

Title: DESTRUCTION LEADS TO SALVATION, LUKE 21:5-19
(Chatham, NJ; 11/17/13, AM) [D – Exegesis]

Theme: Jesus predicts the fall of Jerusalem and tells his followers that salvation will come.

Purpose: To examine some of the details of Jerusalem's destruction, but also to remind the faithful that salvation will eventually deliver us from God's judgment.

Introduction:

1. Jesus predicts the coming destruction of Jerusalem.
2. It will symbolize the change from the old covenant and sacrificial system to the new covenant established by the blood of Christ.
3. This change will be accompanied by a great upheaval, but it will be followed by salvation for the faithful.
4. We still await the final consummation.

I. Destruction of Jerusalem

A. The Disciples' Wide-Eyed Wonder, 5

1. They comment on the majesty of the Temple (historian Tacitus called it "immensely opulent")
2. Jesus had elevated the lowly widow (1-4) prior to this
3. Their comments seem in stark contrast – the poor widow versus the opulence of the Temple
4. God values what man misses
5. The Temple was to be destroyed

B. The key to the timing of the events

1. "These things must take place" 9
2. These things refer to the destruction of Jerusalem, 21
3. Remember that Jerusalem was destroyed once before in 587 BC
4. It was a shock to Israel, but a remnant later returned
5. This time there would be no return
6. God's people (Christians) would be saved from his wrath
7. "But the end is not yet," 9
8. The end reaches much further out to Christ's second coming, 25-28
9. We live in the intervening time

II. People Will Hate You, 17 (this part fits all times)

A. The world hates the light, John 3:20

1. And all who represent it, Mt. 5:11-12, 14
2. A disciple is not above his master; if the world hated him it will hate us
3. 2 Timothy 3:12 – All who want to live a godly life will be persecuted
4. Remember also 1 Peter 4:4 – people malign you for not participating in their sinful ways
5. In the midst of the destruction and mayhem, people look to blame others

B. What hatred and persecution looks like today

1. Ad hominem attacks – see "Liberal Squelching," p. 2 for quote by Lenin
2. Also guilt by association – quote by Party in 1943
3. Intolerance of religion, p.3
4. Lies, p. 3
5. These are the same tools used by every evil movement in history

III. Days of Vengeance/Days of Salvation

- A. Days of Vengeance, 22 – God’s wrath is coming, Eph. 5:6
 - 1. Historian Eusebius saw the destruction of Jerusalem as payment for their rejection of Christ and persecution of Christians
 - 2. Tradition has it that James, the writer of the epistle, was thrown from the Temple just prior to the siege of Jerusalem (the final straw?)
 - 3. The Christians fled to the city of Pella according to Jesus’ advice, 21-22
 - 4. As with Sodom and Gomorrah there were no righteous ones left
 - 5. This was punishment for persistent unbelief just as in the Babylonian captivity
- B. Days of Salvation, 25-28
 - 1. Early and later theologians (Cyril, Ambrose, Augustine, Calvin) see this as the Second Coming of Christ
 - 2. This is probably the second prediction of verse 9.
 - 3. The destruction of those who reject God means salvation for us, 2 Thess. 2:5-8

Conclusions:

- 1. Romans 13:11 provides a noteworthy exhortation.
- 2. Though Jerusalem was destroyed, we are certain of a heavenly Jerusalem where God dwells with us.
- 3. We must endure the insults and mockery of this unrighteous generation.
- 4. We pray that God opens their eyes.
- 5. We have the hope of salvation and Christ’s return as a pillar of faith within our hearts.
- 6. We call on our family, friends, and neighbors to heed the Gospel call to believe, repent, confess, and be baptized for the remission of our sins.