

AND THEY ALL FALL DOWN!

August 29, 2022

MATTHEW 24:1-2 NKJV – (1) Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. (2) 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.”

Leading up to this discourse, Jesus has been teaching and speaking in Israel's temple structure in Jerusalem. He has just completed pronouncing seven "woes" of judgment against Israel's religious leaders: the scribes and the Pharisees (**Matthew 23:13**). He concluded with a declaration that He was officially abandoning Jerusalem and her children to coming judgment (**Matthew 23:37-38**). Jerusalem has refused to acknowledge Him as the Messiah and receive His protection.

Now Jesus and His disciples have left the temple and are walking away from it. Despite the serious tone of Jesus' most recent pronouncements, the disciples turn and comment to Jesus about the buildings of the temple. The temple had been extensively renovated in recent years, and historians report that it was known for its beauty and grandeur. Christ will not allow the disciples to miss the point of His recent revelations about the coming judgment on Jerusalem. His prediction will be shocking (**Matthew 24:2; Mark 13:2**).

Christ makes it clear he's referring to the temple buildings they are all looking at. He is not speaking in parable, or symbolism, or talking about some other location. The prediction He gives is horrible: the entire structure will be destroyed, down to the foundations. Jesus is predicting the utter destruction of the historic and beautiful temple of Israel (**Mark 13:2**).

This prophecy of judgment was completely and fully fulfilled when Rome destroyed Jerusalem in AD 70. In response to a Jewish rebellion, the Roman Empire laid siege to Jerusalem for five months. At the end of this time, the city was invaded and vandalized, bringing the Jewish death toll into the hundreds of thousands. Romans burned the temple, causing leftover gold to melt into the cracks of the masonry. To remove it, soldiers literally tore the structure apart brick-to-brick, leaving nothing but the level foundation. At that point, Jesus' prophecy was fulfilled, and the Old Testament system of sacrifices had entirely ceased to be (**Hebrews 8:13**).

That woe Jesus spoke is a woe for the people of Christ today as well. “Holding on to stuff”, hidden agendas, and denying the true and living God by not applying that which He has spoken. Everything will come crumbling down! Why? Because the disobedience, denial, idolatry, rebellion and most of all, the worship that is at hand. Nothing shall be left but the spoken word. Repent!!

SCRIPTURE READING: ROMANS 15:13

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: God is the source of value and meaning in our lives.

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"