



SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

Luke, Part 61: Past, Present, Future - Luke 21:5-38 - February 22, 2026

SERMON OUTLINE

Intro - Worldview Questions: (1) Where did everything begin?, (2) What went wrong?, (3) Is there any hope in the world?, (4) What does the future hold?

Jesus' teaching in **Luke 21** is usually titled "*The Olivet Discourse*", and it takes a unique "**meta**" approach, as Jesus encapsulates the scope of humanity's history with God - past, present, future, through **Three Epochs** (separated by the two comings of Jesus Christ)

A. The First Epoch - The Covenant with Abraham and the Age of the Jews (v. 5-7, 20-23)

- The Temple - the galvanizing, symbolic center of the Jewish faith. The culmination of the covenant with Abraham and the nation under the Torah.
- Jesus warns his followers that the Temple will be destroyed and to flee the city at that time!
- The Destruction of the Temple - Rome lays siege to Jerusalem and ultimately razes the city and destroys the Temple in the year 70AD.
 - The Temple was never rebuilt, the priesthood never reestablished, the sacrifices ceased
 - Old Covenant Judaism is fulfilled. Jesus Christ is the temple, priest and sacrifice!

B. The Second Epoch - The Covenant of Christ and the Age of the Gentiles (v. 24)

- The death/resurrection of Jesus & the destruction of the Temple mark the transition from the first covenant to the second covenant.
 - As the Jews reject the Messiah, the new covenant extends to the Gentiles (**Rom. 1:16**)
- The book of Hebrews gives great detail about how Jesus brings about a better covenant for all who come to God through him.
- The Time of the Gentiles is a time of worldwide expansion of the people of God.

C. The Final Epoch - The Second Coming and the New Heavens & New Earth (v. 25-33)

- The second coming of Jesus will bring about the final relationship between God and his people - an eternal dwelling place together.
- "**This generation**" (v. 32) might be confusing, as if Jesus is saying that those who are listening to him will see the second coming. However "this generation" is a frequent phrase of Jesus in Luke's gospel - always meaning *those who work in opposition to Jesus*.
- "My words will not pass away" - God's Word has proven true so far, and it will continue!

D. How We Should Live as We Wait (v. 8-19, 34-46)

- **Bearing Witness (v. 13)**
 - Living in the second epoch is the window of sharing our faith in Jesus.
 - We live in the age of the "*great commission*" (**Matt. 28:19-20**) - nothing matters more during this time period than **making disciples!**
- **Standing Firm (v. 8, 19, 28, 34, 36)**
 - There will be difficulty, persecution, and disaster until Jesus returns. The Bible (and this text) consistently calls believers to be vigilant and sober-minded. Constant preparation - holiness, self-control, patience! (**Titus 2:11-13**)
- **Jesus, Our Example (v. 37-38)**
 - These final two verses almost seem like editorial remarks by Luke to give his readers logistical details about Jesus' comings and goings.
 - However, in light of the next few verses, we see that *Jesus is modeling consistency and disciple-making* in the face of very difficult circumstances.
 - *I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following. - Luke 13:33*



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Where do we get our worldviews? How do you answer the questions in the sermon intro?
2. How do our worldviews influence our day-to-day lives? Why is it important that our worldview gets its parameters from the Bible?
3. Why does it matter that the destruction of the Jewish Temple happens in very close historical proximity to the life/death/burial of Jesus Christ?
4. Why is current day Judaism not the same as first covenant (Old Testament) Judaism?
5. What is the "age of the Gentiles"? How long will it last?
6. As we live in the age of the Gentiles, what are some things we ought to be doing? How does this involve our examples and our words?