

Matthew 24:1-2 The Destruction of Herod's Temple

Introduction: This text marks the departure of Jesus from the temple. It also marks the destruction of the temple because of the prophecy involved.

I. The exit from the temple, verse 1a.

- A. Jesus went out and departed from the temple.
- B. He had spent the day there and it seems natural that at the end of the day He would leave.
- C. But there is more to His exit than just closing out the day; He was leaving because He was rejected there.
 - 1. The day had begun with a challenge by the chief priests and elders, Matthew 21:23. (He met their challenge but did not change their minds about Him, Matthew 21:46).
 - 2. Later that day the leaders sent bright young scholars along with Herodians to trick Jesus, Matthew 22:15. (They thought they had Him trapped either way He answered.)
 - 3. Still later the Sadducees tried to trick Him, Matthew 22:23.
 - 4. Later the Pharisees tried again, Matthew 22:34-36.
- D. Before He left He pronounced woe on the scribes and Pharisees, Matthew 23.
- E. He made one final compassionate appeal to Jerusalem, Matthew 23:37.
- F. He pronounced judgment on Jerusalem and all Israel and announced that He would not come back until they were ready to receive Him, Matthew 23:38-39.
- G. Then He left, never to return on a voluntary basis until the end time events when He will be gladly received.

II. The concern of the disciples for the temple, verse 1b.

- A. These disciples hated to see Jesus rejected, but they also hated to see the temple destroyed.
 - 1. They knew that Solomon's temple had been destroyed by the Babylonians.
 - 2. They understood that the judgment pronounced in 23:38 meant the whole house of Israel, including the temple.
 - 3. They had loved this temple all their life and now hated to think about it being destroyed.
- B. They made it a point to call to the attention of Jesus the beauty of the temple.
 - 1. It was beautiful. (The stones were of white limestone marble and from a distance looked like snow. It was said to rival Solomon's temple in beauty.)
 - 2. Not that they were aware of its beauty for the first time, but they just did not want to see it destroyed.
 - 3. They may have had some problem believing that it would be destroyed. (The stones were massive, some 70' long and weighing about 100 tons. It would require a major effort to tear it down. It seemed virtually impossible.)
 - 4. Their remarks were as if to say, "Lord, are you sure?"

III. The prophecy about the destruction, verse 2.

- A. Jesus said that the temple would be destroyed.
- B. Not one stone would be left upon another.

IV. The prophecy fulfilled and the temple destroyed.

- A. Within a few short days Jesus was dead and the prophecy was not fulfilled.
- B. Thirty-nine years went by and the prophecy was not fulfilled.
- C. On that fortieth year, (70 A.D.) Titus and the Roman army brought about the fulfillment of the prophecy.
 - 1. First the Jews rebelled against Rome and drove out the Romans.

2. The Roman emperor sent Titus with an army.
3. Titus gave orders that the temple was not to be hurt.
4. But somebody set fire to the veil and the temple was gutted with fire.
5. Titus then conquered the Jews and forced the Jews to tear down their own temple.
6. Not one stone of any building was left upon another.
7. Only a few stones in the wall about buildings were left.

V. The importance of believing the words of God.

A. Jesus preached and men did not believe.

1. The chief priests and elders did not believe.
2. The scribes and Pharisees did not believe.
3. The young scholars and Herodians did not believe.
4. The Sadducees did not believe.
5. The multitudes did not believe. (At least the majority.)
6. Even the disciples had difficulty in believing.
7. But what Jesus said was the absolute truth.

B. Through the Bible Jesus still speaks today.

1. The world as a whole says, "I do not believe that."
2. Most of the religious world says, "I do not believe that."
3. Even some saved say on certain things, "I do not believe." (Isn't it amazing that some Christians will pick out certain things that they like and they do not want to believe or even hear the other things in God's book.)

C. Let me be specific:

1. The Bible says that the world will be destroyed by fire, II Peter 3:7, 11-12.
(The world rejects this; many religious people reject it; many Christians live as though they do not believe it.)
2. The Bible says that the lost sinner can be saved by trusting Jesus, Romans 10:13; Acts 16:31; John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9.

Conclusion: I believe it. How about you? But hear this warning. If you really want Jesus to leave you alone, He will. He will until it is time for judgment.

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