

The Gospel of Luke

The Future Destruction of the Temple

Luke 21:5-24

1. The Destruction of the Temple (vs.5-6)
Originally completed in 521 B.C. by Zerubbabel, Herod the Great began massive renovations in 20 B.C. which were completed nearly eighty years later. Jesus warned the disciples that the temple's beauty would be short-lived.
2. A Question of Timing (v.7)
The destruction of the temple did not fit in with their anticipation (cf. Lk. 24:21; Act. 1:6), and the disciples desired to understand when this would occur.
3. Jesus' Answers (vs.8-19)
 - A. Do Not Be Misled by False Teachers (v.8)
The early church was plagued with people preaching a false gospel (Gal. 1:6-10), those who were proclaiming a false Christ (1 Jn. 2:18, 21-22), and those who were denying the future resurrection (2 Tim. 2:18). Each of these false teachings necessarily leads people away from following Jesus. When he comes, all will know (Lk. 17:36).
 - B. Do Not Be Misled by Terrible Events (vs.9-11)
The destruction of the temple would occur in a time of great strife and sorrow, but there would be many wars and natural disasters that were to occur well before the destruction that Jesus prophesied (cf. Lk. 19:41-44).
 - C. Do Not Be Misled by Persecution (vs.12-19)
Jesus regularly taught that His followers would be persecuted as He was (Mt. 10:24-25; Jn. 15:20). The apostles all experienced persecution and Peter carefully encouraged believers how to respond to persecution (1 Pt. 4:12ff).
4. The Destruction of Jerusalem (vs.20-24)
 - A. The Historical Reality of Jerusalem's Destruction
In A.D. 66 the Roman procurator ruling Judea seized silver from the temple when his tax revenues were low. A great Jewish rebellion followed which ended four years later with one million dead Jews, nearly one hundred thousand taken captive, and the complete destruction of both Jerusalem and the temple.
 - B. The Prophetic Significance of Jerusalem's Destruction
The abiding nature of Jerusalem's calamity was to mark the time of the gentiles (v.24; cf. Dan. 9:26) which will come to an end once the gospel has been preached to the whole world (Mt. 24:14; 28:18-20) and will precede the coming of the Son of Man.