

## The Great Physician

### Luke 21:21-38

- Jesus is in the final week of His public ministry before going to the cross, and before He surrender Himself to His persecutors He first speaks truth to all who would hear Him. Jesus knows the majority of the people will hear His words but won't apply its truth, just like so many today, they go to church, express their love for God and His people, and yet make choices and decisions that are in complete opposition to what His Word declares.

#### V21-38

- **V21-26** is a continuation of Jesus answering the question posed to Him in **V7** when His followers asked "when the Temple the symbol of Jewish pride will be destroyed"? Jesus answer is what is called a near and far fulfillment, the near is within forty years of its prediction in AD 70 the Roman general Titus Vespasian led a 4 month siege upon Jerusalem with 60,000 of his soldiers.
- That beautiful golden, marbled Temple that everyone admired for all the wrong reasons was destroyed, burned to the ground, its massive structure torn down stone by stone as the soldiers dug in between them digging out the jewels that lay between it. Also as both the temple and Jerusalem were on fire no one was safe, for Titus soldiers starved, tortured and burned everything until over 1.1 million Jews were killed and the rest scattered throughout the world.
- The far fulfillment where people are also fleeing to the mountains, and the sun, moon, stars are changed, those who are pregnant or with toddlers will be at the mercy of their pursuers is during the great tribulation period spoken in **Rev 7:14** and referred to as "**the days of vengeance**" **V22, Rom 2:5, Zeph 1:15, 18**, a day is coming when the world will no longer receive God's mercy but His judgment, and thankfully scripture says its reserved only for those who have rejected Him > **1Thess 5:9** - because God's people receive discipline from the Lord not wrath.
- **Is 13:9-13** speak of this time where just seeing a person after all this destruction is going to be rare because a third of all mankind will be wiped out according to **Rev 9:18**. Jesus speaks of these things that will happen in four decades and things that will happen in the future, its been two thousand years since Jesus spoke this, and folks there is no other event or prophecy left other than the church being raptured out that is yet to happen for all this to take place.
- **V27-28** while the world is looking around it should be looking up, as the Lord will return but not by Himself **Jude 14-15**, and **Rev 19:11-14**, who is going to be clothed in white garments in heaven which represent righteousness > **Rev 3:5** -the Church will return with Jesus to execute judgment upon a Christ rejecting world, notice He returns just as he exited > **Acts 1:9-11**- sudden glorious and with great power, this image is taken from **Dan 7:13-14**.

- There are those who believe the church will have to go through the tribulation period even though they know God said that we are not appointed to His wrath, and that scripture says these are the days of wrath. I want you to look at V26 it says the powers of heaven will be shaken, as the seas are roaring and the waves are tossing back and forth signifying the chaotic out of control state of that the world will be in, and in those times men's hearts will fail them for fear.
- It's terrifying just reading this I cant imagine trying to live through it, which is why > **2Thess 2:6-7**- tells us that God is holding all this back why if we the church are going to have to live through it anyway? **V29-36** the fig tree is the national emblem of Israel, even though the Jews by and large reject Jesus as their Messiah and the gospels as the Word of God, but this is where their emblem comes from. What's interesting is Math 21:18-22 has Jesus curse the fig tree, and Revelations makes it clear Israel won't be truly restored until Jesus comes back to redeem them.
- Speaking of the far fulfillment when this starts to happen nothing is going to stop it until everything said comes to pass, just as in the near fulfillment no one living during that time ever thought that the temple as grand and as magnificent that it was would be destroyed. So if you find yourself living in those days and your living for self, drinking, partying, self absorbed, completely consumed by the cares of this world watch out, this is going to happen.
- The good news is you can get ready now > **1Jn 3:3** says if your heart is telling you this is real, but you don't know if your ready, then surrender fully to the Lord, by purifying yourself in the hope of Jesus. This will allow you to practice > **Eph 5:15-16**- that says **1<sup>st</sup> be careful**- walk circumspectly **V15**, **2<sup>nd</sup> be watchful**- redeem the time, taking advantage of the opportunities available to you **V16**.
- **V37-38** afterward Jesus got alone in the mountains and early in the morning taught the people. My prayer is that we respond to Jesus in the way that is mentioned in > **1. Mk 12:37**- who heard Jesus gladly, **2. Lk 4:22** - who marveled at His gracious words, **3. Mk 1:22** - who were amazed at His teaching.