

THE LAST WEEK OF THE LORD JESUS ON EARTH

IVu. Jesus' Final Day of Public Teaching (cont.)

Jesus Proclaims Truth (Part 21^a) First Watch c. 6:30 P.M.) Wednesday, 12th Nisán (April 1), A.D. 33. Lesson: When Prophecy Shall Be Fulfilled. Mt. 24:4-9; Mk. 13:5-8 Lk. 21:7-11

Introduction: Having examined the Lessons The Lord Jesus taught in The Temple to the multitude and His disciples during the day on Wednesday, we now consider His exit from The Temple and His teaching on the journey to and upon The Mount of Olives.

I. **Exiting The Temple** (Mt. 24:1,2; Mk. 13:1,2; Lk. 21:5,6)

When exiting and journeying away from The Temple, most likely through the East or Golden Gate, the disciples approached the face of Jesus to exhibit to Him, the buildings of The Temple.

A. The Buildings of The Temple

This observation included the beautiful stones and the several great buildings that constitute The Temple compound (Mt. 24:1; Mk. 13:1).

1. The foundation stones were huge, some as large as 15 feet long and 6 feet high. Our tour group was taken to the lower basement to view these great stones, much larger than any building stones I have ever seen.
2. Such linked buildings as The Sanctuary, surrounded by the Northern Portico, the Western Portico, The Royal Portico on the south, and Solomon's Porch, The Beautiful Golden Gate, and The Sanhedrin.
3. Admired by the disciples because of the long-standing adornment with beautiful stones that were devoted to The God with an oath, and with golden-domed roofs (Lk. 21:5).

B. The Lord Jesus' Prophecy Concerning 'all These Things' (Mt. 24:2; Mk. 13:2; Lk. 21:6).

The Lord Jesus responded to their observation in this way (Mt. 24:2).

“&You-see all these-things~, do-you& not? Amen I-am-saying to-you&, /A-stone+ shall- positively-not -be-permitted here upon a-stone, which+ shall-positively-not -be-dismantled” (Mt.24:2 APT).

Mark substitutes the term “these great buildings” for “all these-things~” (13:2 APT) and Luke inserts “with reference to these things which you are observing” (21:6 APT).

The Lord Jesus was referring to the inevitable destruction of The Temple along with the city of Jerusalem of which He spoke on Monday, the day of His Triumphant Entry, on His approach to the city. At that time He was addressing the people as a nation in regard to the impending destruction of The city (Lk. 19:41-44 APT).

“⁴¹And as He-drew-near and-beheld the city, He-burst-into-loud-weeping over it, ⁴²saying, ‘If (and it is not true) \$you-knew^[from experience], even yourself, at-least even in-this the day of-yours&, the-things with-reference-to^[the face of] your\$ peace^[aposisopesis] . . . , but now they-are-hidden away-from your\$ eyes. ⁴³Because ⁰days shall-arrive upon you\$. And the enemies \$of-yours shall-cast around^[Isa. 29:3,4] you\$ a-military-palisade^[a mound of dirt from a ditch with long sharp stakes protruding upward] and they-shall-besiege you\$. And they-shall-restrict you\$ on-all-sides. ⁴⁴And they-shall-raze-you\$ -to-the-ground and the children of-yours\$ in-you\$ and they-shall- not-permit ⁰stone upon ⁰stone in-you\$, in-retribution-for^[instead of which things] which you-did- not-know^f the appointed-time of-the visitation of-yours’” (Lk. 19:41-44 APT).

But on Mount of Olives He addressed His disciples concerning the impending days that shall arrive upon them in the not-too-distant future, which was recorded by all three of the synoptic Gospels. Then there was a lull in their conversation as the disciples mulled over the desperate fulfillment of this prophecy and considered when this event shall take place.

After Jesus located a position on the Mount of Olives directly in the view opposite The Temple, Peter, James, and John approached Him (Mk. 13:3) privately (Mt. 24:3) and questioned Him concerning when these things shall come to pass and what signs for which to look just before they would come. They asked three questions: When? and What is the miraculous-sign of Your Coming-Presence? and What is the miraculous-sign of the Consummation of the Age (Mt. 24:3)? Matthew recorded more information with a fuller explanation than both Mark, a disciple of Peter (1 Peter 5:13) and Luke, a companion of Paul.

II. Teaching on The Mount of Olives (Mk. 13:5-36; Mt. 24:4-41; Lk. 21:8-32).

A. Answering the First Question: When shall these things be? c. 6:40 P.M. (Mt. 24:4-8; Mk. 13:5-8; Lk. 21:8-11).

“Mt. 24:4 And /Jesus answered and said to them, Constantly-beware that not anyone mislead you&! 5For many shall come using My name, saying, I-am- myself -continually-being The Christ. “Lk. 21:8 . . . And, ‘The appointed-time stands-drawn-near.’ Therefore &do- not -begin- journeying after them! 9But whenever &you-hear of-wars and se- ditions, do- not -begin-to-be-consternated!” “Mt. 24:6 . . . Be-vigilant! Stop being-alarmed!” “Lk. 21:9b For it-is-absolutely-necessary for-these-things to-come-to-pass first, but-on-the-contrary |it is| not immediately the end. 10At-that-time He-was-repeatedly-saying to-them, Nation shall-be-raised-up against nation and kingdom against kingdom. 11And great earthquakes and famines and pestilences [and disturbances (Mk. 13:8)] shall-be everywhere [from place to place]. Both terrifying omens and great miraculous-signs shall-be from Heaven.” “8But all these-things |are| 0beginning of birth-pangs [preliminary troubles to development of a catastrophe]. 9At-that-time they-will-deliver you& into tribulation” (Mt.24:5; Lk.21:8,9a; Mt.24:6; Lk. 21:9b-11; Mt. 24:8,9 APT).

In order to clearly and accurately understand these Truths concerning the events that shall take place in the future and to differentiate between the events relating to the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in the air for His Church (the Rapture) and all the redeemed regenerated saints on the one hand, and on the other hand His Return back to Earth physically (The Revelation), referred to in Scripture as His Parousia or His coming-presence back to Earth to set up His longed for, and particularly by The Jewish nation, anticipated Kingdom, it is necessary to keep in mind constantly the progressive Revelation by The God through the centuries.

Isaiah the Prophet indicated that The God has revealed Himself in Scripture in minute segments throughout the centuries. For in order to teach knowledge and for humans to understand doctrine, it must be taught “‘here a little and there a little” (Isa. 28:9,10) even as God our Father has revealed Himself in this way through Scripture written by God-breathed holy men of The God under The Holy Spirit’s control. Therefore Scripture must be learned according to The Revelation that

The God has taught His people through the ages. We must keep constantly in mind whom The God is addressing and at what age or era of time The Truth applies particularly. Is this Scripture to be applied after The Law was given and addressed and intended for Israel particularly to be obeyed in precept, or is it the principal to be observed and practiced by all humans? Or is it also addressed to the redeemed, regenerated, disciple-saints to be observed, understood, and applied by everyone claiming to belong to The Lord Jesus Christ and His Church?

As we proceed to examine the teaching by The Lord Jesus Christ to His disciples, keep in mind this: the gospel that John the Baptist and The Lord Jesus proclaimed until The Lord Jesus was rejected by Israel and in turn He rejected Israel and until John was beheaded, the Gospel of The Kingdom was proclaimed. But after that and after The Lord Jesus introduced The Church that He was going to build (Mt. 16:18), He began to clarify the separation of The Church and Israel on the one hand and on the other hand the Gospel of the Kingdom (Millennial) of the Heavens from The Gospel of The Kingdom of The God. Here in Matthew 24:3-25:26, The Lord Jesus made several distinctions which we do well to observe.

The Lord Jesus did not answer the disciples' question directly but rather He cited five occurrences or indications that must occur **before** His Parousia (coming presence) to the Earth can take place, thus it is not immediately the end. Therefore they and we are constantly to beware that **no one** mislead us! Satan is extremely active and becomes more so as the time draws near. He is masterful at misleading and deceiving humans as he did in the beginning (Gen. 3:1-6 cf. 1 Tim. 2:13,14). Therefore be vigilant!

1. Many false Christs or antichrists who mislead humans shall appear **before** He comes in the air for His disciples (Mt. 24:5; Mk. 13:6; Lk. 21:8).

Many will claim to be Christ while others, false prophets will deceive by setting dates for His appearance in the air. There is only One true Christ and he indicated what events must take place first before He comes again. Remember that He was speaking directly to devoted Jewish disciples before His Crucifixion, Resurrection-ascension and His high priestly ministry in Heaven, and before The Church came into existence at Pentecost by the indwelling Holy Spirit and before The Law was negated. Therefore at this time before the crucifixion there were no Christians. Even in John's Day he wrote, "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist" (2 Jn. 7). Thus a deceiver is an antichrist, one both against and/or instead of The True Christ. Do not be misled! Study The Scriptures carefully!

2. Wars, Reports (rumors) of wars, and seditions (insurrections against authority) shall take place **before** the consummation of the age and The tribulation begins (Lk. 21:9; Mt. 24:6, **8,9**; Mk. 13:7).

Most recently, especially during the last month there has been an increase of these signs as indications of the rapidity with which the time is approaching the fulfillment of This prophecy the Lord Jesus gave to His disciples. But we must not be alarmed. The Lord Jesus alerted us (all disciples) to this condition which must take place before the redemption of our bodies which occurs when He descends from Heaven with the most exhilarating trio ever to fall on human ears, the shouted-directive of the Lord Jesus to 'come away,' the voice of the

archangel, and The God's trumpet (1 Thes. 4:15-18). This event must take place before the seven year Tribulation of Israel begins (Mt. 24:8,9 cf. Dan. 9:26,27). It ends with the coming presence with His great host of angels (Mt. 24:27,29,30; 25:31).

3. Nation shall-be-raised-up against nation and kingdom against kingdom (Mt. 24:7; Mk. 13:8; Lk. 21:10).

There are numerous uprisings around the world. Nationals are rebelling against political leaders. Nationals are fighting nationals. Intertribal revolts within nations as well as nations warring against nations. No doubt more of this shall occur as we near the Tribulation period and then again toward the end of the Great Tribulation.

4. Great Earthquakes Everywhere [lit. from place to place] (Lk. 21:11; Mt. 24:7; Mk. 13:8).

The news media in Australia persistently published earthquakes of every size everywhere in the world. They have been rapidly on the rise through the years. The American media only publicizes the large and damaging earthquakes, so there is less concern about this sign of impending danger in America. Yet earthquakes all over the globe are increasing every year. On Friday, January 23, 2009, the day the author obtained from the printer copies of **DISASTERS! Is There An Answer?**, The News Journal, Wilmington, Delaware published an article titled, **2008 disasters set a record for decade in deaths, costs.** "At least 235,816 people lost their lives in 321 disasters around the world last year, said the U.N. International Strategy for Destruction." That calculates to be more than one disaster death in the world every 3.5 seconds. And there was an increase of disasters in the world during the succeeding years. This is another indication of the nearness of His coming in The air for His redeemed Church with every regenerated disciple-saint. Are you looking up for his coming at any moment ?

5. Famines and Pestilences and Disturbances Everywhere (Lk. 21:10; Mt. 24:7; Lk. 21:11).

In this last year or so the United States has seen drought in several locations which has caused a scarcity of harvest and a shorter supply of water with lakes and ponds holding less water. In some areas there has been drought restrictions applied. As a result this has greatly affected harvests and has caused farmers to raise the cost of crops and subsequently food prices have been fluctuating as they increase and seldom return to much earlier pricing. This is an omen that famine may occur in the near future. Also there have been some plagues of insects affecting harvest as well. As to disturbances just watch the news channels on your TV and there is a frequency of disturbances: strikes for more wages and for government handouts, benefits, and employment and as well much displeasure with the way politicians have been governing. In addition uprisings and revolt about political decisions around the world, etc. have been increasing everywhere. Pestilences cause outbreaks of destructive plagues containing infectious and contagious diseases causing noxious, virulent devastation, resulting in mass death over broad areas. This is yet another indication of the nearness of His coming in the air.

6. Both Terrifying Omens (threats of doom) and great miraculous signs from Heaven (Lk. 21:11).

Could this be referring to the great storms of wind and rain and hail that have been increasing worldwide: tornadoes, tsunamis, and typhoons as wells stars falling and meteors colliding or crashing to Earth?

Finally, The Lord Jesus related that “All these-things ^{are!} beginning of birth-pangs which are preliminary troubles to the development of a catastrophe.” These must take place before the Rapture (coming again in the air for His Church). It can be said that these troubles have been happening through the years and it is true. But it is obvious that there has been an increase in severity and frequency in recent years. However many of these occurrences are prophesied to occur both before The Lord Jesus Christ’s coming in the air for His Church when He redeems our bodies (Rom. 8:23) and some shall occur again after The Rapture and before His Coming Presence (Mt. 24:29,30) back to Earth with His Church to set up His Millennial Kingdom.

Conclusion: Today we considered The Lord Jesus Christ’s exit from The Temple and His teaching on the journey to and the introductory remarks to His prophesy upon The Mount of Olives. We considered the necessity to clearly accurately understand the Truths concerning the events that shall take place in the future and to differentiate between the events relating to the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in the air for His Church and all the redeemed regenerated saints on the one hand, and on the other hand His Return back to Earth physically referred to in Scripture as His Parousia or His coming-presence back to Earth to set up His longed for, and particularly by The Jewish nation, the anticipated Kingdom, it is necessary to keep in mind constantly the progressive Revelation by The God through the centuries.

Then we considered His answer to the first part of the private question asked by Peter, James, and John concerning when these things shall come to pass and what signs for which to look. We considered six occurrences or indications that He cited which must occur **before** His parousia (coming presence) to the Earth can take place thus it is not immediately the end.

The warning that Jesus gave to His disciples to which we need to give heed is, “Constantly-beware that not anyone mislead you! Be-vigilant!” To do so requires discipleship and personal organized study of The God’s Word.

Application: Beginning today what steps will you take to avoid being misled away from the God’s Truth?

For next week: **Read and meditate upon: Jesus’ Final Day of Public Teaching** (First Watch of Night c. 6:50 P.M.): **Answering The Second question** (Mt. 24:9-14; Mk. 13:9-13; Lk. 21:7-11).