

Luke 21:1-38

Stand and Lift up your Heads!

One day as he was teaching the people in the temple courts and preaching the gospel... Luke 20.1

Traveled with JESUS into city of JERUSALEM > Specifically TEMPLE

Designed to be HOLY > SET APART > Place where GOD HIMSELF DWELLS

Place of TRUTH > God of Truth > Week (Last Week) of TEACHING God's Truth

TYPICAL Day of VERY UNTYPICAL Week > Week GOD was MURDERED
v. 37 Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple

DIFFICULT and USELESS to know EXACTLY what Taught on SPECIFIC Days
Thru LUKE > Jesus was PREACHER of the Word / Now under Shadow of Cross

Temple place of RIGHTEOUSNESS > Truth, Holiness, Justice, Mercy, Fairness
Became place of PROFITEERING – OPPRESSION – CORRUPTION

Great HIGH PRIEST – Lord Jesus – tried to CLEANSE Temple > REJECTED
Chapter 21 > SOLEMN Message – God WILL Cleanse his POLLUTED Temple
TWO Cataclysmic ENDS in Chapter 21 > End of JERUSALEM & End of WORLD

Whole Day Jesus ANSWERED Questions: Pharisees, Scribes, Sadducees, Disciples
v. 7 "Teacher," they asked, "when will these things happen?..."

Fall 2007 > Taught 10 week Class on Revelation in Home Church in Hawaii
Every Week one man had SAME Question – Just ONE Word --- “WHEN”!?
Jesus > VAGUE Time Markers – 4 X's – NEAR / FIRST / BEFORE / THEN
Most IMPORTANT Issue > NOT DATE but your FINAL DESTINATION

1. Trusting in Symbols? Watch Out!

a. Impressive

v. 5 Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God

DISCIPLES from Galilean Villages IMPRESSED w/ Herod's Magnificent Temple
People in ISRAEL lived in SMALL, MUD-WALLED Houses

See VILLAGE People visit BEIJING > FAMILY PHOTOS in front of SIGHTS
Tiananmen Square / Birds Nest / Great Wall

Herod's Temple 1 of ARCHITECTURAL WONDERS of the ROMAN WORLD
3rd Jewish Temple > TWICE the Size of FIRST Temple built by SOLOMON
MEASURE of Blessing and Truth is NOT SIZE but LOYALTY to Scripture
PASTOR > 20,000 Members > May be SPIRITUALLY Starved for Word of God

b. Imposed > should have been INVITED – Leaders saw PARTY CRASHER
For Jesus in Luke > ENTERING Jerusalem is ENTERING the TEMPLE
Then he entered the temple area... Every day he was teaching at the temple.

Luke

19.45,47

Wanted to Tell people in Temple how to FIND their HOME in GOD
One Way > STRANGER to Temple > Held NO Formal Position, Titles, Importance

Like a GENERAL Surveying the PLACE of BATTLE > Battle of HIS LIFE!

One day as he was teaching the people in the temple courts and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, together with the elders, came up to him.
Luke 20.1,2

MOST NOTABLE and RIGHTEOUS ONE Jesus sees in ENTIRE Temple

NOT Priest – Prophet – King – Sadducee - Pharisee – Sanhedrin – High Priest

v. 3 "I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others."

c. Indicted > PASSION Narrative > TEMPLE CONFLICT led to His DEATH

Even Before ARRIVING Jesus heart was HEAVY with Grim ANTICIPATION
As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace - but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, *because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you.*"
Luke 19:41-44

PUBLIC Ministry > ENDED with CONFLICT with TEMPLE Authorities

Jesus said to the chief priests, *the officers of the temple guard*, and the elders, who had come for him, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? *Every day I was with you in the temple courts*, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour--when darkness reigns." Luke 22.52,53

They THOUGHT they were ENGINEERING HIS Death > but it was THEIR OWN
Since Jesus is KEYSTONE of God's True TEMPLE

Nailing Him to CROSS is what MARK calls 'abomination of desolation' in Temple

If Jesus is the keystone of God's new temple, then to crucify him is surely the supreme act of temple profanation.
Rikk E. Watts

d. Invaded > Since Lord of TEMPLE NOT Invited > Temple will be INVADED

Luke gives FULLEST Description of PREDICTION of Events in Jerusalem

vs. 20-24 "When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great

distress in the land and wrath against this people. They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

v. 6 "As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down."

70 A.D. Roman General TITUS DESTROYED TEMPLE > and City of Jerusalem
Stones > 15 meters long and 2 ½ meters wide; they weighed up to 600 tons

So called WAILING WALL just FOUNDATION Stones of TORN Down Temple

Warned by Jesus > Christians FLED City & took REFUGE in Pella in Mtns.

“Before the war (of 70 A.D.), the people of the Church of Jerusalem were bidden in an oracle given by revelation to men worthy of it to depart from the city... those who believed in Christ migrated from Jerusalem. Once the holy men had completely left the Jews and all Judea, the justice of God at last overtook them, since they had committed such transgressions against Christ and his apostles. Divine justice completely blotted out that impious generation from among men.”

Eusebius, 4th Century Church Historian

"The people of Judah have done evil in my eyes, declares the LORD. They have set up their detestable idols in the house that bears my Name and have defiled it... So beware, the days are coming when people will... call it... the Valley of Slaughter"

Jeremiah 7:30,32

The LEADERS REJECTION of Jesus put PLAN of FINAL Judgment in MOTION

TEARING of Veil > God's SIGN from Heaven that OLD System is DEAD

JEW'S had DEFILED It / JESUS DEPARTED from It / ROMANS will DESTROY

Now called ICHABOD because the GLORY of GOD had DEPARTED

Jesus: "...`The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone ' ? Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed."

Luke 20.17,18

Because THEY REJECTED God's Stone > No Stone on their Temple will Stand

Impossible to IMAGINE the MASSIVE Temple GONE: Will Exist FOREVER!

Jews: "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple...." John 2.20

ALREADY 46 Years of Building > Would be 37 MORE YEARS of Building

COMPLETED 63 AD > 7 yrs later Torn Down by ROMAN ARMIES 70 AD

NOT Surprising JEWS TRUST shifted from GOD of Temple to Temple ITSELF
 SYMBOL Substituted for SUBSTANCE > FORM Replaced FUNCTION

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their *zeal is not based on knowledge*.
 Romans 10.1-2

21st Century > Religious CONVICTION > Bloody Trail of Bombs & Carnage
 People HEARING GOD'S VOICE > Trust OWN REASON and ABILITY

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.
 Proverbs 14.12

For Many when SYMBOL Destroyed > their FAITH was SNUFFED OUT

30 Years of BICF - ___ @ ZGC – Main Tradition: Everything CHANGES!

LOVE CHURCH more than INVISIBLE GOD who is PRESENT Among US

LOVE BIBLE more than VOICE of GOD that can be HEARD through IT

Love TRADITIONS more> God our HELP in AGES Past & Hope for Yrs to Come

SOMEDAY – Sooner or Later – ALL SYMBOLS, Traditions, & Substitutes GONE

2. Teaching of Swindlers? Watch Out!

a. Many Deceivers

TRUE Redeemer will be REMOVED from World by a SHAMEFUL CROSS

MANY Come forward trying to FILL His PLACE > Come in HIS NAME

vs. 7,8 "Teacher," they asked, "when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?" He replied: "Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them.

Do NOT TRUST in RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS or RELIGIOUS LEADERS!

"A horrible and shocking thing has happened in the land: The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way. But what will you do in the end?"
Jeremiah 5:30-31

RABBI Jesus was Teaching and WARNING His DISCIPLES

Explaining JEWISH APOCALYPTIC Literature > Daniel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Isaiah

HISTORY is FILLED with SAD stories of FALSE Messiahs, Prophets, Pastors

SIGNS & MIRACLES are NOT always PROOF of TRUTH from GOD

Elect will NOT be DECEIVED because Jesus TOLD them All in Advance

SATANIC Deception will CONTINUE to the VERY END

b. Most Important Doctrines

1) Savior MOST EXALTED description of Jesus in LUKE thus Far

v. 27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Ch 19 > PARABLE – Honored Son of Landowner > MURDERED by Tenants
SON of MAN > NOT reference to HUMANITY > His DEITY – GOD in Christ

"... one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."
Daniel 7.13,14

Luke > CHRIST Child – CRUCIFIED – CROWNED with GLORY & HONOR

2) Scriptures v. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

ONLY ANCHOR that will HOLD thru EVERY STORM is Word of JESUS

ONLY ROCK worthy for us to BUILD our HOUSE – Family & Future – Upon

"In twenty five years the Bible will be forgotten and Christianity will be a thing of the past." Voltaire, 1778, 40 years after his death, Bible's were printed in his home

Luke: "I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account...so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught." 1.3,4

Want to KNOW GOD? Know JESUS! / Know JESUS? Must know SCRIPTURE!

3. Turmoil in Society and Space? Watch Out!

Disciples Thought > DESTRUCTION of Temple = END of the Age / 2nd COMING

vs. 7,8 "Teacher," they asked, "when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?"

Key to Interpret: 2 ENDINGS – Jerusalem and World – One Illustrates OTHER
Jesus preaching in Jerus. CITY GONE > WORLD ENDS – 2000 yrs PASSED

a. Conflict of Nations

vs. 9-11 When you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away." Then he said to them: "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.

The temple could not fall without shaking the whole world. John Calvin

Soon the PAX ROMANA (Peace of Rome) would be BROKEN FOREVER

(UNIQUE Global Peace, Travel, Language created to SPREAD GOSPEL?)

CHURCH would expand thru times of FRACTURED Nations and Tribes

WAR is often FOLLOWED by FAMINE

4 HORSEMEN race Across Earth > Conquest, Bloodshed, Famine, Death

NOTHING NEW > Story of Fallen Humanity > from Cain and Abel in Eden

WHITE Horse of WAR – Followed by RED Horse of BLOODSHED – then
BLACK Horse of FAMINE – followed by PALE Horse of DEATH

He describes both the imminent end of the Jerusalemite's world and the ultimate end of the age.
Craig S. Keener

NEITHER Messiah nor Anti-Christ will FLY in on AIR FORCE ONE

b. Crisis in Nature JEWISH Idea > TEMPLE is CENTER of CREATION

vs. 24-26 They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.

DESTRUCTION of Temple brings DEMISE of ENTIRE CREATED ORDER

"This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Strike your hands together and stamp your feet and cry out "Alas!" because of all the wicked and detestable practices of the house of Israel, for they will fall by the sword, famine and plague. Ezekiel 6.11

LABOR Pains mean the BIRTH is COMING > but NO ONE knows WHEN!

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.
Romans 8.22

vs. 24,25 But in those days, following that distress, 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'

The thrust of Jesus' discourse...is to warn the disciples not to be disturbed by the preliminary signs nor to confuse them with the end itself. William Lane

4. Terrified by Suffering? Watch Out!

vs. 12,13 "But before all this, they will lay hands on you and persecute you. They will deliver you to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. This will result in your being witnesses to them.

Followers of Jesus Faced INCREASING OPPOSITION and PERSECUTION
 PERSECUTION > BEGINS LOCAL and goes GLOBAL > Councils to KINGS
 USE OPPOSITION as OPPORTUNITY to WITNESS to GOSPEL of Jesus
 STAND as WITNESSES > PERSECUTION should lead to PROCLAMATION

vs. 14,15 But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.

GREAT NEWS for Me > No Longer spend so MUCH TIME Preparing Sermons!
 NO – WORK hard when you HAVE TIME – Don't WORRY when you DON'T
 True Christian // LIKE TEA BAG > Get in HOT WATER see what COMES OUT!
 When we remember that most of the early Christians were simple and unlearned people, for whom a speech in court would have been a terrible ordeal, we realise how much such a promise will have meant to them. D.E. Nineham

Every OPPORTUNITY and ADVERSITY in ALL of Life > GOSPEL TIME
 Jesus EXAMPLE: PRAISED by Crowds / Condemned by PILATE > SPOKE Word

Sermon at Nazareth > Abrupt ENDING they tried to KILL Him > NEXT DAY –
 Jesus: "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent."
 Luke 4.43

Short Time Later STEPHEN the First MARTYR was KILLED in JERUSALEM
 On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all ...
 were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria... Those who had been scattered
 preached the word wherever they went. Acts 8.1,4

We multiply whenever we are mown down by you. The blood of Christians is seed.
 Tertullian to his persecutors

Few years back > David Koresh & Branch Davidians burned to Death in Waco, TX

MILLIONS watched TRAGEDY unfold on TELEVISION Screens

Imagine NEXT Month > Stood on Streets of Waco > Branch Davidian GOSPEL

Messengers stood on Ground Stained by BLOOD of their RISEN MASTER

MAN they MURDERED is God's MESSIAH

v. 16 You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers, relatives and friends, and they
 will put some of you to death.

OFFICIAL Persecution is PAINFUL > MOST Painful from OWN FAMILY

Even FAMILY and FRIENDS would TURN AGAINST Believers and Gospel

PREPARING for this ALL Thru LUKE > Family Fractures and Re-forms in Christ

Jesus: "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into
 practice." Luke 8.21

vs. 17-19 All men will hate you because of me. But not a hair of your head will
 perish. By standing firm you will gain life.

NOT PROMISE – Health, Wealth, Prosperity – SPEAKER will be MURDERED

The disciples may suffer injury and death, but nothing can really harm their
 essential being. Paul John Isaak

True FAITH is seen in Tested FAITHFULNESS

This chapter does not hold out great encouragement for ‘triumphalism’ or ‘prosperity’ versions of Christianity. The descriptions chill the spine...Persecution, false teachers, natural disasters are not elements of a future age, they happen now.

Donald English

**Trusting in Symbols? Harassed by Teaching of Swindlers?
Fearing Turmoil in Space and Society? - Terrified by Suffering?**

5. Trust in the Son! Watch for Him!

a. Sovereign > KNOWS what NO ONE Else CAN KNOW

v. 6 Jesus: "As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down."

Who Could IMAGINE the MASSIVE Temple GONE: Only True & Final Temple

v. 24. They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

GRIM End of Jerusalem // OT Exiles – Assyria & Babylon / BITTER Suffering

Gentiles: Agents of JUDGMENT and OPPORTUNITY to HEAR Gospel NOW

v. 32 "I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.

DIFFICULT Verse to Interpret: GEN 40 Years > Jesus spoke about 30 > 70 AD

NOT So Neat and Clean > ALL THESE THINGS – End of J. and End of WORLD

GEN can also MEAN > RACE > Another Description of HUMANITY

PROBABLE Meaning > Human Race will ENDURE to see THESE Things Occur

Short PARABLE vs. 29,30 FIG Tree LOST All Leaves / Bare Branch > BOUNTY

All people SAW this Season by Season > God Faithful > TRUST His Word

LUKE > Word GENERATION is NEGATIVE Word > UNBELIEVERS

"O unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you and put up with you?" Luke 9.41

As the crowds increased, Jesus said, "This is a wicked generation. It asks for a miraculous sign..." Luke 11.29

For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. Luke 17.24,25

‘This generation’ in Luke refers not to a set number of decades or to people living at such and such at time, but to people who stubbornly turn their backs on the divine purpose. Jesus’ followers can expect hostility and calamity until the very End.
Joel Green

b. Scoff – 2000 yrs LONG TIME – Where is HE??

vs. 34-36 "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

NO Time for Jesus – Too Many Movies for Seeing, Malls for Shopping
DISSIPATION = HANGOVER/ ANXIETIES > NOT See God & His GOODNESS

...in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."...But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3.2-9

c. Security

END TIMES teaching in Bible > NOT THEORIES we FIGHT OVER
PUZZLE that we get PREOCCUPIED trying to FIGURE OUT
MOUNTAIN of False / Foolish Teachings to IDENTIFY the KEY Players
Anti-Christ been Caesar – Hitler – and George Bush

v. 38 all the people came early in the morning to hear him at the temple.
INTERESTED because they GOT IT > Trouble? Yes! He is KEY to Make it Thru

v. 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads,
because your redemption is drawing near."

SUBWAY > Those SEATED > 'Look Up! – See OLD MAN, give up your SEAT!
HEADS Down – Playing with PHONES – SLEEPING – or at least PRETENDING

LOOK UP! See GOD – His WORLD – His WORD – His REDEMPTIVE Plan

Greeks to Philip: "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." John 12.21

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so
through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. 2 Corinthians 1.20

TIME of His Coming is UNKNOWN > FACT of Coming is UNDISPUTABLE

d. Sacrifice > when SECURE in GRIP of SOVEREIGN God can LIVE & GIVE
Thru LUKE > Jesus SEES those on MARGINS of SOCIETY

vs. 1-4 As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple
treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "I tell you
the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these
people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she
had to live on."

3 Social STRIKES against Woman – Woman, Widow, Poor > MOST BLESSED
SMALLEST Coin in their CURRENCY – 132 Lepta = 1 Denari / D. Day's Wage
PUNY Amount to MOST but for HER > ALL She HAD

RICH went away EMPTY > POOR woman FILLED with GOOD THINGS

Take OFFERING > God looks MORE at what is LEFT OVER than what GIVEN
ZGC just POOR Students > We all have MUCH MORE than this DEAR SISTER

e. Sleep

vs. 37,38 Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple, and each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives, and all the people came early in the morning to hear him at the temple.

CROWDED city of JERUSALEM / Filled with PASSOVER Worshippers
NO INN in Bethlehem BABY Jesus /No HOTEL for God's PASSOVER LAMB
NO MATTER –Not TOO TERRIFIED to SLEEP – Wherever Son of Man lay Head

NOT PUZZLE over 2nd Coming – NOT be PARALYZED w/ FEARS – Can't Sleep
Have PEACE of God > PASSES All Understanding > GUARD Heart and MIND

As John WESLEY traveled on Horseback from one Preaching Event to Another
Someone asked “What would you DO if you know Jesus was returning tomorrow?”
Wesley pulled out DIARY > Showed Tomorrow's Page > I would DO THIS!
He was LIVING EVERY DAY ready for COMING of His MASTER

LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O LORD.
Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.

Habakkuk 3.2

Luke 21

1. As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. 2. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 3. "I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. 4. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on." 5. Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, 6. "As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down." 7. "Teacher," they asked, "when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?" 8. He replied: "Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them. 9. When you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away." 10. Then he said to them: "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. 11. There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven. 12. "But before all this, they will lay hands on you and persecute you. They will deliver you to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. 13. This will result in your being witnesses to them. 14. But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. 15. For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. 16. You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. 17. All men will hate you because of me. 18. But not a hair of your head will perish. 19. By standing firm you will gain life. 20. "When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. 21. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. 22. For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written. 23. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. 24. They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. 25. "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. 26. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. 27. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." 29. He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. 30. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. 31. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. 32. "I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 33. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. 34. "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. 35. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. 36. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man." 37. Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple, and each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives, 38. and all the people came early in the morning to hear him at the temple.