

## Appendix:

### Comparison Matthew 24 and Luke 21

**Matt. 24:1 ¶** Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him.

**Matt. 24:2** And He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down."

**Matt. 24:3 ¶** As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what *will be* the sign of Your coming [*parousia*], and of the end of the age?" (NAS95S)

The Wow Factor!

Jesus' disciples were astonished at Herod's amazing reconstruction of the Temple.

The seminar tour groups we take there are still amazed at the size of the stones.

Wikipedia.org

Herod's Temple was one of the larger construction projects of the 1st century BCE. Herod was interested in perpetuating his name for all eternity through building projects, and his construction program was extensive. He had built magnificent palaces in Masada, Caesarea and Tiberias. ... But his masterpiece was the Temple of Jerusalem. The old temple built by Zerubbabel was replaced by a magnificent edifice.

His disciples probably were even more astonished at the Master's words.

I think this because they had walked some distance from the Temple Mount to the Mount of Olives. While they were on the way they seemed to have discussed what He said, and to have carefully worded what I see as three questions (v. 3).

These disciples were Jews. Their thinking is Jewish. Their questions were Jewish.

Remember, we must rightly divide the Word.

Therefore we must rightly divide His answers to their questions.

1. When will these things happen?
2. What is the sign of your coming? (Parousia)
3. ....and of the end of the age?

#### The First Question

#### When Will the Second Temple Be Destroyed?

Jesus had said that the Temple stones would come down.

When would the Second Temple be destroyed?

We now know it was destroyed in 70AD by the Romans under Titus.

Forty years (number of testing) after Jesus prophesied it.

Luke 21:20-24 is the answer to this question:

**Luke 21:20 ¶** But when ye see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that her desolation is at hand.

**Luke 21:21** Then let them that are in Judaea flee unto the mountains; and let them that are in the midst of her depart out; and let not them that are in the country enter therein.

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

**Luke 21:23** Woe unto them that are with child and to them that give suck in those days! for there shall be great distress upon the land, and wrath unto this people.

**Luke 21:24** And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led captive into all the nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. (ASV)

Josephus, the Jewish historian witnessed this destruction and records details of the horror. Especially poignant is the account of a nursing mother that exactly fit what Jesus said in Luke 21:23. (See *Wars of the Jews*, Book VI, Chapter III) She did exactly opposite of Jesus' instructions. She left her village home and fled to the Temple area. The results are too terrible to describe here. Josephus' description exactly verifies that Jesus' warnings of the destruction of the Second Temple were exact.

One thing that I would share here; Josephus records that many supernatural signs of the impending destruction were given by God. Some were in the heavens. Here's what Josephus said considering our sign-giving God:

Josephus, *Wars of the Jews*, Book VI, Chapter III

Now, if any one consider these things, he will find that God takes care of mankind, and by all ways possible foreshews to our race what is for their preservation; but that men perish by those miseries which they madly and voluntarily bring upon themselves...

Josephus claims that 1,100,000 people were killed during the siege, of which a majority were Jewish, and that 97,000 were captured and enslaved.

In Luke 21:24 Jesus said that the captives would be led away into all nations. That happened. The Jewish survivors and their seed were scattered to the four corners of the world. From this scattering there will be an ingathering (Deuteronomy 30:1-9).

Jesus focused on Jerusalem. It is only here that the words "trodden down" are used.

In verse 24, Jesus moves forward in time from 70AD to the end of days when the times of the Gentile nations treading Jerusalem would be fulfilled.

The Second Question  
What is the Sign of Your Coming [Parousia]?

Though the disciples would have spoken Aramaic or Hebrew, the oldest manuscripts we have of The New Testament are in Greek.

In Matthew 24:3, The Greek word translated coming is *parousia*.

*The Companion Bible*, (page 1364)

The Papyri [ancient papyrus documents] show that “from the Ptolemaic period down to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD the word is traced in the East as a technical expression for the arrival or the visit of the king or the Emperor...(See Deissmann’s *Light, &c.*, pp. 372-8, 441-5)

The Jews were expecting the King Messiah, according to Scripture, to set up an earthly visible kingdom. His Jewish disciples were asking Him what would be the sign of that.

I believe that they thought the setting up of the kingdom would soon follow the destruction of the Temple. They had no idea a 2000-year church age would separate the two events.

In the Four Gospels, Jesus was speaking to Israel and offering them the promised kingdom. This is the kingdom message He preached to Israel.

**Matt. 15:24** But he answered and said, I was not sent but unto the lost sheep **of the house of Israel**.

Israel’s leaders rejected the kingdom.

That kingdom is now in abeyance and it is the one they will be prepared to administer in the Lord’s dealing with them now and in the future.

Jesus gives the signs of His Coming to set up the earthly kingdom in Matthew 24.

He describes what will be happening on earth in that seven-year shmittah cycle just before He comes on His white horse to judge and make war, and to set up His earthly kingdom.

Matthew 24 and its signs correspond with the Six Seals of Revelation and what is happening on earth during what is often called the tribulation.

You will want to read all of Matthew 24 in context.

I have chosen a few verses for commentary.

**Matt. 24:3** ¶ As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen, and what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

**Matt. 24:4** ¶ And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you.

**Matt. 24:5** “For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ [Messiah],’ and will mislead many.

**Matt. 24:6** “You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for *those things* must take place, but *that* is not yet the end.

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**Matt. 24:7** “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.

**Matt. 24:8** “But all these things are the beginning of birth pangs. (NAS95S)

Verses 3 and 4

A warning of the deception of the antichrist. In those trying times many will rightfully yearn for the Messiah. Deceivers will point to false Messiahs.

Verses 6 and 7

War! Famine! Earthquakes!

**Matt. 24:8** But all these things are the beginning of travail [*birth pangs*]. (ASV)

Verse 8

A reference to The Time of Jacob’s Trouble (Jeremiah 30:6,7.)

(See Appendix: Daniel’s Seventieth Week.)

**Matt. 24:9** Then shall they deliver you up unto tribulation, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all the nations for my name’s sake.

**Matt. 24:10** And then shall many stumble, and shall deliver up one another, and shall hate one another.

**Matt. 24:11** And many false prophets shall arise, and shall lead many astray.

**Matt. 24:12** And because iniquity shall be multiplied, the love of the many shall wax cold.

**Matt. 24:13** But he that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved. (ASV)

Verse 13

This verse proves that this is not a church age scripture.

In the church age, we are saved, “by grace through faith...Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

Enduring to the end to be saved, is a salvation of works. Something one must do to be saved.

The people of the time of the tribulation are encouraged to “endure to the end” to be saved.

The end of what? The end of that seven-year cycle?

For at the end of those seven years, the Messiah will indeed come, defeat the antichrist, and set up His visible kingdom on earth. At that time that will be the ultimate Good News!!!

**Matt. 24:14** And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a testimony unto all the nations; and then shall the end come.

Gospel means “good news.”

During the seven years, the good news that the Messiah is soon coming to set up His kingdom will be preached.

The 144,000 will preach it. Angels will preach it. The two witnesses will preach it.

The good news during the tribulation will be that it will soon be over.

That one can endure to the end and be saved.

**Matt. 24:15** ¶ When therefore ye see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let him that readeth understand),

**Matt. 24:16** then let them that are in Judaea flee unto the mountains:

**Matt. 24:17** let him that is on the housetop not go down to take out the things that are in his house:

**Matt. 24:18** and let him that is in the field not return back to take his cloak.

**Matt. 24:19** But woe unto them that are with child and to them that give suck in those days!

**Matt. 24:20** And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on a sabbath:

**Matt. 24:21** for then shall be great tribulation, such as hath not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, nor ever shall be.

**Matt. 24:22** And except those days had been shortened, no flesh would have been saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. (ASV)

Remember that to rightly divide scripture, one must read verses in context.  
We are reading these verses exactly as they come.

#### Verse 15

Jesus takes them right to what Daniel spoke about the antichrist.

The Lord verifies Daniel's prophecies. And He ties all this to the seven years immediately preceding His Second Coming—to what is called the tribulation.

Jesus, Daniel, and Paul (2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4) all prophesy that the antichrist will set up his throne in the newly built Temple where he will declare that he is God.

I think it is so interesting that the scripture says, "Let him that readeth understand."

Our Bibles will not go up in the rapture.

People will be reading them.

And Jesus pronounces a blessing that those who read will "understand" and follow the instructions He gives.

#### Verse 20

This too proves that he is not talking to the Body of Christ.

For it would not matter to Christians if they would need to take flight on a Sabbath.

But, it would certainly matter to many religious Jews.

They would even risk their lives rather than to break the travel restrictions of Sabbath.

I also find it so wonderful, that even in the tribulation time, prayer can prevail.

Evidently prayer can affect the time of the flight from danger.

#### Verse 21

Here Jesus calls it "the great tribulation."

#### Verse 22

The elect are the Jewish remnant.

From this we see that there will be a shortening of the days....

**Matt. 24:23** Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is the Christ [Messiah], or, Here; believe *it* not.

**Matt. 24:24** For there shall arise false Christs [messiahs], and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

**Matt. 24:25** Behold, I have told you beforehand.

**Matt. 24:26** If therefore they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the wilderness; go not forth: Behold, he is in the inner chambers; believe *it* not.

**Matt. 24:27** For as the lightning cometh forth from the east, and is seen even unto the west; so shall be the coming of the Son of man. (ASV)

Verses 23-26

Again the admonition not to be led astray by false messiahs (the antichrist included), and false prophets (including the false prophet of Revelation 16:13).

Verse 27

This Coming of the Son of Man will be visible to all.

When He comes as lightning splitting the eastern skies it is the coming of Revelation 19 and Zechariah 14. Every eye will see Him.

This is not the invisible coming for the church to meet Him in the air and to proceed to the Throne. (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.)

The purpose of the invisible coming for the church is for the love of His bride and marriage.

The purpose of His visible coming is to judge and make war (Revelation 19:16-16).

When He comes as lightning splitting the skies, it is with fire in His eyes.

**Matt. 24:28** Wheresoever the carcass is, there will  
the eagles be gathered together.

Verse 28

Again, we do not take a verse out of context and give it some strange and isolated meaning. The very next verses in Revelation 19 explain it, "And I saw an angel...he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God: That ye may eat the flesh of kings...captains...mighty men...." (Revelation 19:17, 18).

Also, God spoke to Job regarding the eagle, "Her young ones also suck up blood: and where the slain are, there is she" (Job 39:30).

**Matt. 24:29** ¶ But immediately **after the tribulation of those days** the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers [*exousia*, authorities] of the heavens shall be shaken:

**Matt. 24:30** and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

**Matt. 24:31** And he shall send forth his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Verse 29

Again, it is called "the tribulation"

Signs in the sun and moon and stars.

The usurping authorities of the "prince of the powers (authorities) of the air" shall be shaken. The mid-heavens will shake out the evil princes.

Verse 31

The elect are the Jewish remnant.

**Matt. 24:32** ¶ Now from the fig tree learn her parable: when her branch is now become tender, and putteth forth its leaves, ye know that the **summer** is nigh;  
**Matt. 24:33** even so ye also, when ye see all these things, know ye that He is nigh, *even* at the doors.

Verse 32

Summer is the time of the harvest, and therefore of the judging of the harvest.  
Note “summer” is the time of the judgment of the empires in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream.  
The end of the times of the gentiles:

**Dan. 2:34** Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon its feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them in pieces.  
**Dan. 2:35** Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken in pieces together, and became like the chaff **of the summer threshing-floors**; and the wind carried them away, so that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

The signs of the coming (parousia) of the King Messiah are given in answer to the disciples’ questions.

Concerning the days of Noah, it is written, “The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually (Genesis 6:5). Love brought the flood and removed the evil.  
Love will again judge evil and remove it out of the earth.

**Matt. 24:40** Then shall two men be in the field; one is taken, and one is left:  
**Matt. 24:41** two women *shall be* grinding at the mill; one is taken, and one is left.

Don’t lift these verses out of context and try to make them apply to the catching away of the church.

The catching away of the church is in the Letters to the church, and not in the Four Gospels.  
Verses 40 and 41 relate to the cleansing of the earth.  
These are sinners taken out of the earth at its cleansing in the day of the LORD.

**Is. 13:9** Behold, **the day of Jehovah cometh**, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger; to make the land a desolation, and **to destroy the sinners thereof out of it.**

Third Question  
What Will Be the Sign of the End of the Age?

Jewish disciples asked the question.  
It is the end of the Jewish age they are asking about.  
And the Lord describes the last seven years (shmittah cycle) of God’s dealing with the Jews as pointed out by Gabriel to Daniel (Daniel Chapter 9).