

THE BOOK OF LUKE

Bible 101 — Summit View Church of Christ

Summer 2023

LUKE 21

Review

Beginning in Luke 19:45, Jesus has been in Jerusalem, teaching in the temple daily (19:47), instructing the people and debating with representatives of various Jewish groups as they challenged him. This is the last week before his crucifixion. It's mid-week now, and Jesus will be betrayed and arrested Thursday night and killed on Friday.

Luke 21:1-4

- In what sense had the poor widow “put in more than all the others”?
- How does the widow’s faith or righteousness stand out in comparison with the rich who brought gifts to the temple?
- Compare this widow with the teachers of the law as Jesus describes them in the preceding section, 20:45-47. Which of these—the teachers or the widow—would Jesus hold up as a model for us to follow? Why?

Luke 21:5-38

This section of Jesus’ teaching is a bit confusing because Jesus goes beyond answering the disciples’ questions about when the temple will be destroyed and describes what will happen when he comes again. Matthew 24:3 explains that the disciples had asked about that event, too: “Tell us...when will this happen [the temple’s destruction], and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” Jesus, then, answers their questions about both the temple’s destruction and his future return.

THE QUESTIONS — 21:5-7

- What did Jesus prophesy about the future of God’s temple in Jerusalem?
- Recall Luke 19:41-44. Why would Jerusalem—including God’s temple—be destroyed?
- What two questions did the disciples ask Jesus, according to Luke?
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ANSWER #1, CONCERNING THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM — 21:8-24

21:8 — Jesus actually begins his answer with a warning about his own return. What warning does he give?

21:9 — What warning does Jesus give concerning wars and uprisings?

21:10-12 — In the future, there will be wars, earthquakes, famines, and other fearful events. But in the nearer future (“before all this,” verse 12), what will happen to Jesus’ disciples?

- verse 13 — What will the disciples do for Jesus?

21:14-15 — Why should Jesus' disciples, knowing such things will happen to them, not worry beforehand about how they will defend themselves?

21:16-18 — How should Jesus' disciples respond to others' betrayal and hatred of them, and even the threat of death?

- How do you make sense of the contradiction between Jesus' prophecy that some disciples will be put to death (verse 16) and his promise, "But not a hair of your head will perish" (verse 18)?

21:20 — What will happen to Jerusalem? _____

21:21 — What should those who see these armies coming do? _____

21:22 — This will be a time of _____ for Jerusalem.

21:23 — This will be a dreadful day for _____ women and _____ mothers.

21:24 — What will happen to the people in Jerusalem? _____

- How long will Jerusalem "be trampled on by the Gentiles"?

Christians in Jerusalem Remembered Jesus' Prophecy — These excerpts come from Christian historians' writings in the 300s AD. They tell how Christians, remembering Jesus' predictions of Jerusalem's destruction, fled Jerusalem as Roman armies advanced toward the city during the Jewish revolt of AD 66-73. Jerusalem was destroyed in AD 70. The Christians settled in Pella, 20 miles south of the Sea of Galilee, on the east bank of the Jordan River, in the region of Perea in the Decapolis.

Eusebius, *Church History* 3.5.3

But the people of the church in Jerusalem had been commanded by a revelation, vouchsafed to approved men there before the war, to leave the city and to dwell in a certain town of Perea called Pella. And when those that believed in Christ had come there from Jerusalem, then, as if the royal city of the Jews and the whole land of Judea were entirely destitute of holy men, the judgment of God at length overtook those who had committed such outrages against Christ and his apostles, and totally destroyed that generation of impious men.

Epiphanius, *Panarion* 29.7.7-8

...[A]ll the disciples had settled in Pella after their remove from Jerusalem—Christ having told them to abandon Jerusalem and withdraw from it because of the siege it was about to undergo. And they settled in Perea for this reason and, as I said, lived their lives there.

Epiphanius, *On Weights and Measures* 15

For when the city was about to be taken and destroyed by the Romans, it was revealed in advance to all the disciples by an angel of God that they should remove from the city, as it was going to be completely destroyed. They sojourned as emigrants in Pella, the city above mentioned, in Transjordan. And this city is said to be of the Decapolis.

ANSWER #2, CONCERNING THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN — 21:25-38

21:25-28 — To what event will all these terrifying signs point? _____

- What should Jesus' disciples do when these things begin to take place?

21:29-31 — When these things happen, you will know that the _____ is near.

21:32-33 — "This _____ will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. _____ and _____ will pass away, but my _____ will never pass away."

21:34-36 — Be careful not to let your hearts be weighed down with...

- Instead, be always on the _____, and pray that you may be able to _____, and that you may be able to _____.

21:37-38 — Each day Jesus was teaching at the _____. Each evening Jesus spent the night on the hill called the _____ of _____. All the people came early in the morning to _____ him at the _____.