

Context

- 1] Jesus, a few days before His crucifixion, is teaching in the synagogue.
- 2] The religious authorities have been trying to catch him out, but He has confounded them.
- 3] He has been commending the giving of a poor widow (21:1-4)

His audience (5)

- 1] **and while some were speaking of the Temple**

Nb He was speaking to His disciples (20:45; 21:12) of the widows offering
I.e. They weren't listening. They were admiring man's handiwork of the Temple
Pay attention to what the Lord is saying!

- 2] **how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings**

nb majestic - Columns of white marble, 40ft high, each made of one single block of stone
lavish gift/ offering most famous was great vine made of solid gold with grape clusters as tall as a man

Foretells the destruction of the Temple (6-9)

- 1] **'...the days will come when not one stone left on another' (6)**

Cf 'the days will come' (19:43)

Nb total destruction of the Temple -The wailing wall is the foundation 'retaining wall' for the Temple mount
God has a shocking way sometimes of getting our attention

- 2] **'Teacher, when will these things be and what will be the sign...?' (7)**

Nb no sign but the sign of Jonah—the son of man will be 3 days & 3 nights in the heart of the earth. (11:29,30)
Be careful of seeking 'signs'

- 3] (No sign?) **'See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name and say, "I am He" and "the time is at hand". Do not go after them.' (8)**

Nb in your name (10:27; 24:47) of the name of the Lord (13:35; 19:38)
he' – the returning noble man / landowner (19:12ff; 20:9ff)

Cf 'powerful careers end in failure' Enoch Powell

Be careful of our tendencies to believe in 'messiahs'

- 4] **'And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but then the end will not be at once' (9)**

i.e. don't be frightened by news of wars / disasters – God is in charge – the end of time will be in due course
Don't be afraid of disasters – He has said these will happen and the Lord is in control

Foretells wars and persecution (10-19)

- 1] (At the end) **Nations will rise against nations. Kingdoms against Kingdom. There will be earthquakes and in various places famine and pestilence. And there will be terrors and great signs from Heaven (10,11)**

Cf Kingdom against Kingdom (Is 19:2; Mt 24:7; Mk 13:8)

- 2] **Before this day, they will persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake (12)**

Nb warning of persecution (Lk 12:4-7 John 15:18-25)

Witnessing under persecution see (Matt 10:17-22; Philippians 1:12-14)

Cf I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute (11:49)

Expect persecution as followers of Jesus

- 3] **This will be your opportunity to be my witness. Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate before-hand how to answer. I will give you a mouth and wisdom which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. (13-15)**

Cf witnesses (24:48 cf Acts 1:8)

Nb The Holy Spirit will teach you what to say (12:12)

Be prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that is in you (1 Pet 3:15)

GRACE The Lord give us all we need for His service

Be prepared to give an account for the faith you hold

Resolve to trust the Lord for His wisdom

4] **You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death (16,17)**

Cf hate his father, mother wife and children ... even own life .. (Lk 14:26)

Hated by all for names sake (Jn 15:18-20) but enjoyed favour of the people (Acts 2:47)?

Jesus' name / His rule is hated

Be prepared for people to hate you because of Jesus

5] **not a hair on your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives. (18,19)**

Rest assured in Jesus – He has promised you, life everlasting

Foretells destruction of Jerusalem (20-24)

1] **When you see Jesus surrounded by armies, then you know that its desolation has come near (20)**

Cf Desolation (Daniel 11:31)

2] **Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains and let not those who are out in the city depart and let not those who are out in the country enter it (21)**

3] **For these days are vengeance, to fulfil all that is written. Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days. For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. (22,23)**

Cf Daughters of Jerusalem - weep for yourselves – the days are coming - (23:28,29)

Vengeance is mine (Rom 12:18,19)

The Lord has been vengeful and angry with His people

Note - God is vengeful and wrathful

4] **They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all the nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled (24)**

1) AD 70 Josephus – 1 million Jews were killed and 100,000 were led away as slaves

2) Jerusalem was ruled by Gentiles (non-Jews) till 1949 (i.e. 1900 years)

Nb To everything there is a time and a season (Ecclesiastes 3:1ff)

The Lord is the one who sets the times

God has promised a time when the Gentiles will rule Jerusalem no more

Summary To those distracted by the grandeur of the Temple, Jesus prophesied its destruction. Their question if there would be a 'sign' was met by a warning of imposters imitating his return and of wars and disasters first (5-9)

Before these happen there will be a great persecution of those who believe in me. Resolve now to trust in (my Holy Spirit) to give you unchallengeable wisdom. You will be opposed by those closest to you and hated because of me. But I will give you eternal life. (10-19)

Be prepared to flee. A day comes when Jerusalem will be completely destroyed, even the weakest, as an expression of God's vengeance and wrath. Gentiles will rule it, till they have fulfilled God's purposes (20-24)

MP All things will be destroyed but you will be preserved, forever.

KV But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives (18,19)