

JESUS LEAVES THE TEMPLE

¹ Jesus left the temple and was walking away when His disciples came up to Him to call His attention to its buildings. ² “Do you see all these things?” He asked. “Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.” ³ As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?”

Matthew 24.1-3

Luke has noted for us that Jesus left the temple each evening to spend the night on the Mount of Olives—no doubt to spend time in prayer preparing for His sacrificial death. The writer to Hebrews tells us—

During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, He offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the One who could save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverent submission.

Hebrews 5.7

We now see Jesus leaving the temple for the final time. He will not return to teach there again. In just a few days He will offer Himself as the eternally sufficient sacrifice that renders the Old Order obsolete and establishes the eternal merit of the New Order. In the temple, the Curtain of Separation will be torn in pieces, replaced with the access of a new and living way into the eternal Most Holy Place for all those who believe in Him.

As they are leaving, His disciples drew His attention to the grandeur of the temple edifice. Remember that while He was in the temple, in telling the parable of the wicked tenants, Jesus had declared, “Have you not even read this Scripture: ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.’ ” Now in reply to His disciples, Jesus declared the destruction of the temple. Then on the Mount of Olives with the temple and Jerusalem displayed in panoramic view, Jesus began to prophesy about the future, from the fall of Jerusalem to the time of His return. His parables take on an eschatological theme that emphasizes the imminency of His return and the accountability that will be required of His followers. The words “watch,” “pray,” “be ready,” proliferate His teaching. As you read His words, spoken in the shadow of His impending death, may your heart be stirred to be awake and ready for His return.

The Spiritual and Geopolitical Conditions of the Future

- Matthew 24.3-28 (Mark 13.3-23; Luke 21.7-19)

The Imminent Destruction of Jerusalem

- Luke.21.20-24

Deciphering Events and Timing: The Parable of the Fig Tree

- Luke 21.25-33 (Matthew 24.29-35; Mark 13.24-30)

Readiness and Accountability

- The urgency necessity to “take heed, watch and pray!” Mark 13.32-37
- The correlation to the sin and obliviousness in the days of Noah: Matthew 24.36-44
- Parables of Readiness: The Servants and the Wedding Party: Matthew 24.45-25.13
- The Judgment of the Nations: Matthew 25.21-46
- “Be careful and pray always” Luke 21.34-38