

Luke 21.20-28

“Your Redemption is Drawing Near”

Emmanuel = GOD WITH US > Major THEME of Bible

Eden // Garden – Noah // Ark – Abraham // Altar – Israel // Tabernacle

Beginning w Solomon > Presence of God Permanent Home: TEMPLE

Temple complex 36 acres > Largest Site of its Kind in Ancient World

1 Most Beautiful Bldgs in History of World > Josephus, Jewish Historian

Walls rose 80 feet above Roadways/ Foundation went 50 feet below Street

Stones 2 to 4 tons, some over 15 tons /1 Stone 415 t. 46 ft x 10 ft x 10 ft

AWE! > 1st C Israelites MODEST Houses: Mud, Brick, Stone

Emmanuel / God with Us – ONE of the Names of Lord Jesus Christ

Unique Moment in History of Salvation > Temple has come to Temple!

1. Warning from the Sovereign

20.1 ‘Jesus was teaching the people in the Temple & preaching the gospel’

21.37 Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple > Last Week on Earth

God of Truth come to what Should Have Been > House of Truth

DIFFICULT to know EXACTLY what He Taught on SPECIFIC Days

Typical Day of Very UNTYPICAL Week > GOD was MURDERED

Jesus Barraged w Questions > TRICK > Trying to Get Him in Trouble

Leaders of Temple WANT God’s Temple to be Destroyed

Luke 20.19,20 The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people. So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor.

Religious Leaders Asked Q’s – Jesus asked Them Q > DISCIPLES ask Q

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

a. Danger > Jesus Answers Disciple’s Question > WHEN?

v. 20 “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near.

Jesus Apocalyptic Warning sounds like OT Prophets: Jerem, Zech, Ezekiel

Since Lord of Temple NOT Invited, Temple will be Invaded

Luke gives Fullest Description of Prediction of Events in Jerusalem

66 AD – Jewish REVOLT against Rome

Spring 67 AD – Gen Vespasian (father of Titus) brought Roman Troops

End 67 AD – Brought NORTHERN Palestine under Roman control

Early 68 AD Vespasian established ring Military Outposts around Jerusalem

June 68 AD – Learned about Death of NERO – 1 yr Little Roman activity

June 69 AD – Gen Vespasian controlled Southern Palestine / control Jerusalem

July 69 AD Vespasian charges son Titus to Destroy Jerusalem

Few Days before Passover 70 AD – Titus & Roman armies Arrived

Begin 5 month Siege > People who Escape > Crucified in Full View

Some Escapees had Limbs CUT OFF then sent Back into the City

City STARVED, Temple BURNED, No Escape Survivors BUTCHERED

Jews DEFILED It, Jesus DEPARTED from It, ROMANS will DESTROY

21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains & let those who are inside the city depart & let not those who are out in the country enter it

Starting 66 AD – Jewish Xtians began LEAVING Jerusalem > PELLA

By 68 AD > Romans KEPT People from Leaving Jerusalem

Warned by Jesus > Christians FLED “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

v. 23 Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days!

Bad things Happen > Unintended Consequences for People in the Middle

Africa > When the Elephants Fight > The Grass Suffers!

Heart of Jesus: Pity and Compassion consequences Living in Fallen World

Baby did Not Create Problem: But even Before Born > Caught in Problem

Romans 5.12 “sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, so death spread to all men because all sinned”

15 “many died through one man’s trespass”

16 “judgement following one trespass brought condemnation”

b. Day of the Lord > Promised by many OT Prophets

Disciples Thought > Destruction of Temple = END of Age / 2nd Coming

Luke 21 READ w BIFOCALS > End of Temple AND End of World

Temple in Foreground > Beginning of End > End of World FINAL Day

Key to Interpret: 2 Endings – Jerusalem & World – One Illustrates Other

YOU in the Text is NOT the You in the PEW > Original Author/Audience

Jesus preaching Jerus. City Gone > World WILL END 2000 yrs PASSED

vs. 25,26 “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, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Crisis in Nature > TEMPLE is CENTER of CREATION

Destruction of Temple brings DEMISE of ENTIRE CREATED ORDER

If there is GLOBAL Warming its Because We are GUILTY SINNERS

Wrath of God Poured Out > from Jerusalem to the Cosmic Universe

Signs > Utterly Unnerving > Natural Disturbances: Sun, Moon, Stars

Maritime Upheaval / International Dismay / Psychological Dread

LABOR Pains mean 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

c. Delusion Do Not be Led Astray by Wild Ideas about End of the World

v. 8 “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.

Beware of False Messiah or Rash Predictions: Jesus MOST Important!

Not Surprising Trust of Jews shifted from God of Temple to Temple Itself

SYMBOL Substituted for SUBSTANCE, FORM Replaced FUNCTION

2 Timothy 3.5 “having a form of godliness but denying its power”

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

People Hearing God’s Voice > Trust OWN REASON and ABILITY

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

For Many when Symbol Destroyed > their FAITH was SNUFFED OUT

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

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

2. Wrath and Suffering

22 for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written.

23 there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people.

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.

Temple place of Righteousness > Truth, Holiness, Justice, Mercy, Grace

Designed to be Holy, Set Apart > Place where GOD HIMSELF DWELLS

Became place of PROFITEERING – OPPRESSION – CORRUPTION

Great High Priest, Lord Jesus – tried to CLEANSE Temple > REJECTED

Leaders REJECTION of Jesus put Plan of FINAL Judgment in MOTION

"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

Ch 21 SOLEMN Message – God WILL Cleanse his POLLUTED Temple

2 Cataclysmic ENDS in Ch 21 > End of JERUSALEM & End of WORLD

PUBLIC Ministry > ENDED with CONFLICT with TEMPLE Authorities

22.52,53 Jesus said to chief priests & officers of temple & elders, who had come out against him, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.”

They THOT were ENGINEERING HIS Death > but it was THEIR OWN

Since Jesus is KEYSTONE of God’s True TEMPLE

Nailing Him to CROSS > ‘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

Because they Rejected God’s Stone: No Stone on their Temple will Stand

Impossible to Imagine 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

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

Josephus > Wars of the Jews > Vivid Detail human sacrifice, cannibalism, crucifixion

“living envied the dead who were lying unburied in the streets”

“the anger of that God who is the author of that destruction”

Like a BATTLESHIP that was DE-COMMISSIONED

Now called ICHABOD because the GLORY of GOD had DEPARTED

Charles Spurgeon “The beautiful city was the very crown of the entire earth, because God had dwelt there. It may be compared to a diamond in a ring, the jewel whose setting was the whole world; and when that jewel was destroyed, and God did as it were to grind it into powder, it was a warning that the ring itself would by-and-by be consumed”

3. Welcome the Son of Man

True Temple Should’ve been INVITED, Leaders saw Party CRASHER

For Jesus in Luke > ENTERING Jerusalem is ENTERING the TEMPLE

STRANGER to Temple > Held NO Formal Position, Titles, Importance

PASSION Narrative > Temple Conflict led to His DEATH

Even Before Arriving Jesus heart HEAVY with Grim ANTICIPATION

// GENERAL Surveying the PLACE of BATTLE > Battle of HIS LIFE!

Luke 19:41-44 when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

Ch 19 Parable – Honored Son of Landowner > MURDERED by Tenants

MOST EXALTED description of Jesus in LUKE thus Far

vs. 27 then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Son of Man, NOT ref 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

Sovereign > KNOWS what NO ONE Else CAN KNOW

BJ Subway Squeezed into Car > Stand for an Hour > Heads in PHONES

Heads Down – Playing w Phones, Sleeping – or at least PRETENDING

Those SEATED: 'Look Up! – OLD MAN & WIFE > Stand Up! Give Up!

v. 28 "Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near"

SEE God's 'Redemption' – Full & Final Salvation

LOOK UP! See God – His World – His Word – His REDEMPITIVE 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 Unknow: FACT of Coming is UNDISPUTABLE

WW2 – Nazi controlled Netherlands > British paratroopers Landed

In Dutch Town > Villagers called One Another: “Tommies on their way!”

All over Oosterbeek Villagers Put Down phones and Screamed for Joy > An Invasion! How

Wonderful! Best News they had Heard!!

When you are Captured by Deadly Enemy > Great Joy when Driven Out!!

Psalm 60 O God, you have rejected us, broken our defenses; you have been angry; oh, restore us. // **You have made the land to quake; you have torn it open; repair its breaches, for it totters.** // You have made your people see hard things; you have given us wine to drink that made us stagger. // **You have set up a banner for those who fear you, that they may flee to it from the bow.** // That your beloved ones may be delivered, give salvation by your right hand and answer us! // **God has spoken in his holiness: “With exultation I will divide up Shechem and portion out the Vale of Succoth.** // Gilead is mine; Manasseh is mine; Ephraim is my helmet; Judah is my scepter. // **Moab is my washbasin; upon Edom I cast my shoe; over Philistia I shout in triumph.”** // Who will bring me to the fortified city? Who will lead me to Edom? // **Have you not rejected us, O God? You do not go forth, O God, with our armies.** Oh, grant us help against the foe, for vain is the salvation of man! **With God we shall do valiantly; it is he who will tread down our foes. Amen and Amen.**