

SERMON *study* GUIDE

"WHAT THE STONES CRY OUT" (LUKE 21:5-6)

WHERE THIS IS GOING

The destruction of the temple looked like proof that God's plan had failed. But Jesus shows that God used that very judgment to advance His saving purposes, open salvation to the nations, and create a greater temple through Christ and His people.

THE DISCIPLES MISREAD THE MOMENT (V. 5)

The disciples are looking at:

- Jesus entering Jerusalem
- the beauty of the temple
- the stones, the offerings
- and thinking He is about to establish the kingdom in Jerusalem

JESUS SAYS SOMETHING SHOCKING (V. 6)

"There will not be left one stone upon another..."

The temple:

- God's presence
- Israel's identity
- Israel's purpose

And Jesus predicts:

- total destruction
- forty years before it happened
- something nobody expected

LOOKING BACKWARD

TO UNDERSTAND THE SHOCK, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEMPLE

First, a definition — what was the temple?

Not merely a religious building, but:

- God's home
- the place where heaven and earth met

(Psalm 132:7 · Psalm 5:7 · "My Father's house")

Second, its place in the story of Scripture:

The Garden of Eden functioned like a temple

- God uniquely dwelt there
- Adam served in a priest-like role
- it was the prototype of God dwelling with man

God's original purpose: dwell with His people, fill the earth with His glory, spread His presence throughout creation.

(Genesis 1-3 · Isaiah 6:3 · Revelation 21)

THE PROBLEM: EXILE

Adam failed. Humanity was driven from God's presence.

The central question becomes: How can sinful people live with a holy God?

ISRAEL: A NEW ADAM

God redeemed Israel in order to dwell with them.

"I will dwell among the people of Israel..." — Exodus 29:45-46

Israel's mission:

- enjoy God's presence
- represent God to the nations
- draw the nations to worship Him

(Leviticus 26 · Psalm 67 · Psalm 68)

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE - A GLIMPSE OF GLORY (1 KINGS 8:10-11)

God's glory fills the temple. For a moment it appears the promises may be unfolding.

But Israel fails just as Adam failed — and the temple is destroyed.

EXILE - AND THE PROMISE OF SOMETHING GREATER

Even after judgment, God promises restoration.

The prophets promised a future temple with greater glory. *(Isaiah 44 · Haggai 2)*

This shaped everything the disciples were expecting as Jesus entered Jerusalem. But God's plan was greater — and different than they anticipated.

THE GLORY RETURNED – AND THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS REJECTED HIM

Jesus is the return of God's glory. The fulfillment arrived. And they rejected Him.

The tragedy underneath Luke 21 is not merely the destruction of a building – but the rejection of God Himself.

LOOKING FORWARD

THE STONES CRY OUT (LUKE 19:40 / LUKE 21:6)

"The very stones would cry out." – and those same stones will be thrown down.

The destruction of the temple becomes testimony that Jesus truly was the Messiah.

THE KINGDOM ARRIVES – AND JUDGMENT BEGINS

Instead of immediate national restoration, Jesus announces:

- false teachers, wars, earthquakes, famines
- persecution
- Jerusalem's destruction

These events are not the end. They characterize the era between Christ's first and second coming.

Jesus is sad – but not surprised. God still has a plan.

THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES (LUKE 21:24)

"Until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."

Through Israel's rejection:

- salvation goes to the nations
- Gentiles are brought near
- people like us are saved

What looked like catastrophe became the means by which salvation spread throughout the world.

(See Romans 9–11)

A NEW AND BETTER TEMPLE

The destruction of the physical temple was not the end. It made way for something greater.

"You are God's temple." – 1 Corinthians 3:16

"A dwelling place for God by the Spirit." – Ephesians 2:19–22

In the Old Testament, God dwelt in a building in Jerusalem. Now God dwells in His people.

APPLICATION

TRUST GOD'S PURPOSES

If God could use the rejection of Jesus and the destruction of the temple to accomplish salvation for the nations and the creation of a greater temple – He can use painful and confusing circumstances for good as well. (*Romans 8:28*)

GET YOUR EXPECTATIONS STRAIGHT

Jesus told us beforehand what this era would be like. Expect suffering, difficulty, confusion, and things that do not make sense – until Christ returns.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THIS ERA

Jesus has revealed God's plan, proven He controls history, opened salvation to the nations, and given His presence to His people.

Therefore: Preach the gospel. Preach the gospel. Preach the gospel.

Until Jesus fulfills all His promises and returns.

