

Sermon Series: Luke 21:5-38 Grace to Stand When the World Is Falling

Sermon Text: Luke 21:5-6 *It's the End of the World as We Know It: The Destruction of the Temple*

Christ gives us grace to stand when the world is falling.

1) The Temple was a microcosm of the world.

- a) Holy of Holies—Throne Room of God; Highest Heaven
- b) Holy Place—Heaven of Sun, Moon, and Stars; God's Creational Tent
- c) Altar of Burnt Offering—Mountain of Meeting
- d) Courtyard—World of Humanity/Israel
- e) It represented and ritually realized God's governmental administration of the world.
 - i) God is King.
 - ii) Mankind is in rebellion against God's government.
 - iii) Peace is afforded through blood sacrifice.
 - iv) Fellowship is enjoyed through covenant faithfulness: obedience to the King's law and celebration at the King's palace.

2) The destruction of the Temple/Jerusalem was a catastrophic judgment.

- a) It was a judgment for rejecting God's peace-offering in Christ Jesus (Luke 19:41-44).
- b) It was catastrophic (Luke 20:16-18; 23:28-31; cf. Josephus, *The Wars of the Jews*, Books 5-6)
- c) What good could possibly come from such a calamity?

3) The destruction of the Temple has national and cosmic significance in redemptive history.

- a) Redemptive History—God's providential execution of His eternal plan of salvation as revealed in Scripture
- b) National Significance—Temple as Center of Israel's Political and Religious Life
- c) Cosmic Significance—The End of a World/Age (John 4:21)
 - i) Vindication of Christ and the Church (Luke 19:41-44; 23:28-31; Matt. 26:61; Mark 14:58; Acts 6:13-14)
 - ii) End of Sacrificial System/Levitical Priesthood (Dan. 9:26-27; 11:31; 12:11; Heb. 7)
 - iii) New Temple Raised up in Christ and His Church (John 2:18-22)
 - iv) Welcoming the Nations in the Covenant of Grace (Eph. 2:11-22; Rom. 11:11-12)
 - v) Anticipation of New Creation Temple (Rev. 21:22)

4) There is grace to stand when the world is falling.

- a) The uniqueness of the fall of Jerusalem in Redemptive History does not make it irrelevant to our situation. If God was working out His good purpose in that Great Tribulation, how much more is He working out His good purpose in our lesser tribulations?
 - i) The Grace of Truth (21:7-9)
 - ii) The Grace of Perseverance (21:10-19)
 - iii) The Grace of Trusting God's Plan (21:20-33)
 - iv) The Grace of Prayer (21:34-38)
- b) Christ's people inherit God's Kingdom!
- c) All the nations belong to God's Kingdom.
- d) "Go and make disciples of all nations . . ."—Obedient to the Great Commission with Hope

Doxology: Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth! Say among the nations, 'The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity.' Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for He comes, for He comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in His faithfulness. (Psalm 96:9-13)