

*“Ain’t Nothing Sacred Anymore?”*

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Announcements:** Family Camp; Dog Agility?; Missionary.
- 1.2. **Illustration** - In a small college town a **Tavern** frequented by students ran the following ad in the campus paper during the days before **Parents Weekend**: "**Bring Your Parents for Lunch Saturday. We'll Pretend We Don't Know You!**" - The college chaplain posted a **revised version** on the campus bulletin board. It read: "**Bring Your Parents to Chapel Sunday. We'll Pretend We Know You!**"
  - 1.2.1. The Temple was beautiful, & the people **were** showing up to Temple...**but** they were "**playing Temple**" like 2 little children pretending to *play house!*

2. **AIN'T NOTHING SACRED ANYMORE? (5-28)**

- 2.1. This is Luke's version of the *Olivet Discourse*.
  - 2.1.1. Also found in **Mt.24,25**(full account) & **Mrk.13**(parts of it).
  - 2.1.2. Except only Luke hits on the destruction of Jerusalem.
- 2.2. **Note:** "donations" (5) right after widows mite story of dropping gifts in receptacles.
- 2.3. **DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE(ad 70)!** (5,6)
- 2.4. **How beautiful was it?** - **Read Josephus, *The Wars of the Jews***; Book5 Chapter 5; pg.707,708.
- 2.5. **Hey nice Temple building huh Jesus?** – Yes but 1 day, it will be destroyed.  
**Hey nice Church building huh Jesus?** – Yes but 1 day, I will rapture the **true church** unto Myself, & these **buildings** others can have.  
**Hey nice Temple I'm living in(our bodies) huh Jesus?** – Yes but 1 day, it will decay into dust, but then where will your **soul & spirit** be?
  - 2.5.1. Jesus always pointing out **eternal perspectives!**
- 2.6. **Caution** any time we place our admiration on the **outwardly religious life**.
  - 2.6.1. A mortician does his best job to make a lifeless body look as **alive** as possible.
    - 2.6.1.1. **Many professing Christians do the same!**
    - 2.6.1.2. The Danish philosopher **Soren Kierkegaard** once said, "that it is so much easier to **become** a Christian when you **aren't one**, than to **become one** when **you assume you already are.**"
- 2.7. **Jeremiah** prophesied the destruction of **Solomon's Temple**; **Jesus** prophesied the destruction of **Herod's Temple**.
  - 2.7.1. Many in Jeremiah's day thought God would **never allow His Temple** to be destroyed; **nor His people** to be judged.
  - 2.7.2. **See Jer.7** (esp.11,12)

- 2.8. Destruction of **His Temple?**... *“Ain’t Nothin Sacred anymore???”*
- 2.8.1. God **did** go that far in Shiloh; God **did** go that far w/Solomon’s Temple; God **did** go that far w/Herod’s Temple; & God **will** go that far again!!!
- 2.8.2. God goes to that length **when?** **When it no longer exists to glorify Him!**
- 2.8.3. Example: Mt.21:13 **“My house shall be called a house of prayer”**;  
Mt.23:38 **“See, your house is left to you desolate”**;  
Mt.24:2 **Assuredly, I say to you, not 1 stone shall be left here upon another.**
- 2.8.4. We ought to be glorifying God in not only our **spirit**...but also in our **body**.
- 2.8.4.1. Our **body** is a temple!
- 2.8.4.2. Read 1 Cor.6:19,20 [**Both** need to glorify Him!]
- 2.8.4.3. Q: What **looks very religious** on your outside, but **stinks** to high heaven on the inside?
- 2.8.5. **“The Temple can only give sanctuary as a sanctuary!”**
- 2.8.5.1. When man takes, over God leaves!
- 2.8.5.2. Q: What have **you** taken over in your **body** or **spirit**?
- 2.9. The **Babylonians** destroyed **Solomon’s** Temple in 587 bc.
- 2.10. When **Roman** armies besieged Jerusalem in 70ad.
- 2.10.1. The last fanatical defenders took refuge in the Temple [ultimate hiding place!]
- 2.10.1.1. Eventually, the Romans overwhelmed them & leveled the Temple, just as Jesus predicted.<sup>1</sup>
- 2.11. **PRIOR TO THE TEMPLE DESTRUCTION!** (7-9)
- 2.12. Signs!!! - Q: Do you remember that song from a long time ago? [1971 “Five Man Electric Band”, rock group from Canada, big hit “Signs”] “Signs, signs everywhere is signs, blocking up the scenery, breaking my mind. Do this, don’t do that can’t you read the signs?”
- 2.12.1. We live in a nation full of signs. Some are **helpful** & some are **confusing**.
- 2.12.2. For example, here are some actual signs seen around our great country.  
From a small town in California... “Fishing for children Only - Limit 3”.  
From Maui, Hawaii... “Bottomless Pit - 65 feet deep”.  
From Austin, Texas, a sign on a balcony read... “Please be aware that the balcony is not on ground level”.  
In Mitchell, South Dakota is a sign that reads... “Safe Haven Small Animal Hospital - Hunters Welcome”.  
From Los Angeles... “Caution: Blind Drivers Backing Out”.  
Also from Los Angeles... “Antique tables made daily”.  
A sign in Racine, Wisconsin read... “Happy Easter! We Rent Handguns”
- 2.12.3. We’ll see these signs can be confusing also. Are they for then, now, later?
- 2.13. (7) **When** is the temple going to be destroyed, & **What** signs should we be looking for?

<sup>1</sup> Shepherd’s Notes; pg.76

- 2.14. (9) Thought of the day was: when the Temple was destroyed, then the **old order** would be over, & the **new order** be established(new kingdom).
- 2.14.1. Jesus says, “*no, that **doesn't** signify that the end is right away.*”
- 2.15. **END OF TRIBULATION!** (10,11)
- 2.16. (10) Here’s some signs regarding the end of the old order.
- 2.17. Jesus taught His followers what would happen immediately before His return to set up the kingdom.
- 2.17.1. **Being ready for the kingdom** was the purpose of this teaching.
- 2.17.1.1. Thus the **Rapture** is not in view in this passage.
- 2.17.1.2. As with all prophecy in Scripture, the teaching had **immediate application** to the hearers.
- 2.17.1.3. They were to **live righteous lives** because of events which would occur in the future.
- 2.18. **But these signs seem like continuous signs? – Yep...that’s the point!**
- 2.18.1. There has never been an hour in the history of the Christian church, when the signs have **not pointed** to the possibility of a consummation.
- 2.18.2. The point is...**every generation** is called to have an attitude of **readiness & watchfulness!** (see vss.8,28,31,34-36)
- 2.18.3. The disciples thought it was only about them. 2000 years later we think it is about us. Both are right! **Every generation should heed the warnings!**
- 2.19. **BEFORE END OF TRIBULATION!** (12-19)
- 2.20. Here’s Jesus’ perspective on **persecution**: “Don’t see *persecution* as a **threat**, see it as an **opportunity** to bear testimony/witness!”
- 2.20.1. But Jesus you don’t understand!... “**Oh wait...yes you do!**”- “**That’s exactly what You did!**”
- 2.21. (16,18) **How do you put these 2 verses together?**
- 2.21.1. “They will put some of you to **death...not a hair** of your head shall be lost”.
- 2.21.2. Jesus said earlier, “**be not afraid of them who kill the body, & after that have no more that they can do.**”
- 2.21.3. Even though a believer **dies**, he or she will be **protected eternally** by God!
- 2.22. **Personal Application**: Times of **tribulation**(trials) can be times of **testimony**, and the Spirit would give us the **wisdom** and **words** that we need.
- 2.22.1. When we know **what** will happen, then we can **be ready** to meet it.
- 2.23. **MIDDLE OF TRIBULATION!** (20-24)
- 2.24. This could describe **both** the destruction in ad 70, & in the middle of the Trib.
- 2.24.1. Before was the prophecy/warning & **now** the destruction itself.

- 2.25. (24) **The times of the Gentiles** – This is only a phrase but it covers a long period.
- 2.25.1. This **began** with the captivity of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586 B.C., & it will **end** when Jesus Christ returns to earth & delivers the city (Zech.13,14).
- 2.26. Let's see how Jesus' prophesy is doing thus far:
- 2.27. **Roman** rule continued until 324ad.
- 2.28. The **Byzantine Empire** controlled Jerusalem until 614.
- 2.29. The **Persians** governed briefly until 629.
- 2.30. In 638 **Muslim Arabs** conquered the Holy City. (The Ummayyads, ruling from Damascus, built the Dome of the Rock mosque on what was believed to be the site of the Jewish Temple, completing it in 691)
- 2.31. The **Abbasid Arabs** took over in 750; their capital was Baghdad.
- 2.32. The **Egyptians** imposed their rule in 878.
- 2.33. The **Crusaders**, thinking they were acting in the name of Yeshua, came to the Holy Land in 1096 "to reclaim it from the infidels." (In 1099 they not only defeated the Muslims but massacred all the Jews they could find. The Crusaders in turn were driven out in 1187 by the Kurdish Ayyubid leader Saladin)
- 2.34. Battles between Crusaders and Muslim Arabs continued until 1244, with dominion being established by the **Egyptian Mamluks** in 1250.
- 2.35. Suleiman the Great displaced them in 1517, and his **Ottoman Turks** held sway in the Holy Land for 400 years.
- 2.36. They were defeated by **Britain's General Allenby** in World War I. (The British Mandate given by **the League of Nations** lasted until 1948, when, in the wake of the Nazi Holocaust, the world's conscience was momentarily pricked enough to permit the State of Israel to be established by a just over 2/3 vote of **the United Nations General Assembly**)
- 2.37. The **U. N.** plan of 1947 Jerusalem was to have been an *internationalized city*, but when **5 Arab countries** attacked Israel within hours of her independence she fought back and conquered the western, more modern part of Jerusalem. (Nevertheless the Old City of Jerusalem, the portion the present verse speaks about, which includes the Temple site, was **occupied by Jordan** until the 6-Day War)
- 2.38. On June 8, 1967, the **Israeli army** entered the Old City and converged on the Western/Wailing Wall, liberating Yerushalayim at last.
- 2.39. Then the gov of **Israel** granted management of the Temple site to a **Muslim Council**.
- 2.39.1. Today the **Muslim Council** still controls the Temple Mount.
- 2.40. **SIGNS BEFORE THE END OF THE TRIBULATION!** (25-28)
- 2.41. We must not confuse this event with His "coming for the church" (Rapture), for that can occur *at any moment*. We are not looking for **signs**; we are looking for the **Savior**.
- 2.42. Here's is where the **old order of creation** passes away, & the **new order/new kingdom/Christ's eternal kingdom** kicks in.

- 2.43. Here Jesus emphasizes, not **the signs** themselves, but **the effect** of the signs on humanity **unprepared** for Christ's coming.
- 2.44. (25,26) So how is it going to wrap up?  
 2.44.1. The world will be in such a **chaotic state**, *out of control*.
- 2.45. (28) When these things **begin to occur**, His followers alive at the time will **lift up their heads**, a symbol of **rejoicing**, **because** their **redemption** (i.e., safety in the kingdom brought by the returning King) will be **drawing near**.
- 2.46. The **attitude** of the Christian should **ever be** that of the **lifted head**, & **a light upon the face**, knowing that at any moment He may come!
- 2.47. **Redemption**(deliverance; release for the payment of a price) is the reason believers can **stand up & lift their heads**. *Especially* in the end, because redemption is **so close**!
- 2.48. **Q: What dangers do I see us facing today?**  
 2.48.1. Complacency, gratification, being lulled to sleep, inactivity, religiosity, apathy! **[Quit grooming the exterior, & start renovating the interior]**
- 2.49. **Q: How can we overcome the enemy & be ready to meet Jesus? Where will we find the power to do so? What shall we do while we wait? How will we be victorious?**  
 2.49.1. Rev.12:11 **"they overcame him**(devil) **by the blood of the Lamb**(at the cross) **and by the word of their testimony**(speak up), **and they did not love their lives to the death**(put it all on the line, die to self every day)."
- 2.50. If you want to be **distressed** -- look within.  
 If you want to be **defeated** -- look back.  
 If you want to be **distracted** -- look around.  
 If you want to be **dismayed** -- look ahead.  
 If you want to be **delivered** -- **look up!**