

THE OLIVET PROPHECY

Quote:

And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Luke 21:34-36

Signs of Jerusalem's Destruction

Luke 21:6 - **“the days will come”** - refers to the days in the disciples lives after the Lord had ascended into heaven - **Matt 9:15; Mk 2:20; Lk 5:35; 17:22.**

“There shall not be left one stone upon another” - Refers to the temple (v5). This was the judgment on the leprous house (**Lev 14:45; Lk 19:43-44; Matt 23:38**). See also **Dan 8:11; Zech 5:4; Matt 24:2**

Luke 21:7 - **“these things”** - ie the destruction of the temple (v5-6).

Luke 21:8 - Refers to false Christs that would arise with the real potential to deceive the disciples. See **1 Jn 2:18; 2 Jn 7; Tit 1:10-11.**

Examples: **Acts 5:36-37** (“Theudus”); **Acts 21:38** (“That Egyptian”). Moffat says, “One rival messiah after another,.. kindled the passions of the people against the Roman authorities...”

Luke 21:9 - **“hear of wars and commotions”** - **Matt 24:6** also has **“rumours of wars”** - see **Jas 4:1-2; Acts 12:20** (Ancient kings displeasure would often lead to war). Judah was constantly under Roman threat: AD 40 - The Emperor Caligula ordered an army to march on Jerusalem and place his statue in the Temple - he was forced to withdraw (Josephus, Antiquities 18:8.1-9; Wars 2:10.1-5)

AD 66 - Gessius Florus (procurator) forcibly took money from the temple treasury, resulting in bloody clashes (Wars, 2:14.2).

AD 69 saw massive upheaval in the Roman Empire, in which 3 emperors perished and desperate battles ensued (Tacitus: The Histories).

Luke 21:11 - **“great earthquakes shall be in divers places”** - See **Matt 27:51; Acts 16:26.** History also records: Earthquake of Pompei (5th Feb AD63); earthquakes in Crete, Campania, Rome, Judea, Miletus, Chios, Samos, Laodicean, Colosse and Hierapolis about this time.

“Famines” - eg. **Acts 11:28-29.**

Key Words

- **Fulfilled:** Gk ‘ginomai’ - Colour blue. Translated - **“Fulfilled” / “come to pass”** - 6x - v7, 9, 28, 31, 32, 36
- **These Things:** Gk ‘tauta’ - Colour red. Translated **“these things”** - 6x - v6, 7 (2x), 9, 31, 36. Note also Gk ‘touton’ - Translated **“these” / “these things”** - 2x - v12, 28.
- **Nations:** Gk ‘ethnos’ - Colour green. Translated **“nation” / “Gentiles”** - 6x - v10 (2x), 24 (3x), 25.

Luke 21:12-18 - Persecution of Christians unto death; who should be hated of all nations on account of the name of Christ.

See the Lord's prediction - **Lk 12:51-53**. Examples:

- **2 Cor 4:8-11** - troubled, persecuted, cut down...
- **Acts 4** - Peter and John imprisoned and threatened.
- **Acts 5** - Apostles imprisoned and beaten
- **Acts 7** - Stephen stoned
- **Acts 8:1** - "great persecution"; the ecclesia scattered.
- **Acts 12** - James killed and Peter imprisoned.
- **2 Cor 11:23-26** - Paul's sufferings at the hands of Jews and Gentiles.
- **1 Thes 2:14-16** - Persecution from Jews and Gentiles.

Luke 21:20 - "**when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies**" - These armies were the Romans - styled - "**the abomination of desolation**" **Matt 24:15; Mk 13:14** picked up from **Dan 8:11-13; 9:26-27; 12:11**.

This happened in AD 66 when Cestius attacked Jerusalem and seemed about to succeed when he withdrew (Josephus says, "without any reason in the world" - Wars 2:19.4,7).

Luke 21:21 - "**let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains**" - eg. To Pella (Eusebius - Ecclesiastical History Bk III: ch5).

Warning to Watch

Luke 21:34 - "**take heed**" - To turn ones attention to. See similar warnings: **Matt 25:1-13; 24:50-51; 2 Pet 3:3-4; 1 Thes 5:2-6**.

"overcharged" - means 'to be weighed down'.

"surfeiting" - the giddiness and headache caused by drinking wine. ie the wine of false religion and the things of the world.

"Cares of this life" - Roth - 'concern about livelihood'.

"Cares" - Means 'care' or 'anxiety', and is derived from a word which means to divide - to divide through distraction. See - **Mk 4:19; Matt 13:22; Lk 8:14** - result in unfruitfulness. See **1 Pet 5:7**. Cp **2 Cor 11:28** - Paul's example.

"Unawares" - suddenly or unforeseen. See **1 Thes 5:3**.

Luke 21:35 - "**snare**" - see **Isa 8:13-14**.

"Dwell" - means "to sit" - cp **v36**.

Luke 21:36 - "**watch**" - lit - to be sleepless. Therefore to remain attentive.

"Pray" - ie communicating their trust in Yahweh.

"escape" - means "to seek safety in flight". Used 7x - all in the context of escaping judgment/presecution (**Acts 16:27; 19:16; Rom 2:3; 2 Cor 11:33; 1 Thes 5:3; Heb 2:3**).