



(SLIDE #1) “GREAT EVENTS OF THE BIBLE #87 -- DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE!”

Introduction:

- A. Imagine That You Are A Jew Living In The First Century!
 - 1. You have lived under the Law of Moses all of your life!
 - 2. You believe that It is God’s Law for the Jews forever.
 - 3. You feel so special and blessed.
 - 4. Then along comes this “Jesus” -- some are intrigued by Him; you believe He is an imposter!
 - 5. Then He is killed; you are convinced that this proves that He is not the Messiah!
 - 6. You sincerely feel nothing has changed!
 - a. The Law still is being taught in the Synagogue.
 - b. The Temple still stands in Its glory and in Its significance to the culture.
 - c. The Priests are still offering sacrifices at the Temple.
 - 7. So, you feel that everything is just as it has always been!

- B. The Existence Of The Temple Was A Real Hindrance To Jews Leaving The Law Of Moses, Believing In Jesus, And Becoming Christians.

- C. Providentially, God Brought About Events That Really Turned The Jews’ World Upside Down!

I. Jesus Prophesied That The Temple Was Going to Be Destroyed -- Mt. 24:1-35

- A. **(Slide #2)** The Setting: As Jesus Went Out Of The Temple, He And His Apostles Walk Around It And Its Surrounding Buildings. 1,2

- B. **(Slide #3)** Jesus Made An ASTOUNDING Assertion About The Temple And The Surrounding Buildings: “And Jesus said to them, ‘Do you not see all these

things? Assuredly, I say to you, not *one* stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.” 2

1. IMAGINE the impact of that statement upon the Apostles!
2. It SHOOK them to the core of their beings! They could not imagine such a thing happening!
3. He made a similar statement early in His ministry, talking about His Body -
- His Death and Resurrection! Jn. 2:19-21

C. **(Slide #4)** Later, When They Are Alone On The Mount Of Olives, They Privately Asked Jesus Three Questions. 3

1. “Tell us, when shall these things be?” (When will the Temple and Its surrounding buildings be destroyed?)
2. “What shall be the sign of thy coming?”
3. “When will the end of the world occur?”
4. They LONGED to understand what Jesus was saying! And they obviously assumed that these events would occur simultaneously at the end of the world.

D. **(Slide #5)** Jesus Explains His Statements About The Temple And The Surrounding Buildings -- Jesus’ Response: “Let Me Tell You About The Evidences [Signs] That Will Point To The Destruction Of The Temple And Its Buildings!” 24:4-35

1. **Jesus talks about the Fall of Jerusalem and the signs that point to it!** 4-28
 - a. **(Slide #6) The signs:** 5-7
 1. Deceivers claiming to be the Christ. 5
 2. Wars and rumors of wars. 6
 3. Famines, pestilences, and earthquakes. 7
 - b. People today, particularly Premillennialists, see these “signs” and every time there is a war, earthquake, etc., they think the end of the world is imminent!!!
 1. In a conversation this week, a mate told me about their mate’s intrigue by a YouTube preacher proclaiming that the world is about to end!
 2. These preachers play on people’s fears to try to get them to commit themselves to Christ (and sometimes to send the preacher money)!
 3. Emotionally people become very disillusioned, pessimistic, and cynical. Some get to the point that they cease saving for retirement because “We won’t be here anyway!”

2. (▶) After pointing out the “signs of the times,” Jesus continues to explain what will happen! 8-22
 - a. The “signs” of verses 3-7 are just the beginning signs! 8
 - b. Opponents will deliver the Lord’s disciples to tribulation and murder -- the result; many of the Lord’s people will be offended, betray one another, and hate one another. 9,10
 - c. Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 11
 1. This will be after Jesus’ Death and Resurrection.
 2. They are claiming that Jesus was NOT the Messiah; therefore, they seek personal glory -- to have people to follow them and laud them!
 - d. The love of many disciples will grow cold (wane). 12
 - e. The Gospel will be preached to the whole world. 14
 1. 2020 readers think this means that Jesus MUST be talking about the end of the world -- this event will not occur until the Gospel has been preached to the WHOLE world!
 2. BUT that occurred in the First Century, BEFORE the Fall of Jerusalem!
 - a. It WAS accomplished by A.D. 63.
 - b. Col. 1:5,6 “because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, **of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as *it has* also in all the world,** and is bringing forth fruit, as *it is* also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;”
 - c. Col. 1:23 “if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, **which was preached to every creature under heaven,** of which I, Paul, became a minister.”
 - f. They would see the abomination of desolation approach; then the disciples would flee to the mountains of Judea! 15,16
 1. What in the world is the “abomination of desolation”?
 2. Let inspired Scripture explain: “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near.” Lk. 21:20
 3. It was armies surrounding Jerusalem.
 4. And when they saw the armies, those in Judea must QUICKLY respond: 15-18 (This message is for those who live in Judea; it is NOT for those who live throughout the world!)
 - a. Those in Judea must flee to the mountains! 16
 - b. Those on the housetop should not return to their house to get their possessions. 17
 - c. One in the field should not return home to get his clothes. 18
 5. This flight would be WORSE for some with specific circumstances: 19,20
 - a. Those who are pregnant. 19
 - b. Those who are nursing babies. 19
 - c. If it was during the wintertime. 20
 3. If it was on a Sabbath Day. 20

6. The severity of this attack: 21
 - a. The tribulation [suffering, distress] would be unlike anything before it or after it in the history of the world! [Watch this -- the world would continue to exist AFTER this attack!]
 - b. Providentially God would step in to shorten the days because of His love for His people; if He did not, no one would survive!
 7. It is for people in Judea; it is during the time that the Sabbath was still being observed as the day of worship in the Jewish culture!
 8. History says that not one Christian died in the fall of Jerusalem.
 - a. Vespasian attacked Jerusalem in the late 60's.
 - b. Nero died in A.D. 68.
 - c. The four generals of the Roman army were called back to Rome.
 - d. Vespasian sent his army, led by his son Titus, to carry out raids in Egypt.
 - e. After 2 years of struggles between the generals, Vespasian became the next Caesar.
 - f. Immediately he sent Titus back to Jerusalem to destroy it.
 - g. Josephus stated that not one Christian died in the fall of Jerusalem. Why? They heeded the Lord's guidance and escaped to the wilderness!
3. **(Slide #7)** Cautions Jesus gave ["I am warning you beforehand!" 24]: 23-26
- a. Do not be deceived at that time by people who claim that Christ is present at that time! 23
 - b. Do not let false Christs and false prophets deceive you with signs and wonders. 24
 - c. If they say, "He is in the desert!" or "He is in the inner rooms!" do not listen to them or believe them!
4. **(►)** Observe the targeted phrases and time phrases that Jesus used in Matthew 24:4-35:
- a. Targeted phrases: "These things" 2,3,6,33,34
 - b. Time phrases:
 1. "Those days." 19,22 (twice),29
 2. "This generation." 34
 3. "Then the end will come." 14
 - c. All these "signs of the times" give you guidance just like you get from the tree!
 1. "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near. ³³So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near--at the doors!" Mt. 24:32-33
 2. Just like you know the signs of summer and winter, the Jews could know when all "these things" were about to occur!

5. **(Slide #8)** When will all these signs occur?
 - a. All these signs were to occur before Jerusalem fell.
 - b. In “THIS” generation -- the generation to whom JESUS WAS SPEAKING!
 1. Mt. 24:34 “Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.”
 2. A Bible generation is 40 years -- before A.D. 73! And it occurred in that generation -- in A.D. 70!
 - c. The absolute certainty of Jesus’ prophecy: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.” Mt. 24:35

6. (►) And Jesus affirms that this is one of the GREAT events of the history of the world!
 - a. Mt. 24:29-33 “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. ³²Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near. ³³So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near--at the doors!”
 - b. Premillennialists claim this is referring to the end of the world. That is incorrect!
 - c. This is Jewish apocalyptic literature that talks about an event of incredible import -- it will shake the very foundations of society and religious mores!
 - d. This language describes the fall of nations in Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Joel; it describes the end of the Law of Moses in Ac. 2:19-21!
 1. At first blush, this may sound like the end of the world!
 2. However, this is identical language to “apocalyptic literature” describing the fall of nations and powers in the O.T.
 - a. Is. 13:10,13 Babylon
 - b. Is. 24:19-23 Tyre
 - c. Is. 34:4,5 Armies of Israel
 - d. Ezek. 32:6-10 Egypt
 - e. Ezek. 38:20 Scythia
 - f. Am. 8:9 Israel
 3. This is language that talks about the fall of great nations, rulers, or entrenched traditions!
 4. Here in Mt. 24 it describes the Fall of Jerusalem, the destruction of the Temple, and the end of Jewish worship as had been known since the days of the building of the Tabernacle in Exodus!

- e. Think of the impact of this event:
 1. The Temple would be decimated -- the Jews had no place to worship.
 2. The priests would no longer offer sacrifices there.
 3. The Jews could not observe the three Jewish Feasts -- Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles (including the Day of Atonement) -- there was no Temple where they could conduct those observances!
 4. Their whole religious foundation is FOREVER destroyed!
 5. Their Temple records are destroyed; no Jew can prove his lineage any longer!
 6. The strident opposition of Judaism to Christ and Christianity has lost its luster and power!

II. (Slide #9) The End Of The World!

- A. (▶) Jesus' Affirmation: "Let me tell you about the end of the world; there will be NO evidences [SIGNS]of its coming!" 24:36-51; 25:1-45

- B. (▶) The Targeted Phrases And Time Phrases That Jesus Used In Matthew 24:36-51; 25:1-45:
 1. Targeted Phrases:
 - a. "That day" 36
 - b. "That hour" 36,42,44,50
 - c. "Day of the Lord."

 2. (Slide #10) Time Phrases:
 - a. Totally unexpected!
 1. "As in the days of Noah were!" 37 [There were NO SIGNS!]
 2. "As in the days before the flood." 38
 3. "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming." 42
 4. "At an hour you do not expect." 44
 5. "Day when he is not looking for *him* and at an hour that he is not aware of." 50

 - b. (Slide #11) Teaching that emphasizes the unexpected nature of the Lord's Second Coming!
 1. Mt. 25:1-13 The Parable of the Ten Virgins.
 - a. They had no idea when the bridegroom would return.
 - b. 5 were unprepared; 5 were prepared.
 - c. What is the real message of this parable? Always be ready because you have NO IDEA when the Lord will return!
 - d. "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." 13

2. Mt. 15:14-30 The Parable of the Talents.
 - a. A man was going on a long journey; he called his servants and gave them “talents” -- his own money to invest and grow while he was gone.
 - b. They were given different responsibilities -- one was given 5 talents; another was given 2 talents, a third was given 1 talent.
 - c. The 5 and 2 talent men were responsible and diligent; they doubled their master’s wealth. When he returned unexpectedly, he was so pleased with their actions and commended them and gave them promotions.
 - d. The 1 talent man viewed his lord as a demanding tyrant; he had simply hidden the 1 talent; he returned it to him. The lord was very unhappy with his actions. The talent was taken from him and given to the 10-talent man!
 - e. The point of this parable: use all the opportunities and blessings that Christ has given you; be ready whenever he unexpectedly returns!
3. Matthew 25:31-46 The Judgment scene.
 - a. The Lord’s Second Coming will be totally unexpected.
 - b. Everyone of all nations will be judged by Him.
 - c. Those faithful will be on His right hand; sinners will be on His left hand.
 - d. The pronouncements:
 1. Sinners will be told: “Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:”
41
 2. The saved will be told: “Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:” 34
4. There will be an immediate separation of the righteous from the wicked!
 - a. Mt. 24:40-42 “Then two *men* will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹Two *women will be* grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴²Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.”
 - b. Immediately the Judgment will occur!

C. (►) Other Bible Texts That Explain That There Will Be NO Signs Of The Lord’s Second Coming!:

1. The Lord’s Second Coming will come “like a thief in the night!”
 - a. I Thess. 5:2 “For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.”
 - b. I Thess. 5:4 “But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.”

- c. II Pet. 3:10 “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”
 - d. It will come just as suddenly and unexpectedly as the rain and Flood in the Days of Noah! Mt. 25:37-39
2. He is going to return on the “Last Day!”
- a. Jn. 6:39 “This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the **last day**.”
 - b. Jn. 6:40 “And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the **last day**.”
 - c. Jn. 6:44 “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the **last day**.”
 - d. Jn. 6:54 “Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the **last day**.”
 - e. Jn. 11:24 “Martha said to Him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the **last day**.’”
 - f. Jn. 12:48 “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the **last day**.”
3. What will happen to the Earth on the “Last Day?” The Earth and this universe will be destroyed!
- a. II Pet. 3:10 “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”
 - b. There will be no earth on which the Lord will set up an earthly kingdom!
4. NO ONE but the Father knows when that Day will happen!
- a. Mt. 25:36 “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”
 - b. There are NO signs; NO ONE HAS A CLUE!!!
5. The implication to all of us: live EVERY DAY ready for His Second Coming!
- a. Mt. 25:42 “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.”
 - b. II Pet. 3:11,12 “Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹²looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?”

(Slide #12) Conclusion:

- A. WHY Was The Destruction Of The Temple One Of The Great Events of The Bible?

- B. (▶) Providentially, God Brought About Events That Really Turned The Jews' World Upside Down!

- C. (▶) The Existence Of The Temple Had Been A Real Hindrance To Jews Leaving The Law Of Moses, Believing In Jesus, And Becoming Christians.

- D. Imagine The Impact Of What Happened In The Fall Of Jerusalem!
 - 1. Everything that had been SO important to you was decimated!
 - a. The Temple
 - b. The place of worship -- priests cannot make sacrifices.
 - c. The place where you observed the 3 great yearly Feasts -- Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles (including the Day of Atonement).

 - 2. You are depressed, discouraged, and confused!

 - 3. Providentially God used the Roman army to bring a finality to the Jews devotion to the Law of Moses -- everything was gone!

 - 4. No Jew today can affirm his tribe -- those records were destroyed!

 - 5. Today -- Christ stands supreme; the New Covenant is the Law for Gentiles AND for Jews!

- E. **(Slide #13) Come To Jesus; He Will Save You!**