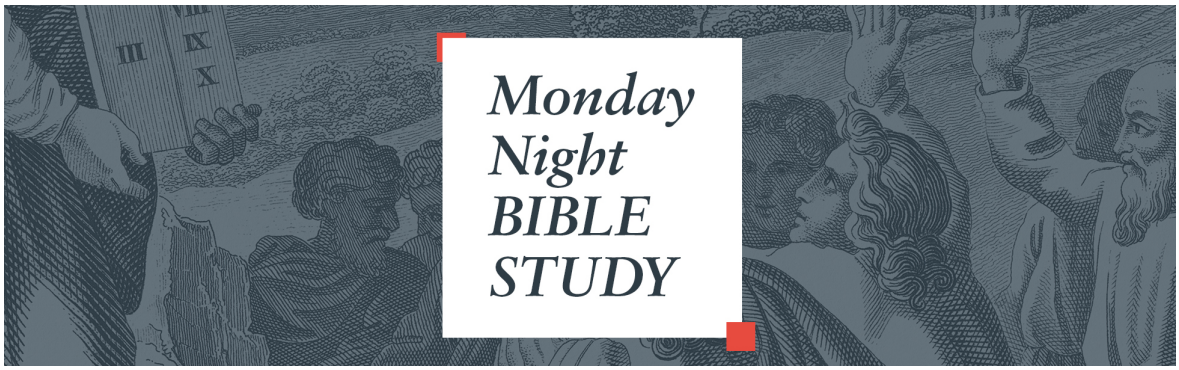

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The Promise of the Messiah

Mark 14:53-65 and Daniel 7:9; 13-14;18

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The book of Daniel was likely the most read Old Testament book during the time of Jesus. The book of Daniel was in the minds and hearts of every Jew in the time of Jesus. They poured over it, discussed it, and rested their hopes on it because of the prophesies it contained.

Israel went from the highest high, the greatest of all nations, to the lowest of all nations. Israel was in exile, and Daniel beings to pray 70 years into the exile about how and when it will end. God told Daniel that it will be another 490 years until the exile is truly over and at that time, God will establish His rule in a fresh way, not just over Israel, but over the whole world. Everything will be set right. (Daniel 9:24).

Fast forward 490 years. Where are we? We're in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Jesus is born.

In Mark 14:53 Jesus is standing before the high priest, all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law. They are accusing Jesus of blaspheme.

Mark 14:61 – The high priest asked Jesus, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" Jesus answered, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven" (quoting Daniel 7:13). The high priest tore his clothes because he understood what Jesus meant.

If Jesus is the Messiah and has authority over the temple, then He has authority over the high priest as well. Jesus has come to build a new temple as promised (we are the temple). Jesus is saying that, "There's not enough room in Jerusalem for two temples. The current one is outdated and will be removed. I'll build a new temple, just as the scriptures promised the Messiah would do."

Caiaphas would have thought that the enemies who cause the sufferings of the son of man would be Rome – their oppressors – but instead Jesus says that the chief priest and leaders of the law were the enemy of God that causes suffering on the Son of Man in Daniel 7. Jesus is saying "You're not sending me to my grave, you're sending me to my throne."

How will they know that's it's happened? What will be the sign of His vindication to a place of authority and kingly rule? Again the temple will come down. In 70 AD, Rome came in destroyed the temple and the city. Israel revolted against Rome, hoping that their efforts would cause God to act and destroy them. Jesus said it would come down and that it would be the sign that He indeed receive the throne of Daniel 7. (Read Luke19:41-44).