

Your Notes

**Jesus' predictions are not limited to first century fulfillment.**

**:1-2 THE TEMPLE WILL BE TORN DOWN.** MT. 24; LK. 21:5-36

**:3-8 DON'T BE MISLED BY FALSE MESSIAHS, WARS, EARTHQUAKES,  
AND FAMINES.**

Four signposts that point to the destruction of the temple:

- (1) There will be **false messiahs**.
- (2) There will be **wars and rumors of wars**.
- (3) There will be **natural calamities**.
- (4) The apostles **will be persecuted**.

**:9-13 BE PREPARED FOR COMING PERSECUTION AND OPPORTUNITIES  
TO SHARE.** MT. 10:19-22; LK. 21:12-17

Concern over setting the date of the end is to be replaced by being faithful to the end. Genuine faith will be revealed by Christian living that will endure false messiahs, wars, political turmoil, natural calamities, persecution. These things will weed out the unfaithful. If you're a Christian, you will finish the race because, as we know, the basis of salvation is faith in the Person and finished work of Jesus on the cross. Endurance will reveal that we are His, that we are being persecuted for His sake. Let's also continue to be committed to proclaiming the good news to all nations, using the opportunities to share the good news.

**FOR NEXT WEEK:** Please read Mark 13:14-23. In :14, first read Mt. 24:15-25, Dan. 9:27, 11:31, 12:11, and 2 Th. 2:3-12. What is the message of Jesus in Mk. 13:14? In :15-18, what is His counsel? In :19-20, what is Jesus' powerful warning? In :21-23, how are followers of Jesus to respond? Wow!

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What if someone told us the White House and Capital buildings were going to be destroyed, with no stone left upon another? Jesus told the apostles the Jerusalem temple would be destroyed :1-2, the labor pains leading up to it :3-13, a Great Tribulation that was coming :14-23, after which the Son of Man would return, :24-27.

How much of this chapter is related to the destruction of the temple in AD 70, and to what extent is Jesus speaking of His second coming? At least the first verses understand Jesus' disciples to expect these things in their lifetimes. Yet, **JESUS' PREDICTIONS ARE NOT LIMITED TO FIRST CENTURY FULFILLMENT.**

**READ Mt. 23:37-39. READ :1-2. THE TEMPLE WILL BE TORN DOWN. MT. 24; LK. 21:5-36.**

The coming judgment (:1-2). Don't be deceived (:5-6) or be distracted (:7-8). Be on your guard (:9-13).

**:1 As He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!"**

**:1 READ.** Jesus was pronouncing final judgment on this center of Jewish life. This temple, rebuilt by Herod the Great, was being abandoned by Jesus. "Teacher, look at the wonderful stones and buildings!" Josephus tells us that some of these stones were 38' long, 12' high, and 18' wide, some weighing 100 tons or more. It was one of the architectural wonders of the Roman world. Covering 1/6 of city land area, marble walls, golden dome, covered with plates of gold. But...

**:2 And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down."**

**:2 READ.** Its magnificence and beauty wouldn't save it. In 40 years Jesus' prophecy would come true. The temple and city were demolished in A.D. 70 by the Roman armies. Josephus writes after it had been demolished, "No one visiting the city would believe it had ever been inhabited." No, not one stone!

Jesus was preparing His disciples for the day when the outward religious structure would be taken away. Even today, except for some stones that made up the western/wailing foundation, nothing remains of Herod's Temple. Probably in shock and silence they continued on to the Mt. of Olives.

In :3-8 Jesus gives His disciples clarity about the coming years and how to respond in the meantime. Two perspectives: (a) the nearer event, which was the destruction of Jerusalem (A.D. 70); and (b) the far event, the coming of the Son of Man in clouds with power and glory. With 19 commands in :5-37, this is practical!

**READ :3-8. DON'T BE MISLED BY FALSE MESSIAHS, WARS, EARTHQUAKES, AND FAMINES.**

**:3-4 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew were questioning Him privately, :4 "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?"**

**:3** As Jesus and His men were sitting on the Mt. of Olives overlooking the temple area to the west (majestic sight even today), four disciples asked Him: **:4** "When will these things happen?" "What will be sign (of Your coming and the end of the age?" **Mt. 24:3**). If we want the full account of how Jesus answered, we must read Mt. 24-25 and Lk. 21. When? What sign?

**Lk. 19:11** tells us that the disciples thought the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately. They probably assumed the destruction of the temple was one of the events that would usher in the kingdom of God on earth.

**And Jesus began to say to them, "See to it that no one misleads you.**

**:5 READ.** 'See to it' means keep awake, aware, watchful. Don't be deceived by deceivers. Jesus provides **FOUR SIGNPOSTS THAT POINT TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE:** (1) THERE WILL BE **FALSE MESSIAHS.** (2) THERE WILL BE **WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS.** (3) THERE WILL BE **NATURAL CALAMITIES.** (4) THE APOSTLES **WILL BE PERSECUTED.**

Again, to better understand this chapter, go to **Mt. 24.** In those verses is a reference to tribulation in :9, great tribulation in :21, and after the tribulation :29.

**:6 "Many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He!' and will mislead many.**

**:6 READ.** Here is the first of the 'labor pains.' Messianic pretenders, saying they are Jesus (lit. I am!), offering themselves as the solution to the world's problems. Keep awake! We are vulnerable to being misled by deceivers in times of war, natural calamities, persecution. But, these are just birth pains.

**:7** "When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be frightened; those things must take place; but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

**:7-8a READ.** Wars and rumors of wars will dominate the headlines. Don't be troubled, alarmed, lit. wail aloud. Don't misinterpret contemporary events! This isn't yet the end of the temple or the age, just another labor pain.

**:8** There will be earthquakes in various places; there will also be famines. These things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.

**:8b** There will be natural disasters. These happenings will keep many in a state of fear. Don't give in; trust God. Each earthquake or famine we hear about should remind us that Jesus is coming and we should be faithful to Him.

Keep awake! These are just the beginning, not the end. He refers to these as the labor pains, the sharp pains preceding childbirth. These things will occur throughout the age.

He goes on in :9-13 to describe for His disciples what their role will be during those days. He also tells them the reception they can expect from the world: Closed hearts and open doors. Persecution and opportunity.

**READ :9-13. BE PREPARED FOR COMING PERSECUTION AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE.** MT. 10:19-22; LK. 21:12-17. **:9 READ.** Don't be deceived by persecution because of your faith in Jesus. Disciples, be on your guard; this is your future. Persecution by Jews and Gentiles, betrayal by family members, and hatred from the public. Gulp!

**:9** "But be on your guard; for they will deliver you to the courts, and you will be flogged in the synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them.

**:9 READ.** Don't be deceived by persecution because of your faith in Jesus. Disciples, be on your guard; this is your future. Persecution by Jews and Gentiles, betrayal by family members, and hatred from the public. Gulp!

Synagogues were used as places of assembly and as courtrooms. There will be religious persecution (beaten with 39 strokes) and political persecution (lit. be made to stand before kings and governors). Today estimated that around 11% of those who profess the name of Jesus are being persecuted.

Jesus' way would be theirs. Yet, these will be doorways to worldwide evangelism. Peter and John (Acts 3-4); Paul (Acts 9:15, 1 Tim. 2:1-2, Phil. 1:12-14). CONSIDER OPPOSITION AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THE NAME AND WORDS OF JESUS. During these unavoidable times of persecution, these disciples would have opportunity to share with the persecutors words that would be given at the time by the Holy Spirit. Rather than thwarting the gospel, persecution and trials advanced the good news.

**:10 "The gospel must first be preached to all the nations.**

**:10 READ.** The fuller statement appears in **Mt. 24:14**, 'preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations.' Jesus wanted His disciples to view persecution not as a threat but as an opportunity. So, "You'll be able to proclaim the good news of Me to all nations. True for us also. One tool for worldwide evangelism, strangely enough, is persecution.

**:11** "When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit.

**:11 READ.** The Holy Spirit will speak through you. Peter before the Sanhedrin. Stephen before the Jewish elders. Paul speaking with such wisdom when he stood before King Agrippa and Felix and Festus, the Roman governors.

The Holy Spirit would enable them to say the right things at the right times with boldness despite their natural fears. "Depend on the Holy Spirit, who will give you the appropriate words to say in defense of your faith in the Lord Jesus." This is not a proof text for teaching pastors who don't do their work!!

**:12 "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death.**

**:12 READ.** This persecution will be so bitter it will destroy the closest natural ties. Opposition from everyone, traitors even from within families. There will be no 'safe places, sanctuary cities', for the Christian.

**:13 "You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.**

**:13 READ.** (Mt. 10:22 says the same in another context.) Jesus is the focus of attention in this chapter. Hated by all just because we are followers of Jesus.

The apostle Paul taught the same: 'In the last days difficult times will come.' It will be an age dominated by stress, suffering and betrayal (2 Tim. 3:1-13). '...all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted' (2 Tim. 3:12). Yet, in Jesus people will endure to the end (2 Tim. 2:19), enduring because we belong to Him. Whether persecution from without or division from within, the church continued to grow (Acts 4:4, 33; 5:14; 6:7; 8:4; 9:31).

What a unique role given by Jesus to the apostles. These 'labor pains' will be the standard operating procedure up until the time they see what Daniel called 'the abomination that makes desolate.' So in :14-23 Jesus will answer the disciples' second question, 'What will be the sign?'

CONCERN OVER SETTING THE DATE OF THE END IS TO BE REPLACED BY BEING FAITHFUL TO THE END. GENUINE FAITH WILL BE REVEALED BY CHRISTIAN LIVING THAT WILL ENDURE FALSE MESSIAHS, WARS, POLITICAL TURMOIL, NATURAL CALAMITIES, PERSECUTION. THESE THINGS WILL WEED OUT THE UNFAITHFUL. IF YOU'RE A CHRISTIAN, YOU WILL FINISH THE RACE BECAUSE, AS WE KNOW, THE BASIS OF SALVATION IS FAITH IN THE PERSON AND FINISHED WORK OF JESUS ON THE CROSS. ENDURANCE WILL REVEAL THAT WE ARE HIS, THAT WE ARE BEING PERSECUTED FOR HIS SAKE. LET'S ALSO CONTINUE TO BE COMMITTED TO PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL NATIONS, USING THE OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS.

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## EXTRA NOTES:

:1-2 :1 As He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" :2 And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down."

:3-8 :3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew were questioning Him privately, :4 "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?" :5 And Jesus began to say to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. :6 "Many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He!' and will mislead many. :7 "When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be frightened; those things must take place; but that is not yet the end. :8 "For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will also be famines. These things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.

:9-13 :9 "But be on your guard; for they will deliver you to the courts, and you will be flogged in the synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them. :10 "The gospel must first be preached to all the nations. :11 "When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit. :12 "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. :13 "You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

:1 With Jesus gone and His enemies' silence, "the inside walls must have had a hollow ring."

:1 To accomplish this enlargement, a huge platform had to be erected to compensate for the sharp falling off of the land to the southeast. An enormous retaining wall was built to hold the platform in place. At the southeast corner the temple platform towered two hundred feet above the Kidron Valley. The "Rabbi's Tunnel" runs N-S along the western wall. It is a portion of the western side of the retaining wall that today is called the Wailing Wall.

:2 In his history The Wars of the Jews, Josephus counts over one million inhabitants of the city who died by crucifixion, sword, or famine. He also records the actions of starving people who became murderers, animals, and cannibals in order to survive.

:3 Daniel in the OT and the Revelation in the NT are examples of books that are apocalyptic in nature.

:4 With care, Jesus led the disciples through the next 40 years and beyond so they wouldn't be surprised about what would happen or what to do in the meantime.

:4 Several of these events have a dual fulfillment. Some described were to be fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and some are yet to be fulfilled during the tribulation days that precede Jesus' second coming.

:4 'Lord, are there few that be saved?' (Lk. 13:23), to which the Lord's sole reply was a warning to the disciples to make sure that they themselves were among the number of the saved.

Though the earlier verses may apply specifically to His disciples, the latter ones can't.

:5 OT passages about the day of the Lord. Amos 5:16-20. Isaiah 13:6-16. Joel 2-3.

:8 By :8 we are probably dealing with conditions of the first half of the Tribulation, to be followed in :14 by events which introduce the great Tribulation or the last half of the Tribulation.

:8b Even creation is groaning in labor, waiting for God's consummation (Rom. 8:22).

:10 Until these apostles had preached the gospel to the whole known world. Rom. 15:19; Col 1:6; 1 Tim 3:16.

:10 Instead of looking for signs of the end, get busy and spread the 'good news!' to all peoples."

:11 This promise is for those who are hauled unexpectedly into courts by their persecutors, not for those who have the duty of Christian instruction of others laid upon them, in set places and at set times.

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In :3-8 Jesus gives His disciples clarity about the end of the world and how to live in it in the meantime. Two perspectives: (a) the nearer event, which was the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70; and (b) the far event, the coming of the Son of Man in clouds with power and glory. He tells them how to respond while the events unfolded. There are 19 imperatives in :5-37 which means this is practical!

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**:6 READ.** Here is the first of the 'labor pains.' Messianic pretenders, saying they are Jesus (lit. I am!). An increasing number of false messiahs offering themselves as the solution to the world's problems. Don't get caught up in such deceivers. Keep awake! We are vulnerable to being misled by deceivers in times of war, natural calamities, persecution. But, these are just birth pains.

**:7 "When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be frightened; those things must take place; but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.**

**:7-8a READ.** There will be earth-shaking events in the political and natural realms. Wars and rumors of wars will dominate the headlines. Don't be troubled, alarmed, lit. wail aloud. Don't misinterpret contemporary events! This isn't yet the end of the temple or the age, just another labor pain.

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**:9 "But be on your guard; for they will deliver you to the courts, and you will be flogged in the synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them.**

**:9 READ.** The last great warning is lest the Christian be tripped up by the bitter persecution he will suffer for his faith. Be on your guard; this is your future.

Persecution by the Jews and the Gentiles, betrayal by family members, and hatred from the public. Gulp! Synagogues were used as places of assembly and as courtrooms. There will be religious persecution (beaten with 39 strokes) and political persecution (lit. be made to stand before kings and governors). Today estimated that 60% (check with Don) of those who profess the name of Jesus are being persecuted.

Jesus' way would be theirs. Yet, these will be doorways to worldwide evangelism. Peter and John (Acts 3-4); Paul (Acts 9:15, 1 Tim. 2:1-2, Phil. 1:12-14). **CONSIDER THE OPPOSITION AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THE NAME AND WORDS OF JESUS.** During these unavoidable times of persecution, these disciples would have opportunity to witness with words that will be given at the time by the Holy Spirit. Rather than thwarting the gospel, persecution and trials advance the good news. This text ought to shape our expectations about the future. We can be realistic about it.

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**:10 READ.** The fuller statement appears in **Mt. 24:14**, 'preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations.' Jesus wants His disciples to view persecution not as a threat but as an opportunity. So, "You'll be able to proclaim the good news of Me to all nations. Instead of looking for signs of the end, get busy and spread the 'good news!' to all peoples." True for us also.

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**:12 READ.** This persecution will be so bitter it destroys the closest natural ties. Opposition from everyone, traitors even from within families. Even this shouldn't make us stumble, for our Lord told us beforehand. There will be no 'safe places, sanctuary cities', for the Christian.

Jesus could be quoting from **Mic. 7:1-6**, especially **7:7-8** read.

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**:13 READ.** (**Mt. 10:22** says the same in another context.) Jesus is the focus of attention in this chapter. Hated by all just because we are followers of Jesus. The apostle Paul taught the same: 'In the last days difficult times will come.' It will be an age dominated by stress, suffering and betrayal (2 Tim. 3:1-13). '...all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted' (2 Tim. 3:12). Yet, in Jesus we will endure to the end (2 Tim. 2:19). We'll endure because we belong to Him. Whether persecution from without or division from within, the church continued to grow (Acts 4:4, 33; 5:14; 6:7; 8:4; 9:31).

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Use Ray Boltz' I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb or use the Gospel of Mark DVD.

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