

“To Gain Our Eternal Lives – Hold Fast!”

Luke 21:5-19

11/16/2025

(Show Jesus in Temple Portico Slide)

⁷ They asked him, "Teacher, when will these things happen? What sign will show that these things are about to happen?"

– Luke 21:8

The disciples want to know when it will happen
When will the world as we know it be changed?

To set the scene,
Some people were admiring the Temple in all its
Earthly and divine beauty

And Jesus says the time is coming when what you are looking at
Will be destroyed

(Show White House Slide)

Think about the White House and all it symbolizes to us
And to just about everyone around the earth
It's a pretty special place
Practically dripping with meaning and symbolism
Has anyone here ever been in the vicinity of the White House?

It inspires awe

(Show Jerusalem Temple Slide)

Now, instead of being around 225 years,
Try to imagine something that had been around
About a thousand years
Back when Jesus and his disciples were looking at it
Something that has been in the same place
for about 3,000 years now

Imagine a place that wasn't built for a president
But something that was ordained and designed **by God**
There are about 13 chapters in the Book of Exodus
That describe this Tabernacle that is the dwelling place for God

This is the place where God, the LORD Almighty

Pitched his tent with us

And it was first an **actual tent!**

Eventually King Solomon, David's son,

Made it into an ornate physical building

That has stood on Mount Zion in Jerusalem

Ever since David moved the original tent to that place

This was the place that symbolized to the world,
All of the nations that surrounded the Nation Israel,
The place where God dwelt on the Ark of the Covenant
In the Holy of Holies

This was a pretty special place
That gave the chosen people of God their identity

And those who first heard the Gospels already knew
That in 70 AD, the Temple would be destroyed,
About 40 years after Jesus gave this prediction

(Show Jesus in Temple Portico Slide)

*⁵ Some people were talking about the temple, how it was decorated with beautiful stones and ornaments dedicated to God. Jesus said,
⁶ "As for the things you are admiring, the time is coming when not even one stone will be left upon another. All will be demolished."*

⁷ They asked him, "Teacher, when will these things happen? What sign will show that these things are about to happen?"

– Luke 21:5-7

(Show Blank Slide)

Ever feel as though things aren't as they should be,
As God wants the world to be?
Ever look forward to the time when all will be
proper and honorable and moral and right?

How do we put it?
*Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done;
on earth, as it is in heaven.*

We Christians, we look forward to, we long for,
The return of Christ when all will be as it should be

Well, Jesus says, the time is coming...

But first, well, some bad things are going to happen

(Show Jesus in Temple Portico Slide)

⁸ Jesus said, "Watch out that you aren't deceived. Many will come in my name, saying, 'I'm the one!' and 'It's time!' Don't follow them.

⁹ When you hear of wars and rebellions, don't be alarmed. These things must happen first, but the end won't happen immediately."

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Nations and kingdoms will fight against each other. ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes and wide-scale food shortages and epidemics. There will also be terrifying sights and great signs in the sky. ¹² But before all this occurs, they will take you into custody and harass you because of your faith. They will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name.

— Luke 21:8-12

(Show Blank Slide)

It kind of reminds me of John's Book of the Revelation

I like summing the Book of Revelation up this way...

It's bad

It's gonna get worse

But in the end, God wins

Revelation...

This vision or dream from John has something to say

About the one who comes and claims to be the savior,
and says

'I'm the one!' and 'It's time!'

But that's a whole 'nother sermon.

If you're interested check out Revelation 13

And John's letters to the church

Enough of the antichrist,

And let's get back to Jesus, the true Christ...

These bad things are going to come.

The first readers of the Gospels were experiencing these things

Firsthand in the second half of the first century

So what are we to do in the midst

of all these terrible things that are happening to us?

Hold fast

Keep the faith

Stay true to Jesus

And we will gain abundant, eternal life

All these calamities, Jesus says,

Will give us an opportunity to testify regarding Jesus

And what he means to us

(Show Jesus in Temple Portico Slide)

Jesus continues,

¹⁶ You will be betrayed by your parents, brothers and sisters, relatives, and friends. They will execute some of you. ¹⁷ Everyone will hate you because of my name. ¹⁸ Still, not a hair on your heads will be lost. ¹⁹ By holding fast, you will gain your lives.

— Luke 21:16-19

Ever feel as though things aren't as they should be,

As God wants the world to be?

Ever look forward to the time when all will be

proper and honorable and moral and right?

Ever feel like unscrupulous people are out to get you?

We are not the first to feel that way

If you don't believe me,

Start reading the Psalms that date back to King David

Yet, when we find ourselves in such rotten places,

What should we do?

Give up?
Throw in the towel
Take the advice of
If you can't beat them join them
Live a life of looking out for number one?

No.

Hold fast
Keep the faith
Stay true to Jesus
And we will gain abundant, eternal life

(Show Ville de Havre Slide)

Even in the terrible times –
Times that defying description
Let's sing a hymn written by a man from Chicago
Who lost his four daughters in an accident at sea
As the Lock Earn stuck and sank the Ville de Havre
In the mid-Atlantic
If you don't know the story,
I'd love to tell it to you over coffee this morning...

Oh, by the way, the tune of this hymn
written by Horatio Spafford is VILLE DE HAVRE

(Response Hymn "It Is Well with My Soul"

377)

