

The Gospel Of Luke
LUKE 21:7-28
JESUS'S OLIVET DISCOURSE

Introduction

The Widows Mite

Luke 21:1-4

The Glory of the Temple

Luke 21:5-7

Mark's gospel

- Location: Mount of Olives
- Inquisitors: Peter, James, John and Andrew (who ask Jesus privately)

First Warning

Luke 21:8-9

And he said, 'Take heed that you be not deceived: for many shall come in My name, saying, 'I am Christ;' and the time draws near: go you not therefore after them. But when you shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.

Jesus gives His disciples two general warnings

- False Christs - *be not deceived*
- War Reports - *be not terrified*

False Christs

2 Corinthians 11:3

But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

Satan is the Father of Lies (**John 8:44**)

- His modus operandi is deception
- One way he does this is counterfeit

Jesus warns His disciples to watch for

- Counterfeit Christs / False Messiahs

Wikipedia (List of Messiah claimants)

- Jewish – 15
- Christian – 35
- Other - 19

This is general characteristic of the age we live

This is not an indicator Jesus is about to return

War Reports

War is a terrible thing

- It brings out the worst in man
- It causes the worst suffering to man

If you add to that this is sign judgement is about to fall

- The terror of war would be doubled
- Jesus said, "*be not terrified*"

This is general characteristic of the age we live

This is not an indicator Jesus is about to return

Signs Leading To Destruction

Luke 21:10-19

War

Luke 21:10

Then said He to them, 'Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.'

World War / Civil War

Translation = Nation
Greek = *ethnos*
Definition = ethnic group

Translation = Kingdom
Greek = *basileia*
Definition = not an actual kingdom but rather the right or authority to rule over a kingdom

Jesus tells His disciples, there will be

- Civil war
- Battles for rulership and control

Historical Fulfilment

1. First Jewish-Roman War (The Great Revolt) 66-73AD
2. Jewish Civil War 67AD
 - Eleazer (Zealots)
 - John of Gischala (Galileans)
 - Simon (Idumeans)
3. Roman Civil War 69AD
 - Nero's suicide (68AD)
 - Constitutional crisis
 - Four emperors in one year
 - Roman empire almost collapsed due to infighting for power

Tacitus (Roman Historian)

- Speaking of the period of time between Jesus ascension and 70AD
- Civil wars and fighting for power

Histories: Book 1, Section 2, Verses 1-7

The history on which I am entering is that of a period rich in disasters, terrible with battles, torn by civil struggles, horrible even in peace. Four emperors fell by the sword; there were three civil wars, more foreign wars, and often both at the same time. There was success in the East, misfortune in the West. Illyricum was disturbed, the Gallic provinces wavering, Britain subdued and immediately let go. The Sarmatae and Suebi rose against us; the Dacians won fame by defeats inflicted and suffered; even the Parthians were almost roused to arms through the trickery of a pretended Nero.

Natural Disasters

Luke 21:11

And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.

Jesus tells His disciples, there will be

- Earthquakes
- Famines
- Pestilences
- Fearful sights and Heavenly Signs

Earthquakes

Seneca The Younger (Roman Philosopher in 58AD)

"How often have cities of Asia and Achaëa fallen with one fatal shock! Show many cities have been swallowed up in Syria, how many in Macedonia! How often has Cyprus been wasted by this calamity! How often has Paphos become a ruin! News has often been brought us of the demolition of whole cities at once."

February 5, 63AD

- Large earthquakes took place in Crete, Smyrna, Miletus, Chios, Samos, Laodicea, Hierapolis, Colosse, Campania, Rome, Judea and Pompei

Famines

1. Four Famines of Claudius
 - 41AD, 45AD, 50AD, 52AD
2. Second famine 45AD
 - Luke testifies (**Acts 11:27-30**)
 - This famine was recorded by Josephus

Pestilence

Database of pestilence in the Roman Empire

- 65AD Autumn plague in Rome (killed 30,000)
- Siege results in pestilence due to dead and unburied bodies

Fearful Sights & Heavenly Signs

Josephus (Wars IV, Section 3)

Prior to the events of 70AD

- A comet hung over the city for an entire year
- A star resembling a sword hung over Jerusalem
- A tremendous light shone round the altar and temple during the night (making it appear like day)
- Heifer being led to sacrifice gave birth to a lamb
- Heavy brass eastern gate to the temple opened without human assistance

Persecution

Luke 21:12-17

Jesus tells His disciples, they will experience persecution

- Arrests
- Betrayal
- Death

You can imagine:

- The disciples not liking this
- Jesus saying, "Well you did ask!"

Arrests

Luke 21:12-13

But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony.

- Imprisonment
- Standing before authorities
- Turn into a testimony

Peter & John Arrested (Acts 4:1-31)

- Imprisoned
- Stood before the Sanhedrin
- Threatened

Acts 4:31

And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

The Apostles Arrested (Acts 5:17-42)

- Imprisoned
- Stood before the Sanhedrin
- Flogged

Acts 5:42

And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

Peter Is Arrested (Acts 12:1-19)

- Imprisoned
- Delivered by an angel
- Testified to the brethren

Paul Is Arrest (Acts 21:27-28:31)

- Arrested in temple
- Imprisonment
- Stands before Sanhedrin, Felix & Festus (the Governors), King Agrippa, Nero
- Testimony throughout (in Acts)

Other disciples were brought before

- Parthian, Scythian and Indian kings, Domitian

Anointed Speech

Luke 21:14-15

Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what you shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

Jesus promised

- Special grace and help to people facing such persecution
- You don't need a rehearsed speech
- You need the Holy Spirit to give voice

Peter, the apostles, Stephen, Paul all spoke marvellous words

- It's not the amount preparation (that matters)
- It's the depth of devotion (that matters)

Betrayal

Luke 21:16

And you shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends;

That Jew's betrayed Jew's is evident by Biblical text

As a result of our faith in Jesus, we all have experienced

- Loss of friendship
- Distance with family members
- Conflict and betrayal

Luke 12:51-53

Suppose you that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, 'Nay!' But rather division: For from hereafter there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

Death

Luke 21:16

and some of you shall they cause to be put to death.

Martyrdom

- Stephen (**Acts 7:54-60**) - Stoned in Israel
- James (**Acts 12:2**) - Beheaded King Herod
- Barnabas (61AD) - Stoned in Cyprus
- Andrew (62AD) - Crucified in Greece (*Visited Kiev*)
- Peter (64AD) - Inverted crucifixion

His Name's Sake

Luke 21:17

And you shall be hated of all men for My name's sake.

Persecution came because of Jesus

- It's not exclusive to the few
- It is rife in today's world
- We are the minority
- The church prospered under persecution
- We suffer because of lack of persecution

2 Timothy 3:12

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

Endurance

Luke 21:18-19

But there shall not a hair of your head perish. In your patience possess you your souls.

Hair of Your Head

Come again?

Jonathan disobeyed his father, King Saul, in ignorance

- Saul purposed to kill Jonathan, His son
- The people rescued Jonathan

1 Samuel 14:45

As the Lord lives, not one hair of his head shall fall to the ground, for he has worked with God this day.

Even though death was decreed

- His life was saved

The persecuted Christians

- May have faced death
- But their lives were safe
- Because they were, "*hid with Christ*" **Colossians 3:3**

Sure Hope

The patience that possessed the souls of the 1st century saints

- Was one of strong endurance
- Deep trust and confidence of the inheritance in Christ

We need a clearer understanding of God's end-time programme

- It will bring into focus a clearer picture of our hope
- Strengthen our faith
- Help us endure

It is no coincidence that

- The decline in end-times teaching
- Comes as people's hope and endurance declines
- Comes as people's faith and stance for Biblical truth declines

Events At The Destruction

Luke 21:20-24

The disciples asked Jesus, "*When shall these things be?*"

- This is the answer He gives
- The events that lead up to the temple destruction

Seige And Flight

Luke 21:20-21

And when you shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is near. Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereto.

Jesus tells His disciples

When the military presence Jerusalem rises

- The desolation is near
- It's time to flee

Military Presence

The Great Revolt 66-73AD

- Civil uprising in Judea
- Met with rising military opposition by Rome
- Culminating in the siege of Jerusalem in 70AD

The disciples should have had alarm bells ringing in 66AD

- Due to anti-taxation protests
- Rome raided the Jerusalem and the temple
- Plundering in the name of tax

The Flight of 66AD

Cestius Gallus (General)

- Laid siege to Jerusalem/Temple Mount for nine days in 66AD
- Following this there was flight from Jerusalem
- Josephus: *Wars 2, Section XX, Verse 1*

The Flight To Pella 70AD

Christian fathers Eusebius and Epiphanius

- In response to a miraculous warning
- Christians fled to Pella (city on the east of the Jordan)

The Great Tribulation

Luke 21:22-24

For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written are written may be fulfilled. But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! For there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people.

It's Title

Jesus tells His disciples, this time will be days

- *of vengeance*
- *great distress*
- *wrath*

The parallel verse in **Matthew 24:21** calls this

- The Great Tribulation

Matthew 24:21

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

It's Detail

Daniel refers to this time of Great Tribulation

Daniel 12:1 KJV

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which stands for the children of your people, and there shall be a time of trouble/distress such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time:

This tribulation will be for

- *the children of your people*
- Israel

Daniel 12:1 KJV

and at that time your people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

Believers will be delivered from that time

- Flights 66AD and 70AD
- No Christian's were in Jerusalem when it fell

Daniel 12:6 KJV

How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?

Daniel 12:7 GNB

The angel raised both hands toward the sky and made a solemn promise in the name of the Eternal God. I heard him say, "It will be three and a half years. When the persecution of God's people ends, all these things will have happened."

This time of great tribulation will last 3½ years

- Nero declared war on Israel February 67AD
- Jerusalem fell in August 70AD

It's Conclusion

Luke 21:24

And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and they shall be led away captive into all nations: Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

The Jew's in Jerusalem and Israel

- Did "fall by the edge of the sword"
- Were "led away captive into all nations"
- Jerusalem was "trodden down of the Gentiles"

The Second Coming

Luke 21:25-28

And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the power of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws near.

Unfulfilled Events

Now we hit problems:

Following the destruction of Jerusalem

- There were no signs in the heavens
- There was no distress of the nations (worldwide distress)
- The Messiah did not visibly return on the clouds

More Questions

Questions In Luke

Luke 21:7

The disciples asked two questions:

- When shall these things be?
- What sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?

These two questions focus on

- When the temple destruction, foretold by Jesus, would occur
- What the sign or preceding events to this occurrence would be

Jesus has answered these questions

- Then gone onto His second coming without being asked
- Or was He?

Questions In Matthew

Matthew 24:3

And as He sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of Your coming? And the end of the world?'

The disciples ask three questions:

- When shall these things be?
- What shall be the sign of your coming?
- What shall be the sign of the end of the age?

This tells that the disciples inquiry

- Went beyond the temple destruction

The disciples wanted to know about

- When the Messiah would come
- When the Kingdom would be established

The Principle of Double Reference

Definition

Prophecies that have a double fulfilment

The fulfilments are separated by time

- Near and far fulfilment
- Immediate and ultimate fulfilment

Immediate Fulfilment - In the immediate historical context of the prophet
Ultimate Fulfilment - Ultimately fulfilled in events surrounding the Messiah

Examples

David's Son

2 Samuel 7

God will establish through David a "son" and a "house"

- Immediate Fulfilment - Solomon and the House of David
- Ultimate Fulfilment - Messiah and His Kingdom

Rachel's Weeping

Jeremiah 31:15

Rachel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.

A picture of Rachel, the mother of Joseph and Benjamin, weeping in despair over her children

- Immediate Fulfilment - The grief of Israel at the exiled tribes in Babylon
- Ultimate Fulfilment - Massacre of the Children in Bethlehem by King Herod (**Matthew 2:16-18**)

Isaiah's Spirit

Isaiah 61:1-7

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; because the Lord has anointed me to preach good tidings to the meek; he has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

- Immediate Fulfilment - Isaiah was anointed and directed to proclaim liberty to the captive Jews in Babylon
- Ultimate Fulfilment - Messiah is the anointed one and will bring liberty to all enslaved to sin (**Luke 4:17-21**)

Jesus' Discourse

- Immediate Fulfilment - 70AD Roman siege of Jerusalem
- Ultimate Fulfilment - During the seven year tribulation and the second coming of Jesus

When the disciples ask:

- When shall these things be?

- What shall be the sign of your coming?
- What shall be the sign of the end of the age?

Jesus gives an answer with double fulfilment

- Luke's Gospel - Focuses more on the immediate fulfilment in 70AD
- Matthew's Gospel - Focuses more on ultimate fulfilment in the Future

Ultimate Fulfilment (Future)

Luke 21:10-19

The Beginning of Sorrows

Luke 21:8-19 = Revelation 6-9

Signs of the End of the Age	The Seven Seals
Luke 21	Revelation 6:1-17, 8:1-5
False Christs (vs 8)	1 st SEAL - False Christ
Wars (vs 10)	2 nd SEAL - War
Famines (vs 11)	3 rd SEAL - Famine
Death (vs 16)	4 th SEAL - Death
Persecution (vs 12-19)	5 th SEAL - Persecution
Earthquakes, Heavenly Signs (vs 11)	6 th SEAL - Earthquakes, Darkness, Meteors
Earthquakes, Heavenly Signs (vs 11)	7 th SEAL - Silence in heaven Thunder, lightning, earthquake on earth

Signs of the End of the Age	The Seven Trumpets
Luke 21	Revelation 8:6 – 9:21
Luke 21:11 <i>Fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.</i>	1 st TRUMPET - Hail and Fire (<i>Third Earth Burnt</i>)
	2 nd TRUMPET - Molten Mass (<i>Third Marine Life</i>)
	3 rd TRUMPET - Burning Star (<i>Third Fresh Water</i>)
	4 th TRUMPET - Striking of Light (<i>Third of Light</i>)
	5 th TRUMPET - 1 st Demonic Invasion (<i>Torment</i>)
	6 th TRUMPET - 2 nd Demonic Invasion (<i>Death</i>)

Seige And Flight

Luke 21:20-21 = Revelation 10-14

- Military presence Jerusalem rises
- The desolation is near
- It's time to flee

Revelation 10-14

- Midpoint of the tribulation
- Antichrist shows his true colours
- He turns on Israel
- Military presence appears in Jerusalem
- The Abomination of Desolation is set up in temple
- Israel flees into the wilderness (**Revelation 12:6**)

The Great Tribulation

Luke 21:22-24

The Great Tribulation

- Day of great distress and wrath
- Will effect Israel (not the church)
- Believers (the church) will be delivered from that time
- It will last 3½ years

Times of the Gentiles

Luke 21:24

And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and they shall be led away captive into all nations: Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

Jerusalem fell in 587BC

- Jerusalem has been trodden down by the gentiles ever since
- Even today Jerusalem is divided into four quarters
- That time will end after the Great Tribulation
- That time will end with the Second Coming Of Messiah

The Second Coming

Luke 21:25-28

And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the power of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws near.

The Tribulation - *there shall be signs*
Second Coming - *the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory*

This will herald

- Salvation for the believers on earth
- Judgement for the unbelievers on earth
- The establishment of the Messianic Age (Millennium, 1000 year reign)
- A time of unprecedented peace and justice

This answers to the questions of the disciples

- What shall be the sign of your coming?
- What shall be the sign of the end of the age?

The Book Of REVELATION

TRIBULATION TIMELINE

