

## 29 THE CONTEXT OF LUKE WAS THE COMING ROMAN-JEWISH WAR AD 67-70

**Introduction:** This paper highlights the Gospel of Luke's references to Israel's impending war with Rome. Taken together, they give unmistakable proof of a local first century fulfillment. Passages are listed together for evidentiary purposes, but all scripture should be studied in context. (See papers/videos #12 and #13 regarding Matthew's gospel for more historical background.)

### 1. DIRECT REFERENCES TO THE COMING WAR WITH ROME i.e. NATIONAL JUDGMENT.

#### a) Jesus told his disciples that the Jerusalem temple complex would be completely destroyed. (Fulfilled AD 70)

"As for these things which you see [Jerusalem temple buildings], the days will come, in which there will not be left here one stone on another that will not be thrown down." Lk. 21:6

#### b) Jesus wept for Jerusalem and foretold they would be surrounded by [Roman] military barricades with no possibility of escape. (Fulfilled AD 70)

"When he [Jesus] drew near, he saw the city [Jerusalem] and wept over it, 42 saying... 43 'the days will come on you, when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, surround you, hem you in on every side, 44 and will dash you and your children within you to the ground. They will not leave in you one stone on another...' Lk. 19:41-44

#### c) Jesus told the disciples to leave Judea when Jerusalem was surrounded by armies to escape the coming destruction and death. These were the last days of the Old Covenant to fulfill all scripture. (Fulfilled AD 66-70)

"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is at hand. 21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let those who are in the midst of her depart. Let those who are in the country not enter therein. Lk. 21:20-21

#### d) Those who did not believe Jesus, stayed to fight against Rome. Jerusalem was thoroughly devastated and hundreds of thousands of people killed and taken into slavery during the 3½ year war. (Fulfilled AD 67-70)

"They will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled down by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled." Lk 21: 24

#### e) As Jesus was led to his crucifixion, he foretold of the abject misery residents of Jerusalem would suffer. They would long for death because existence would be insufferable. (Fulfilled AD 67-70)

Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, don't weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. 29 For behold, the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' 30 Then they will begin to tell the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and tell the hills, 'Cover us.'" Lk. 23:28-30

#### f) Jesus warned the past slaughter of Jewish people by the Romans and a past collapsed occupied tower was only a sample of what they would experience in the coming war in Jerusalem if they remained unrepentant.

"Now there were some present at the same time who told him about the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. 2 Jesus answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered such things? 3 I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all perish in the same way [violently]." 4 Or those eighteen, on whom the tower in Siloam fell, and killed them; do you think that they were worse offenders than all the men who dwell in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no, but, unless you repent, you will all perish in the same way [violently]." Lk.13:1-5

#### g) These events in Jerusalem were the final prophesied conflicts which would put an end to the Old Covenant.

"For these are days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled." Lk. 21:22

#### h) The coming break-down of the social-political-religious structure through war was represented using de-creation language. What was visible to physical sight of those first century people, was the utter destruction of the land, which was the sign of the presence of the Son of Man meting out justice to the unrepentant. The believers in Jesus, however, received the Kingdom of God as well as relief from Jewish persecution.

"There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars; and on the earth anxiety of nations, in perplexity for the roaring of the sea and the waves; 26 men fainting for fear, and for expectation of the things which are coming on the world: for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 But when these things begin to happen, look up, and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near.... Most certainly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things are accomplished." Lk 21:25-28, 32

## 2. JESUS AND JOHN USED “FIRE” LANGUAGE TO INDICATE THE COMING WAR/JUDGMENT. FIRE WAS THE MOST LETHAL WEAPON OF WAR AS WELL AS SYMBOLIC OF GOD’S WRATH.

- a) Jesus said, “I came to throw fire on the earth. I wish it were already kindled.” Lk.12:49
- b) John the Baptist said, “Even now the axe also lies at the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that doesn't bring forth good fruit is cut down, and thrown into the fire.” Lk. 3:9
- c) “John answered them all, ‘I indeed baptize you with water, but he comes who is mightier than I... He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire.’” Lk. 3:16
- d) John said, “His [Jesus’s] fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly cleanse his threshing floor, and will gather the wheat into his barn; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” Lk. 3:17
- e) Jesus said, “Don’t be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will warn you whom you should fear. Fear him, who after he has killed, has power to cast into Gehenna [annihilation]. Yes, I tell you, fear him.” Lk. 12:4-5 (See paper #10)

## 3. “WOE” LANGUAGE AND REFERENCES TO PERSISTENT WICKEDNESS WERE INDICATORS OF THE COMING WAR WITH ROME IN THAT FIRST CENTURY GENERATION.

- a) “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works had been done in Tyre and Sidon which were done in you, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.” Lk.10:13
- b) “Woe to you lawyers! For you took away the key of knowledge. You didn't enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in, you hindered.” Lk. 11:52
- c) He said, “Woe to you lawyers also! For you load men with burdens that are difficult to carry, and you yourselves won't even lift one finger to help carry those burdens. Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. So you testify and consent to the works of your fathers. For they killed them, and you build their tombs.” Lk.11:46-48
- d) “Therefore also the wisdom of God said, ‘I will send to them prophets and apostles; and some of them they will kill and persecute, 50 that the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be **required of this generation**; 51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zachariah.’” Lk. 11:49-51
- e) “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, that kills the prophets, and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, like a hen gathers her own brood under her wings, and you refused!” Lk.13:34

## 4. JESUS USED PARABLES AND STORY TO WARN OF THE COMING FIRST CENTURY WAR, WHICH WAS NATIONAL JUDGMENT.

- a) Jesus told the parable of the “Nobleman and the Pounds” to let the disciples know his return would not be immediate, although it would be within their generation (Lk. 21:32), and their reward would be proportional to their faithfulness to the message entrusted to them. He declared the enemies of Jesus would perish when He stated “... bring those enemies of mine who didn't want me to reign over them here, and kill them before me.” Lk 19:11-27
- b) Jesus told the “Parable of the Vineyard Owner” who expected some fruit from His tenant farmers [Israel]. However, they mistreated His servants [prophets] and killed His Son [their Messiah]. The owner would return and kill the wicked tenants and give the vineyard to others. Lk. 20:9-18.
- c) Jesus told of a “fig tree” (Israel) that was allowed to stand until it was determined if it [Israel] would bear fruit. If not, it would be cut down. Lk. 13:6-9
- d) Jesus said, “Do you think that I have come to give peace in the earth? I tell you, no, but rather division. For from now on, there will be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three.” Lk. 12:51 Believers were ostracized and persecuted by unbelievers until the war when unbelievers were defeated in the national judgment.