

Luke 21

Luke 21.1-4

V1 – **Why would Jesus be watching the treasury?** A lot can be learned by observing how people give

V2 – **Who put in money?** A certain poor widow

-Notice that we all have an obligation to give something – we all have some kind of income, no matter how small it might be

V3 – **The comment of Jesus?** She put in more than all the others combined

V4 – **How did the rich people give?** Out of their surplus

-**Explain:** Their leftovers

-**How did the widow give?** Out of her necessity

-**What conclusion can be drawn about how God views our giving?** "*as we have prospered*" (1 Corinthians 16.1-2)

-God's work will go on regardless of how we give

-He wants us to give according to self-denial

-The widow entrusted her future to the providence of God; she was truly walking by faith

Luke 21.5-9

V5 – **What impressed the people?** The beautiful temple, its beautiful stones

-We can read First Century accounts of archways, etc.

-**Which temple was this? Solomon's? Zerubbabel's?** No, it was Herod's Temple

-See *Zondervan Bible Encyclopedia*, V, 647 or any other standard Bible reference work

V6 – **What prophecy did Jesus make?** It would all be torn down

-In 70 A.D., the Romans destroyed Jerusalem completely and even plowed it up

-Basically Jerusalem did not exist for the next 200 years

-The "Wailing Wall" is all that is left today of Herod's temple

V7 – **Two questions are asked here?**

1. When will these things take place?

2. What will be the signs leading to these events?

-We must read *Matt. 24.1-35* for a more complete account of this discourse

-*Matt. 24.3* – The question about Jesus' coming and the end of the age

-**Why would faithful Jews expect the Second Coming when the temple was destroyed?** It would be a catastrophe beyond description

V8 – **What did Jesus warn about?** Many deceivers would arise at that time

-Josephus testified of all types of imposters and magicians and false messiahs shortly before the fall of Jerusalem

-We have one mentioned in *Acts 21.38*

-Any time things get rough, there are false teachers that people will follow

-Examples in our time: Dalai Lama, Jim Jones, various psychics and fortune tellers

V 9 – Wars would precede the fall of Jerusalem

-**The attitude of the Christians?** They were not to be terrified by them

-V 5-9 – A prelude to his answer

Luke 21.10-19 – Signs preceding the fall of Jerusalem

V 10 – There would be civil wars and revolts and wars between nations

V 11 – See *Acts 11.28* – a famine in Jerusalem (Paul collected money for the starving people in Jerusalem)

V 12 – **What would happen to the Christians at this time?** They would be persecuted

-Remember *Acts 4.3* – Peter and John were arrested and thrown into prison

-*Acts 5.27* – Peter and the apostles were arrested

-*Acts 22.19* – The words of Paul

-**Before kings?**

-*Acts 25.23* – Before Festus

-*Acts 26* – Before Agrippa

V 13 – **What good thing would come from this persecution?** An opportunity to speak about Christ

V 14 – **What were they not supposed to do?** Try to prepare beforehand what they would say

V 15 – **Why not?** They would be given words to say (the spiritual gifts remained in effect until the New Testament was completed in 95 A.D.)

-*John 16.1-3* – To be guided into all truth

V 16 – According to brother Boles, Tacitus wrote that Christians were betrayed by some of their own number (under Nero's persecution)

V 17 – They would be hated for the sake of Christ

V 18 – **Any ideas?**

1. That they would always be in the providence of God; they could not be taken away from the love of God

2. That the resurrection would give them new perfected bodies

V 19 – **One requirement?** Perseverance

-Their assignment was to remain faithful to Christ at all costs

Luke 21.20-24

V 20 – The historian Eusebius tells us the Christians fled Jerusalem before the final attack in 70 A.D.

-**What was the sign to run for their lives?** Armies around Jerusalem, with a break in the fighting

V 21 – The Roman army withdrew for a short period of time, allowing those who wanted to escape to leave

V 22 – God's vengeance was being carried out against the Jews
-*Romans 12.19* – God will take his vengeance out against the enemies of his people

V 23 – Jesus expressed pity for pregnant women and those with little children in those days
-**Why?** Because being fugitives is always hard on women with little children
-Josephus recalls cannibalism in Jerusalem as the siege continued (awful conditions)

V 24 – Josephus stated that about 1,100,000 Jews were killed when Jerusalem fell and that about 97,000 were taken captive (to be slaves and to fight gladiators)
-**Explain: "The times of the Gentiles"** – God used Gentiles to punish the Jews
-When the destruction was complete, the Gentiles' time would be over
According to brother Wayne Jackson, the "church age" meant that the Jews would be mistreated and abused until the end of the age (the Second Coming of Jesus)

Luke 21.25-28

-Please disregard the heading in the NASB "The Return of Christ" – That is not an inspired heading, because Luke is still talking about the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. (in apocalyptic language)

-In the Old Testament, the "coming of the Lord" did not mean a literal coming, but it meant a day of destruction by the hand of the Lord

-**Read Isaiah 13.6, 9-13** – the destruction of Babylon

-**Read Isaiah 19.1** – the fall of Egypt

-**Read Ezek. 32.7-10** – the destruction of Egypt

V 25 – This is apocalyptic language

-**Read Isaiah 55.12-13**

-**Read Acts 2.17-21** – the Day of Pentecost

V 26 – More exaggerated language to show the terrible nature of the events against the Jews

V 27 – A quote from *Daniel 7.13-14*

-This was about the coming of Christ in the sense of his punishment on Jerusalem for their rejection of his gospel and his people

V 28 – The time of the escape from Jerusalem would be near

-Some commentators believe that this is a reference to the Second Coming of Christ, but the writer of these notes believes that the Lord is still talking about the fall of Jerusalem (the most catastrophic event in the history of Judaism)

Luke 21.29-33 – The Parable of the Fig Tree

V 29 – The lesson was to be based on the trees

V 30 – **What was the lesson?** When leaves come out, we know that summer is near

-Lesson? To watch for the signs

V 31 – A reference back to v 28 – "*your redemption is drawing near*"

-In other words, their redemption from Jerusalem was at hand

-**Read the parallel account: Matt 24.32-35**

V 32 – Greek – See *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, I, 663 – *Mark 13.29*

-The footnote "or *race*" is not correct, but reflects the view of premillennialism

-The word "generation" is the correct translation (See *Matt. 24.34*)

V 33 – The certainty of the words of Jesus

-He is not saying that heaven and earth will pass away in 70 A.D. at the destruction of Jerusalem, but he was saying that the Word of God would endure forever

Luke 21.34-38

V 34 – **What kind of life did Jesus urge on his listeners?** Moderation and abstinence

-They were not let their lives get weighed down with the cares of this life

-In other words, God expects us to put the parallel accounts together and not take only one passage on a subject

-In this verse, Christ seems to be looking forward toward his Second Coming (that will be visited on all the earth), just as *Matt. 24.36* refers to the Second Coming of Jesus

-*Matt. 24.3* – Remember that there were 3 questions asked

V 35 – The Second Coming would affect all the earth

V 36 – Be on the alert

V 37 – He spent the evening on the Mount of Olives

V 38 – Many people were listening to him

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