

The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times – Christ the King / Nov 24, 2013

Luke 21

Luke 21 New International Version (NIV)	In Jesus' day & the Early Church	Some opinions – I don't share these These are mine	This is happening in our Day
<p>⁵ Some of Jesus' disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, ⁶ "As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down."</p>	<p>In 68 AD the Roman legions surrounded Jerusalem and began a two year siege. By the year 70, the attackers had breached Jerusalem's outer walls and began a systematic ransacking of the city. The assault culminated in the burning and destruction of the Temple. Thousands were slaughtered. The Temple's sacred relics were taken to Rome and put on display. The rebellion was finally extinguished in 73 AD.</p>	<p>Although Jesus speaks of the <i>destruction</i> of Jerusalem and the Temple before the end, some are looking forward to the <i>restoration</i> of the Temple as a sign that Jesus is coming again.</p>	<p>The last public Christian church in Afghanistan was razed in March 2010, - See more at: http://cnsnews.com/news/article/not-single-christian-church-left-afghanistan-says-state-department#sthash.3nBW9TOR.dpuf</p>
<p>⁷ "Teacher," they asked, "when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?"</p>	<p>From the death of Jesus through the fall of Jerusalem and the crushing of the Jewish Revolt in 73 AD – the first sign was the presence of Jesus Himself among them!</p>	<p>The Rapture begins the time of Great Tribulation, followed by the return of Christ</p> <p>This section is not about Rapture and Tribulation, but about other things.</p>	<p>The Temple has <i>already</i> been destroyed</p>

<p>⁸ He replied: "Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them. ⁹ When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away."</p> <p>¹⁰ Then he said to them: "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caligula "invades" Brittainia, 40 AD • Caligula orders a statue of himself installed in the Jerusalem Temple, 40 AD • Claudius invades Brittainia, 43 AD • Claudius expels Jews from Rome, 49 AD • Romans conquer Armenia, 58 AD • Great Fire of Rome and Nero's persecution of Christians, 64 AD 	<p>The events Jesus talks about are not necessarily signs of the end of the world. They are, in fact, part of the natural (sinful) order of things. Remember Ecclesiastes 3 – to everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.</p> <p>Sometimes people attribute meaning to these naturally-occurring events when there is no meaning in them. Such people do this with the intention of drawing a following (along with their money). Jesus says we should beware of such people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angolan Civil War • Insurgencies in Laos, India, Kashmir, Philippines • Mexican Drug War • Nepalese Civil War • Somalia Civil War • Sri Lanka Civil War • War on Terrorists • Syrian Civil War • "Arab Spring" – Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Bahrain, Yemen, Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco
<p>¹² "But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you.</p>	<p>Acts 5-9 and many other places in Acts</p>	<p>Open Doors "World Watch List 2013" # 1 North Korea; #2 Saudi Arabia; #3 Afghanistan; #4 Iraq; #5 Somalia http://www.worldwatchlist.us/?utm_source=opendoorsusa.org&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=wwl&utm_content=homepage-banner</p>	
<p>They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name.</p>	<p>Acts 4 Acts 12 Acts 16 Acts 19 Acts 21 Acts 24-26 Some of these Acts passages are about the experiences of the disciples; some are about Paul</p>	<p>North Korea One of the remaining Communist states, it is vehemently opposed to religion of any kind. Christians are classified as hostile and face arrest, detention, torture, even public execution. There is a system of labor camps including the renowned prison No. 15, which reportedly houses 6,000 persecuted Christians alone. http://www.worldwatchlist.us/world-watch-list-countries/north-korea/</p>	

		<p>Saudi Arabia There is no provision for religious freedom in the constitution of this Islamic kingdom. All citizens must adhere to Islam and conversion to another religion is punishable by death. Public Christian worship is forbidden; worshipers risk imprisonment, lashing, deportation and torture. Evangelizing Muslims and distributing non-Islamic materials is illegal. Muslims who convert to Christianity risk honor killings and foreign Christian workers have been exposed to abuse from employers. http://www.worldwatchlist.us/world-watch-list-countries/saudi-arabia/</p> <p>Eritreia All evangelical churches were closed in 2002 following a government ban on religious groups other than Orthodox, Catholic, Lutheran and Islam. When Christians are discovered they are arrested and held in shipping containers in military camps. At least 105 Christians were arrested in 2012, and 31 Christians were reported to have died in prison. http://www.worldwatchlist.us/world-watch-list-countries/eritrea/</p>	
<p>¹³ And so you will bear testimony to me. ¹⁴ But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. ¹⁵ For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.</p>	<p>Paul witnesses before Felix, Festus and Agrippa Acts 24-26</p>		

<p>¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ Everyone will hate you because of me. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ Stand firm, and you will win life.</p>			<p>Colombia Under the current president, there has been a resurgence of armed groups, who specifically target Christians because they know the Christian faith is not compatible with their values. http://www.worldwatchlist.us/world-watch-list-countries/colombia/</p>
<p>²⁰ “When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near.</p>	<p>(in 68 AD) The Roman legions surrounded the city and began to slowly squeeze the life out of the Jewish stronghold.</p>	<p>Some believe that there will be a time of Great Tribulation before the end.</p>	
<p>²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. ²² For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written.</p>	<p><i>The Temple Mount, everywhere enveloped in flames, seemed to be boiling over from its base; yet the blood seemed more abundant than the flames and the numbers of the slain greater than those of the slayers. The soldiers climbed over heaps of bodies as they chased the fugitives. – Josephus</i></p>	<p>The sequence of events may differ according to the various teachers, but generally Millennial teachings include (1) the Rapture – the sudden removal of all believers in Christ from the earth; (2) the Great Tribulation – a time of terrible worldwide chaos and anarchy; (3) the Return of Christ in Glory; (4) the 1000-year Reign of Christ (the Millennium); (5) the Final Judgment; and (6) believers go to heaven.</p> <p>Amillennial (non-millennial) teachings include (1) the Return of Christ in Glory; (2) the Final Judgment; and (3) Believers live with Jesus in heaven forever</p>	

<p>²³ How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!</p>	<p><i>While the Temple was ablaze, the attackers plundered it, and countless people who were caught by them were slaughtered. There was no pity for age and no regard was accorded rank; children and old men, laymen and priests, alike were butchered; every class was pursued and crushed in the grip of war, whether they cried out for mercy or offered resistance. - Josephus</i></p>		
<p>There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. ²⁴ They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.</p>	<p>In victory, the Romans slaughtered thousands. Of those spared from death: thousands more were enslaved and sent to toil in the mines of Egypt, others were dispersed to arenas throughout the Empire to be butchered for the amusement of the public.</p>		

<p>²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.</p>			<p>Typhoon Haiyan http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/11/10/typhoon-haiyan-philippines-vietnam/3488431/</p> <p>Tornado tally raised to at least 16 http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/chicago-illinois-tornadoes-20131119,0,3693175.story</p>
<p>27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”</p>	<p>Read Psalm 24</p>	<p>Is Jesus suggesting a connection between “The King of Glory” in Psalm 24, “the Son of Man” and “Your Redemption” here?</p>	
<p>²⁹ He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰ When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.</p>		<p>Leaves sprouting on the fig tree are signs that winter is over and summer is coming – hurray!! Nation warring against nation and natural disasters on earth are signs that Satan’s occupation of the world is over and the Kingdom of God is coming – hurray!!</p>	

<p>³² "Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.</p>			
<p>³⁴ "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap.</p>			<p>Films: <i>End of Days</i> <i>Shawn of the Dead</i> <i>The World's End</i> <i>Dogma</i> <i>Stigmata</i> Cults: <i>Heaven's Gate</i> <i>People's Temple</i> <i>Branch Davidians</i></p>
<p>³⁵ For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth.</p>			
<p>³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."</p>		<p>The "escape" will be by the Rapture, taking believers to Jesus while leaving nonbelievers to suffer in misery until the actual end of the world.</p> <p>The "escape" will be by knowing that these signs can increase our joy in Jesus rather than our terror</p>	

³⁷ Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple, and each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives, ³⁸ and all the people came early in the morning to hear him at the temple.