

Luke's Gospel – An Inclusive Savior
Lesson Nineteen

Introduction

Apocalypse - revelation * *Chronos* - calendar time * *Kairos* - opportune time

[Luke 21:5-36].....Jesus' Apocalyptic Speech (Discourse)

vs.5-6 The temple was the sign that all was right in the world for the Jews.
 Jerusalem still stood and the world was okay with them.
 Jesus' statement in vs.6 revealed that all would soon be "wrong" in their
 world

vs. 7 Luke has the benefit of history to aid him
 The listeners ask two questions that prompt this apocalyptic discourse of
 Jesus: **WHEN** will this happen? and **WHAT** will be the sign?

NOTE: Fred Craddock uses a formula to help explain this discourse which we will use.

Vs.8-11 Signs of the end - THREE Ways

vs.8 1.)False messiahs (Jim Jones, David Koresh); False calculators of
 time (year 2000); and False calculators of place (Garland, Texas;
 San Diego, CA)

vs.9-10 2.)Wars(Alexander the Great, WWI, WWII, Cold War, Vietnam, Middle
 East, Desert Storm, War on Terrorism), revolutions (French,
 American, Texas), International Conflicts (9/11, Ukraine, Israel-
 Palestine)

vs.11 3.)Natural Disasters(Earthquakes, Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Floods,
 Eruptions), Pestilences(Leprosy, Small Pox, Polio, Tuberculosis,
 AIDS), and Cosmological Happenings(Meteor Showers, Eclipses)

Vs.12-19 The Time of Testimony before the End

NOTE: Before the end, there is to be a time of witnessing. The time of witnessing is *kairos* not *chronos*.

vs.12-14 For Luke's church, and for us, we live during this time period. We live
 during a time when witnessing is prevalent.
 Luke has the benefit of history to aid him in writing this gospel, plus he
 has Acts as well. Witnessing before synagogues is fulfilled in Acts
 4-5; witnessing before governors and kings is fulfilled in Acts 24-
 26

vs.15 Luke 12:11-12 "When you are brought before synagogues, rulers...the
 Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say"

vs.16-19 Vs. 16 & 17 seem to contradict vs. 18 & 19. For we know that many
 disciples of Jesus were put to death. What does vs. 18 & 19 mean?

Vs.20-24 The Fall of Jerusalem

vs.20-24 Again, Luke has the benefit of history to aid him in this gospel. Jerusalem
 has already been destroyed in 66-70AD by the Roman armies.

vs.24 "The times of the Gentiles" is also the period in which we live. This is the
 time that the gospel message will be taken to and then delivered by

the Gentiles.

NOTE: This does NOT mean that the message has to be taken from the Jews. It's just also being carried to and delivered by the Gentiles (see Romans 11).

Vs.25-28 The Coming of the Son of Man

NOTE: By this point, many of Jesus' listeners are scared to death. Jesus begins to ease their minds by revealing the things that will happen *after* "the times of the Gentiles."

vs.25-26 The entire cosmos will be "crazy" disturbing humanity thoroughly! (See Acts 2:19-21)

vs.27-28 After these things have taken place, Jesus will return with power and great glory. Redemption will be near for humanity, the earth, & cosmos

Vs.29-31 The Parable of the Fig Tree

vs.29-31 This comparison simply shows that just like trees budding shows us that Summer is approaching, these signs show us that the *Parousia* (second coming) is at hand

Vs.32-33 The Time of the Coming of the Son of Man

vs.32-33 When????? Jesus says this *generation* will endure all of these things. The word *generation* is the key to "when?" Unfortunately, Jesus does not give a clear explanation for the word. So, it could mean thirty years or an infinite number of years!

NOTE: We do not get a sense of "the rapture" being a time when people disappear, therefore being exempt from suffering during the midst of persecution and hostility. Luke is NOT disagreeing with the rapture. He is saying that we will all suffer for the name of Christ.

Vs.34-36 The Ending to the Speech

vs.34-36 Jesus is saying that these things will happen, but we should not weigh ourselves down worrying about them.

For just as these "terrible" happenings will take place, redemption will take place too - and that's hope!

Spend our time in service to God and hope of the *Parousia*!

BIG NOTE: This discourse of Jesus was given in such a way that we **STILL** cannot predict when the end is. Therefore we must continue to do the work of the Lord.

NEXT LESSON: Luke 22 & 23