

I. The siege and destruction of Jerusalem in AD 69-70 (vv. 5-24)

- A. How do we know? (cf. 19:41-44)
- B. Context of prophecy: in the Temple, speaking of “stones and offerings”
- C. False Messiahs
- D. Wars and “tumults” (disorder; AD 69 “Year of the Four Emperors”)
- E. Persecution of Jesus' followers (cf. Luke 14:26; Acts 7-8; 1 Peter 2:12)
- F. Christ will preserve his people through persecution.
- G. Christ will work directly to empower his people's witness through persecution. (cf. 12:11-12; Acts 4:13; Matthew 10:19-22; Mark 13:11 the Holy Spirit's work)
- H. Immediate indicators of Jerusalem's demise
- I. Flee! Most Christians fled Jerusalem when Roman armies approached, the majority to Pella in Trans-Jordan (Josephus: “warned by an oracle”)

II. The coming of the Son of Man (vv. 25-28)

- A. Important! We move now from very literal, direct warning to “apocalyptic language.”
- B. *Universal* disturbance: international and cosmic. (Romans 1:16; 2:6-11)
- C. “Signs in sun and moon and stars ... roaring of the sea and the waves.”
- D. “They will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”
- E. Basically three ways of thinking about vv. 5-28

III. The Trees in Leaf (vv. 29-33)

- A. After Jerusalem's destruction, the next thing is the second coming of Christ.
- B. “These things” refers to the persecutions, siege, and desolation of Jerusalem. (vv. 5-24)
- C. “This generation will not pass away until these things have taken place.”
- D. Jesus uses Jerusalem as a sign that a much greater judgment is coming.
- E. Jesus is coming back, and he will judge the living and the dead.

IV. Be Ready (vv. 34-38)

- A. These final words apply equally to ancient Jews and modern Americans.
- B. Jesus warns against two things: being a drunken party person and being a responsible member of the middle class. (Proverbs 23:35; James 4:13-15)
- C. What would we look like if we lived for the coming of Christ?
- D. Watch – be wakeful and prayerful – that you *may be strengthened to escape and to stand before the Son of Man*. (Ephesians 6:11-13)

V. The Last Word (Romans 8:31-39)