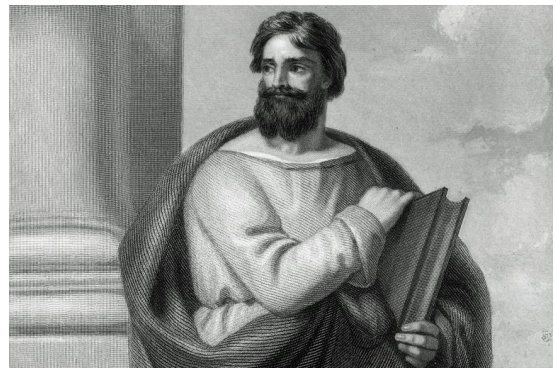


THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

LUKE



LUKE 21

THE WIDOW'S MITES (VV. 1-4)

- What was Jesus doing when He observed the widow making her contribution?
- What was Jesus seeing over and over again?
- Do you suppose the apostles were surprised at Jesus' remarks, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them"?
- How did Jesus come to this conclusion?
- Did this please the Lord?
- What is the principle here?
 - Must we give all to be acceptable? (*Think of the story of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-11*)
 - How much pleases the Lord?
- Do you suppose that we give more like the widow or like the rich men in this story?



NOT ONE STONE LEFT ON ANOTHER (VV. 5, 6)

- What were people talking about that caused Jesus to begin talking about the destruction of the Temple?

- Looking to verse 7, what does it appear that Jesus' disciples thought He was talking about?

PART 1 OF THINGS TO COME (VV. 7-38)

Double Prophecy

One of the more misunderstood portions of the Gospels is this prophecy from Jesus found here in Luke and also in Matthew 24 and Mark 13. The confusion is centered around whether it is referring to the destruction of Jerusalem (which occurred in 70 AD, approximately 40 years later) or about the end of time. Clearly, Jesus is talking about them both, but how can you discern whether He is talking about one or the other? The threads of the destruction of Jerusalem (and the Temple) seem to be intertwined with the threads of prophecy about the end of time in a way that makes it difficult to know what prediction applies to which event. While there are clearly some mysteries (prophecies that are given only in vague, veiled forms) in this prophecy, the secret to untangling things here is a prophetic style or device called "double prophecy", which can be found in many of Old Testament prophets. Essentially, it is one prophecy with two or more fulfillments. Some of the elements of the prophecy are true of both, but some of the elements apply to only one.

The following are a few examples...

- 2 Sam.7:11-17 — The prophet, Nathan, gives David the promise of a son (referring to Solomon) who would continue David's kingdom and build a house for the Lord (the Jerusalem Temple), instead of David. In another sense, the prophecy also referred to the Messiah, Jesus, who would both sit on David's throne and build God's house (the church). One prophecy, two fulfillments.
- Isaiah is full of such prophecies; for example, Isa. 25, Isa. 33:17-24, Isa. 35, Isa. 40:1-8, and Isa. 52:1-12. The Remnant prophecies are often double prophecies in Isaiah, speaking of the return of the nation of Israel from captivity, but also referring to the church as the Gentiles stream from the nations to Zion.
- Jeremiah has double prophecies, too; for example, Jer. 23:5-8 and Jer. 31.
- Daniel's prophecy in Dan. 12, especially as it refers to the "abomination of desolation" (in reference to the destruction of the Temple in AD 70 and the evil times at the end of time), is another double prophecy.

There are others that could be cited, but hopefully these above examples will suffice to illustrate 1) how double prophecy works and 2) that it is a relatively common means of revealing God's plans for the future while also concealing some things that God wants to keep as mysteries. In many ways it is similar to "type and antitype" also seen in Scripture: Melchizedek / Jesus, Israel / the church, Babylon / Rome / the wicked capital of worldliness.

Looking at Parallel Passages

One way of studying this passage is to look also at the other Gospel passages that tell of this prophecy from Jesus. So, we'll be providing both Matthew 24 and Mark 13 in addition to a column of Luke 21 in this study. Our focus will be on Luke 21, but comparison with the other Gospels will give us more information than any one of them by itself.

(LUKE 21:5-36)

5 And while some were talking about the temple, that it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts, He said, 6 "As for these things which you are looking at, the days will come in which there will not be left one stone upon another which will not be torn down." 7 They questioned Him, saying, "Teacher, when therefore will these things happen? And what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?"

8 And He said, "See to it that you are not misled; for many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not go after them. 9 "When you hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end does not follow immediately."

10 Then He continued by saying to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, 11 and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines;

(MATTHEW 24:1-44)

1 Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. 2 And He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down." 3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

4 And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. 5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many. 6 "You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. 7 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.

(MARK 13:1-37)

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 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.

YOUR OBSERVATIONS...

- Where did Jesus make the comment about not one stone of the Temple left on another?
- Where did the apostles ask Him deeper about this comment?
- What was the apostles' presumption about when the Temple would be destroyed?
- Why wouldn't Jesus just tell them plainly?
- What is a mystery?
- Why does God sometimes speak in mysteries rather than plainly?
- What does Jesus say would happen before the end?
 - _____ will come in his name claiming to be _____ and rumors of wars
 - _____ and _____
 - Many will be _____ and _____
 - _____
- What makes these different from genuine

and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.

- 12 "But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name's sake.
- 13 "It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony.
- 14 "So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves;
- 15 for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute.
- 16 "But you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death,
- 17 and you will be hated by all because of My name.
- 18 "Yet not a hair of your head will perish.
- 19 "By your endurance you will gain your lives.
- 20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near.
- 21 "Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must

8 "But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.

- 9 "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.
- 10 "At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.
- 11 "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.
- 12 "Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.
- 13 "But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.
- 14 "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.
- 15 "Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),
- 16 then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.

- 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.

- 14 "But when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.
- 15 "The one who is on the housetop must not go down, or

signs from God?

- Men will _____
 - See them as _____ to testify about _____
 - Don't worry about how to _____, let _____ guide _____
 - What does he mean when he first says that some would be _____, but then not a hair will _____?
 - How would they gain their lives?
- What will be the sign that the destruction of the temple is near?
- How does the Bible use the term temple?
 - How could Jesus be using this idea to speak of the end?
 - What is the abomination of desolation?
 - In what way could the temple be surrounded?

leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; 22 because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled.

23 "Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land and wrath to this people;
24 and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

17 "Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house.
18 "Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak.

19 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!
20 "But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.

21 "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.
22 "Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him.
24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

25 "Behold, I have told you in advance.
26 "So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out, or 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them.

go in to get anything out of his house;
16 and the one who is in the field must not turn back to get his coat.

17 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!
18 "But pray that it may not happen in the winter.

19 "For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will.

20 "Unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom He chose, He shortened the days.

21 "And then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ'; or, 'Behold, He is there'; do not believe him;

22 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, if possible, the elect.

23 "But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance.

- What should disciples do, when they see these things?

- What is meant by the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled?

- What are the signs spoken of here signifying?

- How long will this time of terrible persecution and trouble be?

27 "For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

28 "Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

29 "But immediately after the tribulation of those days **THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL** from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

30 "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the **SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY** with power and great glory.

31 "And He will send forth His angels with **A GREAT TRUMPET AND THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER** His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

32 "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near;

33 so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door.

34 "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

25 "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves,
26 men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

27 "Then they will see **THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD** with power and great glory.

28 "But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

24 "But in those days, after that tribulation, **THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL BE FALLING** from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken.

26 "Then they will see **THE SON OF MAN COMING IN CLOUDS** with great power and glory.

27 "And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven.

28 "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.

29 "Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door.

- What does it mean when it says that the powers of the heavens will be shaken?

- What are these powers of the heavens?

- Is Luke 24:27 talking about a literal coming or a symbolic coming in the form of the destruction of Jerusalem? (see Matthew and Mark)

- What does it mean lift up your head in verse 28?

29 Then He told them a parable: "Behold the fig tree and all the trees;
30 as soon as they put forth leaves, you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near.
31 "So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near.
32 "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all things take place.
33 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.
34 "Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap; 35 for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth.
36 "But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.
36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.
37 "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.
38 "For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.
40 "Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.
41 "Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.
42 "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.
43 "But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.
44 "For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will."

30 "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.
31 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.
32 "But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.
33 "Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come.
34 "It is like a man away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert.
35 "Therefore, be on the alert-- for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning-- 36 in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep.
37 "What I say to you I say to all, 'Be on the alert!'"

- What did Jesus mean when he said that all these things would happen before this generation passes away?

- What generation is he talking about?

- Will anyone ever know the date and time of Christ return or the end of the world?

JESUS OVERNIGHTS ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES (VV. 37, 38)

- Why do you think Jesus chose to overnight on the hillside of Olivet rather than staying with, for instance, Martha, Mary, and Lazarus?

- How early did Jesus get up to begin teaching in the Temple?
 - Why do you think He did this?

- How does this choice play out in the story of Judas' betrayal and Jesus' arrest?