

**I. The Widow Gives All (Lk. 21:1-4)**

- A. And He saw the Rich Putting in their Gifts - (vs. 1) Here we get a glimpse into the all knowing (omniscience) nature of our savior. He “saw” the rich putting in their gifts. It's unclear if these individuals wanted men to see them or if they were just sincerely giving. The compare/contrast that Luke is about to give us is not in the simple numerical amount given but rather the numerical amount given in comparison to the amount you have.
- B. Poor Widow putting in Two Mites - (vs. 2) He “also saw” a poor widow putting in her gift of around two dollars in today's economy. Surely the gift of the rich individuals was far more.
- C. She has put in More than All - (vs. 3-4) Through the omniscient eyes of our Lord He saw extravagant love and worship being poured out by the widow's two dollars versus the individuals who put in much more in actual dollar amounts. Jesus informed the hearers that “she gave all she had” but the rich gave out of their abundance.

**II. Aspects and Signs of the End of the Age (Lk. 21:5-28)**

- A. Admiring the Temple - (vs. 5) This temple was originally rebuilt by Zerubbabel and Ezra, but greatly expanded and improved by Herod. It was the center of Jewish life for almost a thousand years. The temple was so revered that it was customary to swear by the temple, and speaking against the temple could be considered blasphemy. (Ez. 6:15; Mat. 23:16; Acts 6:13)
  - 1. King Herod more than doubled the temple mount area, increasing it to about 36 acres. Herod's rebuilding work started in 19 B.C., and was completed in A.D. 63, taking more than eighty years. It was finished only seven years before it was destroyed. The temple wasn't just big, it was also beautiful. The Jewish historian Josephus said that the temple was covered on the outside with gold plates that were so brilliant that when the sun shone on them, it was blinding to look at. Where there was no gold, there were blocks of marble of such a pure white that from a distance, travelers thought there was snow on the temple mount.
- B. Not One Stone will be Left Upon Another - (vs. 6) Some 40 years after Jesus said this, there was a widespread Jewish revolution against the Romans in Palestine.

Rome crushed the rebellion. Jerusalem was leveled, including the temple — just as Jesus said.

1. It is said that at the fall of Jerusalem, the last surviving Jews of the city fled to the temple, because it was the strongest, most secure building in the city. Roman soldiers surrounded it, and started a fire that soon engulfed the whole building. Ornate gold detail work in the roof melted down in the cracks between the stone walls of the temple, and to retrieve the gold, the Roman commander ordered that the temple be dismantled stone by stone. The destruction was so complete that today there is true difficulty learning exactly where the temple was.
- C. When will this Be and What will be the Signs - (vs. 7) The reply of Jesus to these questions, recorded in both [Matthew 24](#) and here in [Luke 21](#), has in mind both the coming destruction to come upon Jerusalem in the near immediate future and the ultimate return of Jesus at the end of the age. The reason for this is because they are linked prophetically. The prophetic scriptures are absolutely filled with partial fulfillments, types, and shadows of ultimate fulfillments of the promises of God.

1. Partial Fulfillment Examples

- a. Forerunner Partial Fulfillments - Samuel before David, Prophets before Judgment, Angels before Jesus, John the Baptist before Jesus. Full Fulfillment - Elijah before Jesus Returns. (Is. 40:3; Mal. 4:5; Mat. 17:10-12)
  - b. Messianic Fulfillments - Moses, Joshua, David, Solomon. Ultimate Fulfillment (Deut. 18:15, Acts 3:22; Ps. 22; 1 Chron. 17:11-15, 22:9-10; Zec. 6:12-13; Heb. 1:5)
  - c. Additional Partial Fulfillments to Study - Outpouring of the Spirit, Millennial Kingdom Promises, Regathering of Israel and establishing/rebuilding Jerusalem, Antichrist Figures, Destruction of Jerusalem, Gentiles Provoking Jews to believe in Jesus, etc.)
2. Why behind the What - God does not do this in order to confuse us but quite the opposite, He ordains partial prophetic fulfillments to cause us to have confidence and hope in the ultimate fulfillments yet to come. This is the way we are to understand why Jesus would speak of the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem in 70 AD in the same context of His return.

- D. Many will come in my Name - (vs. 8) This is a direct response to the disciples asking him about His coming, He begins by telling them not to be deceived by the many individuals who will claim to be the Messiah. The biblical idea of coming in His name speaks of His character, actions, and identity. How will we the generations who come after know who the true Messiah is....
- E. Various Aspects of the Future - (vs. 9-11) If we compare what He says here in Luke with the parallel passage in Matthew 24:5-8 we see clearly that He is laying out various trends or aspects of this fallen age that will happen that may cause us to think that He is coming soon but these are only the precursor signs to the actual signs that we are to look for that signal His coming.
1. Wars
  2. Uprisings
  3. Nation rising against Nation (Ethnos or People Group)
  4. Kingdom against Kingdom (Country or Culture)
  5. Multiple Great Earthquakes
  6. Famines
  7. Pestilences
  8. Fearful Sights and Great Signs from Heaven
- F. But Before These Things you will be Persecuted (vs. 12) Luke's gospel focuses more on what Jesus told his disciples about the persecution they specifically would face before the destruction of the temple but you can also apply this universally to the persecution that the church will endure in an increasing way leading up to His return.
1. I will Give you a Mouth of Wisdom (vs. 13-16) Jesus warns that His disciples will face persecution both in the religious and secular world (synagogues and prisons). However there is absolutely no disputing the common theme of a powerful and supernatural witness of Christ going forward as a result of persecution. (Acts and in History)
  2. You will be Hated by All (vs. 17) It's not that they will be hated for claiming to have faith in Jesus, rather they will be hated for the witness of truth which they uncompromisingly carry. They will be hated for witnessing the nature, character, and words of Jesus (His Name). History has taught us that persecution comes to those who are unwavering in their convictions of absolute truth. (Jhn 3:19-20, 7:7)

3. Not a Hair of Head will be Lost (vs. 18) This is exactly the encouragement that one needs to carry their cross in this age. Eternal perspective will carry the saints through the dark night before the dawn. (Rev. 2:10)
  4. By Patience Possess your Souls (vs. 19) The word for patience here is the great Greek word *hupomone*. It speaks of a strong endurance, not a passive waiting. We endure, trusting the promise of Jesus that ultimately, in eternal perspective, not a hair of your head shall be lost.
- G. When you see Jerusalem Surrounded by Armies (vs. 20-23) In Luke's Gospel this is THE first actual sign that the disciples are to look for as it pertains to a sign of the end of the age and His coming. You will see the city of Jerusalem surrounded by armies. Now we understand why Jesus went right to the end of the age when asked about when the temple would be destroyed. (Mic. 4:11; Zec. 12:3, 14:2, 14; Rev. 11:2)
- H. Until the times of the Gentiles are Fulfilled (vs. 24) This is very common language within the prophetic scriptures especially when it comes to God ordained seasons of His will for using certain nations in to test/judge the nation of Israel (Gen. 15:16; Ps. 102:13; Dan. 2:21, 9:24; Acts 1:7; 1 Thes. 5:1; Rev. 11:2).
- I. Sun Moon and Stars shaken and Men's hearts Fail (vs. 25) These great and terrible signs are given to the people of God repeatedly in the prophetic scriptures and can seem hard to imagine them happening in real time in our culture. However, Jesus validates all the old testament prophets who said the same. In addition, Jesus shows this event happening in a vision to John years later. (Is. 13:10; Eze. 32:7-8; Joel 2:30-31; Amos 8:9-10; Rev. 6:12-16)
- J. Then they will See the Son of Man coming on the Clouds (vs. 26-27) This specific phrase is the culminating event which we are to look for to signify and know the great messianic promise has come to pass. This event is the foremost promise to the believer of all our prophetic hopes of redemption, righteousness, and eternal life. This event is when the faith of our forefathers and our faith is publicly and forever vindicated and our confidence in the person of Messiah is eternally established. He will be forever enshrined in humanity's minds and hearts as the Man who came on the clouds. (Dan. 7:13; Mat. 24:23-31, 26:64; 2 Thes. 1:3-12; Rev. 1:7, 14:14-16)

- K. When you see these things, Lift up your Heads! (vs. 28) For many western Christians, the these great and terrible events are spoken of mostly as fearful things to hopefully avoid. This is the exact opposite spirit of which they were spoken to and received by the disciples. Jesus spoke these words to give confidence and hope. We who long for Jesus and His Kingdom to be established should long for these signs. When we see them beginning to come about our excitement should begin to grow for our redemption draws near. (Is. 25:7-9; 2 Tim. 4:8; Heb. 9:28; 2 Pet. 3:10-14; Rev. 22:17)

### III. Parable of the Fig Tree (Lk. 21:29-33)

- A. Look at the Fig Tree and All the Trees (vs. 29) No matter where you live on the earth, the end of the dark, cold, barrenness of winter is marked by the budding of trees, declaring to us that the winter is over and new life of spring is now inevitably heading our way. Jesus tells us that in the same way these signs should be viewed as signs that the kingdom of death and satanic darkness is drawing to a close and the long awaited promise of the Kingdom of God is near. (Mrk. 13:29)
- B. This Generation will Not Pass Away (vs. 32) Biblically, the word generation refers to all the people living at the same time. It carries the same definition that we are used to in modern usage when we speak of Generation X or the Millennial Generation. This is the only context of Jesus Himself using the word “generation”. The promise is that all the people who are living when the first definitive sign happens will also see the final event of the coming of the Lord.

### IV. Ready and Watching (Lk. 21:34-38)

- A. But Take Heed to Yourselves (vs. 34) Jesus wraps up His teaching and exhortation concerning the times of His return in the same way that He has done previously in this Gospel and in all the others as well. He tells us that the difficult events of that day will come upon an unprepared world. Their hearts will not be able to take trials and trouble unless they are built up in faith, hope, and love. He tells us to take heed to our own hearts and to self-examine if we are building up and storing up the oil of deep relationship and growing steady in Him.
- B. Lest your Hearts be Weighed Down (vs. 34)
1. Carousing - The original word translated “carousing” is actually better translated “pulled away” or “caught up”. It's my opinion that Jesus is warning us about being pulled this way and that by every passing demand

or pressure. I had a teacher in bible school who called this the tyranny of the urgent and it is a very real threat to the strength and intentionality that building yourself up in the Lord takes.

2. Drunkenness - This reality speaks of a lifestyle of dullness or being punched out from the reality of the weightiness of eternal things versus temporal things.
3. Cares of this Life - Better translated the worries of this life. Jesus spoke directly to this issue in the sermon on the mount and told us that our propensity is to worry more about sustaining our food, shelter, and clothing than sustaining our hearts in God, specifically telling us that when we worry about these things, it's because we don't really know or trust God. (Lk. 12:22-32)

- C. For it will Come as a Snare (vs. 35) For the hearts that are weighed down because of the aforementioned pressures, the day of the Lord will come upon them as a snare. A snare is a trap that is laid in one's everyday path and once caught begins to tighten more and more until it literally chokes the life out of them. So, too, the difficulty and trouble compounding and building up in that day will choke the heart and the faith out of those who are unprepared.
- D. Watch and Pray therefore so your Counted Worthy (vs. 36) The “watching” here is not speaking of watching for signs but rather of watching over your heart and your faith. Jesus already clearly defined “watching” as prioritizing and being faithful to His will for your heart and life. (Luke 12:35-48)