

King in the End (Luke 21:5-38)

A glimpse of the future

Jesus' goal: to help us stay...

1. Be calm and discerning, even when life is turbulent (v.5-11)

The temple

The shock

[Assumption] End of temple = end of the age

The question

How does Jesus answer?

“Fearful events”!

Key point: Don't worry! These things might *feel* like it's going to be the end, but it's not the End!

What are these events, then?

- Earthquakes (Acts 4:31; 16:26); famine (Acts 11:28); celestial signs (Acts 2:1-4, 19-20).

Tempting to react in 2 ways

- To speculate
- To panic

2. Be prepared and take courage when opposition comes (v.12-19)

The disciples' immediate future

- Acts 13:42-46, 14:1-2, 18:5-7; 5:18, 8:3, 16:23-24, 26:10; 9:15, 26:27-30

An opportunity to bear testimony

The encouragement: Jesus will give you the words to say

The promise of v.18

3. Stay sober yet confident, because Jesus has it all in his hands (v.20-28)
What else lies ahead for the apostles?

Exactly as Jesus foretold – AD70

Pointing forward – v. 25-26

Is Jesus speaking the truth?

Flee...but where?

4. Stay watchful and prayerful, as your redemption draws near (v.29-38)

The point of the fig tree

“This generation will not pass away” (cf. for eg. Luke 7:31, 9:41, 11:50-51)

Be careful – the 3 common things that sidetrack us (v.34)

Lift up your heads!

If you wish to dig deeper....

ON THE PASSAGE ITSELF....

Non-technical: Dale Ralph Davis' exposition of this chapter in his *Luke 14-24 commentary (Focus on the Bible)* is very readable and explains the text well to a broad audience.

Semi-technical: Joel Green's section in the *New International Commentary on the New Testament (NICNT)* makes many helpful and sensible observations, and offers a balanced take when navigating through the different interpretive options.

Technical: Jonathan Wu's dissertation, *Mystery in the Matthean Olivet discourse: Matthew 24-25 vis-à-vis Danielic and Matthean mystery*, looks at the parallel passage in Matthew rather than at Luke directly. Nevertheless, its close reading still yields many astute insights.

MORE GENERALLY ON THE SUBJECT OF THE "END-TIMES" ...

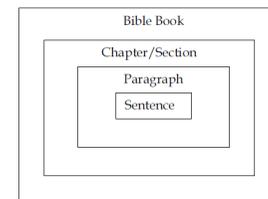
John Dickson and Greg Clarke, *666 and all that* is a very accessible primer on many of the common questions people ask concerning eschatology, such as life after death, judgment, the new creation and so on.

Matthew Halsted, *The End of the World as you know it: What the Bible really says about the End times (and why it's good news)*
Although I slightly differ from his interpretation of our passage today (I do not stress the 1st century background quite as much), the author does a great job otherwise on questions concerning Revelation, rapture, the mark of the beast etc.

Basics of biblical interpretation: A simple checklist for any psg

Some questions to ask:

- **What kind of writing am I reading? What is the *genre*?**
- **What is the *literary context*?**
(What comes before and after the verse?)
(Where do these verses come in the context of the entire book?)
(Where do these verses fit in the entire Bible storyline?)



- **What is the *historical context*?**
(In what situation was the passage originally written?)
- **Are there any terms or phrases upon which the rest of Scripture can shed light on?**
(Is Scripture interpreting Scripture?)
- **Before asking how the passage relates to us now, ask first, how would the original audience reading the psg have received it?**

