

Morning Sermon February 1, 2015
"Coming with Vengeance" Luke 21:5-38

I. Falling stones – actually "overthrown, destroyed, dissolved" -

⁵ Then, as some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and donations, He said, ⁶ "These things which you see-- the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down." (Luke 21:5-6 NKJ)

καταλύω kataluo {kat-al-oo'-o}

Meaning: 1) to dissolve, disunite 1a) (what has been joined together), to destroy, demolish 1b) metaph. to overthrow i.e. render vain, deprive of success, bring to naught 1b1) to subvert, overthrow ...

1. Tearing down the Temple would have been quite a task, the Temple was glorious, but also substantial; Josephus wrote about it –

The exterior of the building wanted nothing that could astound either mind or eye. For, being covered on all sides with massive plates of gold, the sun was no sooner up than it radiated so fiery a flash that persons straining to look at it were compelled to avert their eyes, as from the solar rays. To approaching strangers it appeared from a distance like a snow-clad mountain; for all that was not overlaid with gold was of purest white.

Josephus, *Ant.*, XV, 11. 3, says: "The temple was built of hard, white stones, each of which was about twenty-five cubits in length, eight in height and twelve in width."

2. This destruction of the Temple is DONE!

II. Questions: when? And what signs?

⁷ So they asked Him, saying, "Teacher, but when will these things be? And what sign will there be when these things are about to take place?" (Luke 21:7 NKJ)

1. Don't Be Deceived:

⁸ And He said: "Take heed that you not be deceived.

A. By false prophet's claiming to be Christ -

For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them.

B. By wars, natural disasters, even great signs from heaven -

⁹ "But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately."

2. Realize certain things will happen --- but we are not to be alarmed by these, they happen constantly, these are the consequences of sin, and God's regular judgment -

¹⁰ Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ "And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. (Luke 21:8-11 NKJ)

"During the years between Christ's death and the destruction of the temple, there was a terrible earthquake in Laodicea, Vesuvius buried Pompeii, and there was a famine in Rome itself." R. Kent Hughes

3. These things happened and are still happening!

III. Persecution of God's people / Christ's Apostles, Disciples -

¹² "But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. ¹³ "But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. ¹⁴ "Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; ¹⁵ "for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. ¹⁶ "You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ "And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. ¹⁸ "But not a hair of your head shall be lost. ¹⁹ "By your patience possess your souls. (Luke 21:12-19 NKJ)

*These things happened and are still happening!

IV. Destruction of Jerusalem –

²⁰ "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. ²¹ "Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. ²² "For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. ²³ "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. ²⁴ "And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. (Luke 21:20-24 NKJ)

1. The destruction of Jerusalem happened in 70AD, it is DONE

2. The trampling of Jerusalem continues up to today

V. Signs of the END –

²⁵ "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; ²⁶ "men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. ²⁷ "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near." (Luke 21:25-28 NKJ)

**Seeing the "Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory" - has NOT HAPPENED YET! - :27*

VI. A warning to watch and pray, do not be caught off guard –

²⁹ Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰ "When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. ³¹ "So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² "Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. ³³ "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. ³⁴ "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. ³⁵ "For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

1. "This generation will by no means pass away" implies:
 - A. Certain fulfilment of Jesus' prophecy happened in the lifetimes of those present, which we know is true
 - B. Certain kinds of people "this generation" RC Sproul says "believers" would continue to the end. Could also be unbelieving, materialists, they will continue until judged
2. There is a possible DONE sense to this, but also a continue to the end sense ---

VII. An account of Jesus' ministry habits -

³⁷ And in the daytime He was teaching in the temple, but at night He went out and stayed on the mountain called Olivet. ³⁸ Then early in the morning all the people came to Him in the temple to hear Him. (Luke 21:37-38 NKJ)

VIII. Application –

Note the mixture of what has already happened 70AD with what still will happen, it is hard to sort out, WHY?

1. Jesus wants us aware of a coming judgment that is typified in the judgment of Jerusalem –
 - A. People in that day embraced a golden Temple, they were glad to give money to it, yet they rejected the regular gracious teaching of Jesus Christ – Luke 21:37-38
 - B. They did not realize those things which would have made their peace – Luke 19:42
 - C. They did not know the time of their visitation – Luke 19:44
 - D. They made the Temple of God a den of thieves – Luke 19:46
 - E. They sought to destroy Christ – Luke 19:47
 - F. They sought to challenge and trap Him with various questions – Luke 20:1-39

Yet, for all this they were in some sense GIVERS to the work of God – Luke 21:1-4 ? Today they would probably be church-goers! They were rejected and judged for rejecting Christ and that rejection in some sense continues to today –

How great and terrible will be the judgment of those who are like them or worse? Pretended Christians or those who make no pretense of Christianity at all?

¹² I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. ¹³ And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.

¹⁴ Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,

¹⁶ and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

¹⁷ "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" (Revelation 6:12-17 NKJ)

2. For these reasons Jesus tells us to be sober :34 and to watch and pray - :36

Arnold A. Brevick