

Lesson 24- Luke 21:5-22:13 The Destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem Foretold, The Coming of the Son of Man, A Plot to Kill Jesus, Preparation for Passover.

The Temple in Jerusalem was originally rebuilt by Zerubbabel and Ezra (Ezra 5:16), but greatly expanded and improved by Herod. It was the center of Jewish life for almost a thousand years. After Herod, the temple was huge-nearly 500 yards long and 400 yards wide. The stones of the Temple are said to be over 40 ft. long. Herod's rebuilding work started in 19 B.C., and was completed in 63 A.D., taking more than eighty years. It was finished seven years before it was destroyed. The Jewish historian Josephus says that the temple was covered on the outside with gold plates. Some 40 years after Jesus predicted the destruction of the Temple, there was a widespread Jewish revolution against the Romans in Palestine. But ultimately, Rome crushed the rebels; Jerusalem was leveled, including the temple-just as Jesus predicted.

1. Read Luke 21:5-11 and footnotes.

Share any helpful information you find in your footnotes. Go through verse by verse and list the events that Jesus is predicting.

Luke 21:5-11 While some people were speaking about how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings, he said, ⁶“All that you see here—the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down.” ⁷Then they asked him, “Teacher, when will this happen? And what sign will there be when all these things are about to happen?” ⁸He answered, “See that you not be deceived, for many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he,’ and ‘The time has come.’ Do not follow them! ⁹When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for such things must happen first, but it will not immediately be the end.” ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place; and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky.

2. Read 21:9 again. What is important about this verse in the overall prophesy?

3. Read Luke 21:12-19 and footnotes. What is the prophesy here? What is Jesus' advice and promise to his disciples? Is there anything positive about this prophesy or this advice? Luke 21:12-19 ¹²“Before all this happens, however, they will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³It will lead to your giving testimony. ¹⁴Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, ¹⁵for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute. ¹⁶You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all because of my name, ¹⁸but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. ¹⁹By your perseverance you will secure your lives.

4. Read Luke 21:20-24 and footnotes. What are the disciples told to do when the war begins? What is meant by the “times of the Gentiles” in verse 24? (See footnotes)

Luke 21:20-24 ²⁰“When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, know that its desolation is at hand. ²¹Then those in Judea must flee to the mountains. Let those within the city escape from it, and let those in the countryside not enter the city, ²²for these days are the time of punishment when all the scriptures are fulfilled. ²³Woe to pregnant women and nursing mothers in those days, for a terrible calamity will come upon the earth and a wrathful judgment upon this people. ²⁴They will fall by the edge of the sword and be taken as captives to all the Gentiles; and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the *times of the Gentiles* are fulfilled.

5. Read Luke 21:25-28 and Daniel 7:13-14. What does it mean when the Son of Man comes in a cloud?

Luke 21:25-28 “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon 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 But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.”

Daniel 7:13-14. As the visions during the night continued, I saw coming with the clouds of heaven. One like a son of man. When he reached the Ancient of Days and was presented before him,¹⁴ He received dominion, splendor, and kingship; all nations, peoples and tongues will serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, his kingship, one that shall not be destroyed.

6. Read Luke 21:29-36 What is the lesson here? What advice is Jesus giving them?

Luke 21:29-33²⁹ He taught them a lesson. “Consider the fig tree and all the other trees. ³⁰ When their buds burst open, you see for yourselves and know that summer is now near; ³¹ in the same way, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise ³⁵ like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. ³⁶ Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.”

7. Read Luke 22:1-6 and footnotes. Why did Judas turn against Jesus? Share information from footnotes on these verses.

Luke 22:1-6 ¹ Now the feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was drawing near, ² and the chief priests and the scribes were seeking a way to put him to death, for they were afraid of the people. ³ Then Satan entered into Judas, the one surnamed Iscariot, who was counted among the Twelve, ⁴ and he went to the chief priests and temple guards to discuss a plan for handing him over to them. ⁵ They were pleased and agreed to pay him money. ⁶ He accepted their offer and sought a favorable opportunity to hand him over to them in the absence of a crowd.

8. Read Luke 22:6-13 in your Bible. How are the disciples to prepare for Passover?

9. Reflection: What should it mean in to be on guard or watch because we do not know when Jesus will return?