

The Good News About Jesus as Luke Wrote It

Chapter 21:1-38

HoneyBee base version for oral translation

September 2023 Draft¹

Background

- The temple had 13 containers to receive offerings / gifts in the women's court.
- The annual temple tax on all adult males made the temple rich with golden decor.
- Other Jews also predicted that the temple would be destroyed, but they did not know when.
- Jesus mixes his predictions about the near/soon destruction of Jerusalem, and his far future return back to earth from heaven.
- Bethany (Mk 11:11-12), lay about three kilometers east of Jerusalem on the southeastern slopes of Olive Tree Hill.

The eschatology of Luke 21:

- Persecution against Jesus' disciples.
- Believers pray and stand firm.
- Armies surround Jerusalem.
- Enemies destroy the city and temple, and exile survivors.
- Jesus appears in the sky in a glorious cloud.
- Jesus suddenly arrives.
- Israel is 'redeemed'.

History

- The destruction of Jerusalem and of the temple would occur around 70 CE, about 40 years after Jesus' death and resurrection.
- Rabbi Akiba claimed Bar Kochba was the Messiah after 130 CE.
- The war with Rome would begin in 66 CE and continue till the fall of Masada in 72 CE, lasting about 7 years.
- Several Gentile nations would capture and rule over Jerusalem from 70 until 1948 CE.

Themes

- By perseverance, you will save your life.
- When you see enemy armies approach, flee!
- When you see the Divine Human Son coming, your 'redemption' will be near.

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Jesus visits the temple and foretells its destruction²

¹ Jesus looked up from where he was sitting and saw rich people put their gifts into the offering boxes in the Temple courtyard. ² He also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins.³ ³⁻⁴ He said to his disciples, “The truth is that these rich people have much money, but they give only a small part. But this woman, who is very poor, has put in all the money that she had. It was the only money she had to *pay for the things that she needs!* So, this poor widow put more money into the box than all the others did.”

⁵ Jesus’ disciples were talking about the temple. Some commented about the beautiful big stones⁴ used in building the Temple. They were amazed at the many expensive decorations that people had given. So, he said to them, ⁶ “Someday, foreign invaders will come to completely destroy all these buildings. They will take all the stones in these buildings and throw them down into the nearby valley named Kidron. They will not leave one stone atop another.”

⁷ Later Jesus’ disciples asked him, “Teacher, when will that happen? What signs will happen first to indicate that the things you^(sg) just told us will soon happen?” ⁸ Jesus replied,

“Be careful so that no one deceives you about these things! Many people will come and say that I sent them with my authority. Some will say, ‘I am the Messiah!’ Others will say, ‘Now is the time for the foreign invasion to start!’ Do not follow them to become their disciples!

⁹ Also, whenever you hear about wars and riots *that are happening*, do not be afraid/terrified. *Keep in mind that God has said that those/such things must happen.* So, when they happen, it will not mean that the end is coming immediately!”

¹⁰ Then Jesus continued to teach them saying,

“Groups/tribes in various countries will fight each other, and various governments and kingdoms will also fight against each other. ¹¹ There will be big earthquakes, and in various places there will be famines and plagues. People will see things that terrify them. There will also be unusual signs / things happening in the sky.

¹² But before all these things happen, some religious leaders will persecute you, arrest you, and put you on trial in the synagogues.⁵ Police officers will lock you up in jail, and will put you on trial before high government authorities,⁶ because you are my disciples. ¹³ That will allow you to tell them about me. ¹⁴ So decide now not to plan what you will say to defend yourselves. Wait until that time comes. ¹⁵ At that time, I will give you the right words to say. I will make you wise. As a result, your enemies will not be able to oppose what you say or show/prove that you are wrong.

² OR The Jew’s temple will be destroyed.

³ OR two pennies worth very little value. OR two shillings / toea / rupees / etc. (You may translate this as the smallest unit of money in your country.)

⁴ OR beautiful big carved/chiseled stones. (Each very large stone used to build the big temple was cut from white rock and shaped carefully like a cube/square blocks. The stones each weighed several tonnes, as much as an adult elephant, or more.)

⁵ OR their meeting places.

⁶ OR they will make you stand before kings and rulers, accusing you for doing wrong things.

¹⁶ And there will also be other evil things that will happen: Your parents, brothers, other relatives, and friends who do not believe in me will betray you to your enemies to seize you. They will even kill some among you. ¹⁷ Most other people will hate you^(pl) because you are my disciples, ¹⁸ but they will not be able to harm you.⁷ You^(pl) will not lose even one hair from your heads. ¹⁹ By remaining faithful to me, you will preserve your life.”⁸

²⁰ “But when you see that Jerusalem has been surrounded by enemy armies, you will know that it is time for them to completely destroy this city. ²¹ At that time, those among you who are in Judea district must flee to mountain *caves*. Those who are here in Jerusalem must leave quickly. Those who are in the nearby countryside must not go back into the city *to get any possessions before they flee*. ²² You must obey what I am telling you, because enemy armies will very severely punish the people who stay in this city. God will cause this to happen in order to fulfill/accomplish all that the prophet Daniel wrote.

²³ It will be terrible for women in this city who will be pregnant, and for women who will be nursing their babies in those days, because it will be very difficult for them to run away! It will be terrible for the people in this land, because their enemies will be very angry with them. ²⁴ Enemy armies will kill many people with swords. They will capture others, take them to other countries, *and sell them as slaves*. Gentiles will trample over/on Jerusalem until the time *that God has determined for them to rule the city* is ended.”

Be ready for Messiah to return to earth⁹

Jesus continued speaking:

²⁵ “There will also be strange things (signals to show that the end is near) that happen to the sun, the moon, and the stars. In many nations, people will be very frightened, and they will be anxious when they hear the ocean roaring and see huge waves. ²⁶ People will be so afraid that they will faint as they wait for what will happen on the earth. They will be afraid because the powerful objects in the sky will be shaking. ²⁷ Then they will see me, the Divine Human Son, coming back, surrounded by a powerful, glorious cloud.

²⁸ So when these things that I have just now described begin to happen, be brave¹⁰ and keep watching, because it will be near *to the time when God will save/free you from all your enemies*.”¹¹

²⁹ Then Jesus told his disciples this parable: “Think about the fig tree, and all the other trees. ³⁰ As soon as you see their leaves beginning to sprout, you know that summer is near.¹² ³¹ Similarly, when you

⁷ OR you^(pl) will not perish. OR they will not be able to completely destroy you/make you useless. OR your life will be safe with me

⁸ OR gain everlasting life.

⁹ OR Jesus tells how to recognize his return and how to be ready.

¹⁰ OR stand up straight.

¹¹ OR from suffering. OR from evil.

¹² OR the hot/growing season will come.

see these things that I have just described happening, you will know that I will soon return *to earth* as King.”¹³

Then Jesus said:

³² “Listen carefully: Everything that I have said *about Jerusalem* will happen before all the people who are alive today have died. ³³ Even if the sky and the earth disappear, all the words that I have spoken to you will continue to be true¹⁴ forever.”

³⁴ “Be careful not to be troubled by life’s difficulties. Do not be getting drunk with alcohol. Do not be overly worried about finding what you need to live. Then you will not be surprised on the day when I will suddenly return. ³⁵ My return will surprise everyone everywhere in the world,¹⁵ just as a trap surprises an animal.

³⁶ So, be ready at all times. Pray often that you will be able to endure without being frightened by all these difficult things that will happen. Then you will stand safely and confidently¹⁶ before *me*, the Divine Human Son *returned from heaven*.”

³⁷ Each day during that week Jesus taught people in the Temple courtyard in Jerusalem. But before nightfall, he and his disciples left the city and stayed on Olive Tree Hill. ³⁸ Early each morning many people came to the Temple courtyard to listen to him.

¹³ OR God’s Kingdom on earth is near.

¹⁴ OR will never disappear. OR will never fail to happen/exist.

¹⁵ OR living on the earth.

¹⁶ OR without shame and with joy.