

The End

7-28-19

Luke 21:5–7 (ESV)

⁵ And while some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, he said,

⁶ **“As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”**

⁷ And they asked him, “Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?”

Jesus is in Jerusalem during the last week of HIS life and his followers think HE is going to bring in the physical Kingdom of God. As they are admiring the Temple, Jesus declares its soon destruction. Luke as a Gentile addresses The End Times subject differently from the other gospel writers Matthew and Mark. In his investigative account, Luke makes a clear distinction between the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD and the future End Times return of Jesus. In verse 24 there is a clear transfer of focus from the Jews to the Gentiles. Then after the fulfillment of the Times of the Gentiles, Jesus will return as stated in verse 25. Now Jesus answers their immediate question, “What will be the signs of the destruction of the Temple?”

As a note, these signs reoccur throughout the ages and will also be evident in greater intensity before Jesus' second coming, but here Luke is focusing on events before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD.

Luke 21:8–19 (ESV)

⁸ And he said, “See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is at hand!’ Do not go after them. ⁹ And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but **the end** will not be at once.” ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. ¹² But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name’s sake. ¹³ This will be your opportunity to bear witness. ¹⁴ Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, ¹⁵ for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all for my name’s sake. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your lives.

“By your endurance, you will gain your lives,” means that whoever commits his life to Christ will eternally preserve it.

Jesus gives a fascinating prophetic warning about the soon destruction of Jerusalem!

Luke 21:20 (ESV) **Overhead**

But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near.

This event clearly took place exactly as Jesus said. In 68AD, the Roman general Vespasian surrounded Jerusalem planning to conquer it, but changed his mind withdrew his army. Josephus the Jewish historian who was alive at the time recorded the situation in detail. Therefore, those who would listen had a two-year warning before the final destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD. Jesus elaborates and continues with the warning.

Luke 21:21–24 (ESV)

²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, ²² for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. ²³ Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth (land) and wrath against this people (**Jews**). ²⁴ They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Josephus the Jewish historian who also was present at Jerusalem's destruction in 70AD records the situation, "Titus and the Roman army encompassed the city when it was crowded with inhabitants.

Accordingly, the multitude of those that therein perished exceeded all the destructions that either men or God ever brought upon the world!" (It is estimated that 3 million people had crowded into Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.) Through recorded history, it is plain that the loss of life was staggering.

After this destruction, Jesus says Jerusalem will continue to be trampled down by the Gentiles meaning it will not be under the control of the Jewish people. **Jesus calls this period *the times of the Gentiles*.**

Luke 21:24 (ESV) **Overhead**

They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Therefore, at this time there is a transfer of focus from the Jews to the Gentiles. It implies that an extended period of time will pass for the worldwide sharing of the gospel.

As a note: Jerusalem remained under Gentile control until 1948 when Israel became a nation. The Temple area remained under Gentile control until 1967. Evidently the times of the Gentile are coming to a close.

Now when the “times of the Gentiles are fulfilled” the End Times return of Jesus will happen.

Luke 21:25–28 (ESV)

²⁵ “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶ people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Pay attention to these end times signs because this is evidence that Jesus is returning. The parable:

Luke 21:29–33 (ESV)

²⁹ And he told them a parable: “**Look at the fig tree, and all the trees (only Luke adds and all the trees meaning not just Jerusalem but the entire world).** ³⁰ As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly, I say to you, this **generation (when the fulfillment of these things happen)** will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Jesus has told us everything before hand. Therefore, as we see these things coming to pass, don't be distressed knowing Jesus is soon to return.

Luke 21:34–36 (ESV)

³⁴ “But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you **suddenly** like a **trap**. ³⁵ For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to **escape all these things** that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The "suddenly" is parallel with the "caught up" of the saints:

1 Thessalonians 4:17 (ESV) **Overhead**

Then we who are alive, who are left, will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

This is an encouragement!

1 Thessalonians 4:18 (ESV)

Therefore encourage one another with these words.

For us today, encourage one another, because this is not our home and we will be caught up to heaven before Jesus judges the world.

Rejoice!

Philippians 3:20 (ESV) **Overhead**

Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ!

The End: After the catching up of the saints, begins the 7-year tribulation period. Then Jesus returns to judge the world and create a new heaven and earth.

Therefore as “The End” approaches, as citizens of heaven, we have a great message!

John 3:16 (ESV) **Overhead**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Prophetic Team

Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.