



CAPITOL COMMISSION

Jesus' Prediction: Their Temple & Capitol Levelled

JANUARY 13, 2011

David Andersen / PO Box 2020, Chesterfield, VA 23832 / 804-796-9411 / www.capitolcom.org

Matthew 24:1-3 *“Jesus left the temple and was going away, when His disciples came to point out to Him the buildings of the temple. But He answered them, ‘You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.’ As He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?’”* (ESV)

“BUT WHEN YOU SEE JERUSALEM SURROUNDED BY ARMIES, THEN RECOGNIZE THAT HER DESOLATION IS AT HAND. THEN LET THOSE WHO ARE IN JUDEA FLEE TO THE MOUNTAINS, AND LET THOSE WHO ARE IN THE MIDST OF THE CITY DEPART AND LET NOT THOSE WHO ARE IN THE COUNTRY ENTER THE CITY; BECAUSE THESE ARE THE DAYS OF VENGEANCE, IN ORDER THAT ALL THINGS WHICH ARE WRITTEN MAY BE FULFILLED. WOE TO THOSE WHO ARE WITH CHILD AND TO THOSE WHO NURSE BABES IN THOSE DAYS; FOR THERE WILL BE GREAT DISTRESS UPON THE LAND, AND WRATH TO THIS PEOPLE, AND THEY WILL FALL BY THE EDGE OF THE SWORD, AND WILL BE LED CAPTIVE INTO ALL NATIONS; AND JERUSALEM WILL BE TRAMPLED UNDER FOOT BY THE GENTILES UNTIL THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES BE FULFILLED.”

LUKE 21:20-24

Why is there a double emphasis on Jesus' departure? What caused the disciples to be suddenly enamored with the temple? How was Jesus precise prediction perfectly fulfilled? What precisely are the disciples asking?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- > JANUARY 20: DR. VANDER WARNER PASTORS' COMMISSION TO THE CAPITOL, SENATE RM 3
- > JANUARY 27: MATTHEW 24:4-14 THE KING'S PERFECT PREDICTION: FIRST SIGNS

It must have been late in the day on Tuesday of the Passion Week. In the excitement of the Triumphal Entry on Sunday, the disciples must have marveled, but had not yet pondered the weeping words of Jesus as He approached the city, *“If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you when armies will throw up a bank before you, and surround you, and hem you in on every side, and will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize your time of visitation”* (Luke 19:42-44). On Monday Jesus returned to the city and cleansed the temple from its robbery by their leaders, establishing it again as a *“HOUSE OF PRAYER”* (Mark 11:17). Tuesday, the furious leaders peppered Jesus with questions to destroy Him, but His answers continually indicted them and revealed their wicked, foolish hearts. The most powerful answer was to their final question, *“Which is the great commandment in the Law?”* They expected to debate and trap Him regarding various levels of crime, but Jesus' answer revealed the root of all crime and provided the simple standard by which all laws can easily be measured. *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it; ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets”* (Matthew 22:37-40). With all the light of all the Bible spotlighting their murderous hearts and full proof from the Scriptures and lineage that Jesus was the Messiah, there was not even a trace of repentance by His leaders! So He exposed their pride and declared seven woes upon them climaxing in full abandonment.

“SEE! YOUR HOUSE IS LEFT TO YOU DESOLATE; FOR I SAY TO YOU, YOU SHALL SEE ME NO MORE TILL YOU SAY, ‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!’” (MATT. 23:38-39)

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30AM – INTERCESSORY PRAYER – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY @ 7:00AM – BIBLE STUDY – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY @ 12:00NOON – BIBLE STUDY – WYTESTONE PLAZA AT 8TH & MAIN 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

Virginia

Jesus' Prediction: Their Temple & Capitol Levelled

I. ABANDON ENHANCED BY APPEAL MT. 24:1

The disciples are patriotic and must have difficulty believing their ears. Jesus had just said that the abandoned temple was now the leaders' and the leaders would never see Him there again until they blessed Him as God's representative! He was now leaving the temple for the last time and the reality of His final departure was evident. Matthew relates it with a double emphasis, "*Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple.*" But sensing the abandon and still feeling an attachment to their greatest object of national pride, "*the disciples came to point out to Him the buildings of the temple.*" They began to appeal and intercede. "*Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!*" (Mark 13:1) And "*some were talking about the temple, that it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts*" (Luke 21:5). But beautiful stones, wonderful buildings and lucrative gifts cannot atone for sin! Surly included here is the memory of all the history that surrounds such a significant building. But they well know they cannot appeal that it is "holy" or "sacred" because Christ is abandoning it due to the wickedness of those within it. The leaders have sinned away their last opportunity and even the appeal of His disciples only enhanced the finality of judgment upon this den of robbers and murderers.

"IT WAS BUILT OF WHITE MARBLE PLATED WITH GOLD AND IT SHONE IN THE SUN SO THAT PEOPLE COULD SCARCELY LOOK AT IT." WILLIAM BARCLAY

II. ABANDON BRINGS UTTER DESTRUCTION MT. 24:2

Jesus ignored all the value, beauty, size, wealth and significance of the temple and instead looked at His leaders' hearts (I Samuel 16:7). He had pronounced "Woe's" upon their refusal of the truth and their unwillingness to allow others to hear the truth (23:13), their taking advantage of the widows (23:14), their zeal to promote lies that would destroy others (23:15), their

delight in and ability to justify deceit (23:16-22), their tendency to emphasize the insignificant and overlook the important for their own ends (23:23-24), their ability to look good outwardly while full of lawlessness (23:25-28), their interest in honoring the dead who stood for God while persecuting those who currently stood for the truth of God's Word (23:29-31). Jesus then exclaimed, "*You serpents, you brood of vipers, how shall you escape the sentence of hell?*" (23:33) Jesus responded to the disciples appeal for the temple, "*You see all these things, do you not? Truly (amen) I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.*" Jesus again uses the strongest negation available in the Greek and literally says, "*there will not possibly be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down!*" When Titus took Jerusalem in AD 70, he did everything he could to preserve the temple from being burned, but after it was burned, he ordered the temple and the city to be leveled to the ground!

"IT WAS SO THOROUGHLY LAID EVEN WITH THE GROUND BY THOSE WHO DUG IT UP TO THE FOUNDATION, THAT THERE WAS LEFT NOTHING TO MAKE THOSE THAT CAME THITHER BELIEVE IT HAD EVER BEEN INHABITED." JOSEPHUS

III. ABANDON IS NOT WITHOUT WARNING MT. 24:3

The disciples must have been astounded at the impact of Jesus' prophecy and there is no conversation recorded as they silently left the doomed temple, crossed the Kidron Valley and climbed the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem from the East. In their minds, the annihilation of their temple and capitol would not only include the destruction of their nation, but also the end of the world. Jesus' answer to the three questions that Peter, James, John and Andrew ask were designed not only to protect the Church from the doom of Jerusalem, but also to protect them from the wickedness of their hearts and the wrath to come.

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Does your life and decisions regarding the law reflect the Greatest Commandments?
- 2) How does the temple of your body show that you are inhabited by God or abandoned by Him?
- 3) What would happen to you if God left you abandoned to yourself?