

Luke 21:5-38

5 And while some were talking about the temple, that it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts,

1. Some people were pointing out the marvels of the temple itself, drawing attention to the massive stones that formed its foundation.
2. Herod had recruited 10,000 workmen, who designed 1000 vehicles to carry the stone and who did the work under the supervision of 1000 priests.
3. The Jews were awed, impressed, and proud.

He said, 6 “As for these things which you are looking at, the days will come in which there will not be left one stone upon another which will not be torn down.”

1. Jesus had already foretold this and wept over what he knew was coming.
2. Luke 19:43-44 *the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, 44 and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.*

7 They questioned Him, saying, “Teacher, when therefore will these things happen? And what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?”

1. They want to know what signs to look for in order to know when these things will take place.
2. He gives them several and we are going to go through them very quickly.

I. Deception v8

8 And He said, “See to it that you are not misled; for many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not go after them.

1. Clearly, deception is an issue today, and has always been, but this type of deception is specifically applied to those who impersonate, in a way, Jesus.
 - a. An imposter Jesus.
 - b. An antichrist

2. 1 John 2:18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

II. Disasters

1. **These disasters will be National v9-10**

9 When you hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end does not follow immediately.” 10 Then He continued by saying to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom,

2. These disasters will be Natural v11

11 and there will be great earthquakes,

a. Revelation 6:12 I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake;

and in various places plagues and famines;

b. Revelation 6:8 I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.

c. Revelation 6:12-13 I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.

III. Deliverance to Death v12-19

12 “But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name’s sake. 13 It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony. 14 So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; 15 for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute. 16 But you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death, 17 and you will be hated by all because of My name. 18 Yet not a hair of your head will perish. 19 By your endurance you will gain your lives.

a. Notice that he says “before these things.”

b. Here is how these times are going to start:
great persecution

IV. Destruction of Jerusalem v20-24

20 “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near. 21 Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; 22 because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled. 23 Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land and wrath to this people; 24 and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

V. Distress v25-26

25 “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, 26 men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

VI. The Day of the Lord v27

27 Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD with power and great glory.

What do we make of this? Here is what I see.

• An immediate fulfillment of New Testament Prophecy

3 reasons...

1. The use of quickly, soon, and near

How many times do the Scriptures say that these things are coming soon? Let's just read it as it is...and avoid our presuppositions

1. Matthew 10:22-23 *You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved. 23 "But whenever they persecute you in one city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes.*

2. Matthew 26:64 *Jesus said to him, "You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN."*

3. 1 Peter 4:7 *The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.*

4. James 5:8-9 *You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.*

5. Revelation 1:1 *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John,*

6. Revelation 3:11 *I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.*

2. The Context of the Scripture

This passage is about Jesus coming to destroy the temple, not coming at the end of time as we think of it.

5 And while some were talking about the temple, that it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts, He said, 6 "As for these things which you are looking at, the days will come in which there will not be left one stone upon another which will not be torn down." 7 They questioned Him, saying, "Teacher; when therefore will these things happen? And what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?"

1. Rome destroyed Jerusalem in A.D. 70.
 - a. A million Jews are said to have perished in this war.
 - b. The Romans crucified them by the thousand. One report said that the Romans

- stopped crucifying Jews only when they ran out of wood.
- c. The city finally surrendered and the Romans deported 97,000 Jews and sold them into slavery or shipped them off to the various areas of the Roman world to be slaughtered in the arena.
- d. Do you know who survived?

Those who heeded verse 21: *Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city*

- 2. Jesus is giving his followers instructions on what to do when “these things take place. Flee!

28 *But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.*

- 1. In the first century, The Romans and the outside world, viewed the Christian community as merely a small sect of Judaism.
- 2. The most intense persecution of the Christian church came, not from the Romans, but from the Jews.

12 *“But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues*

1. Acts 22:19 *And I said, ‘Lord, they themselves understand that in one synagogue after another I used to imprison and beat those who believed in You.*

2. Acts 26:11 *And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities.*

29 *Then He told them a parable: “Behold the fig tree and all the trees; 30 as soon as they put forth leaves, you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near. 31 So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near. 32 Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all things take place. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.*

- 1. Again, he says “this generation” will not pass away until all things take place
- 2. Remember, we are taking about the context of this passage of Scripture.

3. Mark 13:29 *So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.*

34 *“Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap; 35 for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. 36 But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have*

strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.” 37 Now during the day He was teaching in the temple, but at evening He would go out and spend the night on the mount that is called Olivet. 38 And all the people would get up early in the morning to come to Him in the temple to listen to Him.

3. Old Testament Prophecy

1. Malachi 3:1-5
2. “The day” was coming—“the day that shall burn as a furnace”; “the great and terrible day of the Lord.”
3. Malachi 4:5 *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord.*
4. And who did Jesus say Elijah was? John the Baptist

Therefore, it must be sought at no great distance from the period of John the Baptist. That is to say, the allusion is to the judgement of the Jewish nation, when their city and temple were destroyed, and the entire fabric of the Mosaic polity was dissolved. Russel

• We are in the age of the Gentiles now and are a critical part of the Kingdom.

1. The Jewish age has come to a close with the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple

Romans 11:25 *For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery--so that you will not be wise in your own estimation--that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in*

2. The Gentile age has begun v24

Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

- a. With the destruction of the Temple, the Jewish age ended and the time of the Gentiles has come.
- b. And we advance that kingdom to all the Gentiles...as well as the Jews.

1. And we will succeed in our mission.
2. Revelation 7:9-10 *After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; 10 and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”*

3. The age of the Gentiles will last until the end.

• An immediate fulfillment of New Testament Prophecy

• We are in the age of the Gentiles now and are a critical part of the Kingdom.

• The End will come

1. Return

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.*

2. Resurrection and Rapture

1 Corinthians 15:50-57 *Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. 55 O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; 57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

3. Reign of Christ forever

Revelation 11:15 *Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."*