

# Luke

## Chapter 21

### Luke 21:1-4 – The Widow’s Offering

<sup>1</sup> As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. <sup>2</sup> He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. <sup>3</sup> “Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. <sup>4</sup> All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”



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## Key Observations

### 1. Value Is Measured by Sacrifice, Not Size

- God's economy is different from ours — He measures the heart and the cost, not the dollar amount.
- The widow's two coins outweighed the gold of the rich because they represented her **whole livelihood**.

### 2. Faith in God's Provision

- Giving "all she had" shows profound faith — she entrusted her future to God rather than holding back for security.
- This aligns with Jesus' earlier teaching in Luke 12:22–34 about seeking God's kingdom and trusting Him to meet our needs.

### 3. Contrast With the Scribes

- In Luke 20:47, Jesus condemned the scribes for "devouring widows' houses" while making a show of religiosity.
- Here, the one they might exploit becomes **the hero of faith** in God's eyes.

## Luke 21:5-37 – The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

<sup>5</sup> Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, <sup>6</sup> "As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down." <sup>7</sup> "Teacher," they asked, "when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?"

## Luke 21:5-37 – The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

<sup>8</sup> He replied: "Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them. <sup>9</sup> When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away." <sup>10</sup> Then he said to them: "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. <sup>11</sup> There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.

## Luke 21:5-37 – The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

**12 “But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. 13 And so you will bear testimony to me. 14 But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. 15 For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.**

12 But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake.

### Verse 12: Persecution Before the Other Signs

- “Before all this” means **before the wars, earthquakes, and other upheavals** He just described.
- The persecution will include:
  - **Physical arrest** (“lay their hands on you”)
  - **Religious trials** (“synagogues”)
  - **Civil trials** (“prisons,” “before kings and governors”)
- This prediction is fulfilled in Acts:
  - Peter and John before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4)
  - Paul before governors Felix and Festus (Acts 24–25)
  - Christians imprisoned for preaching (Acts 5, 16)

**13 This will be your opportunity to bear witness.**

14 Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer,

### Verse 13: Persecution as Opportunity

- Rather than seeing persecution as defeat, Jesus reframes it:
  - *“This will be your opportunity to bear witness.”*
- Trials put disciples **before audiences they would never otherwise reach** — from religious leaders to rulers and entire communities.

### Verse 14: Don't Over-Prepare in Fear

- “Settle it in your minds” — make a deliberate decision now.
- They are not to **pre-script** elaborate defenses out of anxiety.
- This is not a call to neglect studying Scripture, but a call to **trust God in the moment** rather than relying on human rhetoric.

15 for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict.

#### Verse 15: Divine Empowerment

- Jesus promises:
  - **A mouth** → the ability to speak clearly and boldly.
  - **Wisdom** → the Spirit-given insight to speak truth in a way that cannot be refuted.
- This also fulfills Jesus' earlier promise in **Luke 12:11-12** — the Holy Spirit will teach them what to say when brought before authorities.

### **Luke 21:5-37 – The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times**

**16 You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. 17 Everyone will hate you because of me. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish. 19 Stand firm, and you will win life. 20 “When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. 21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city.**

### **Luke 21:5-37 – The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times**

**22 For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written. 23 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. 24 They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**

#### Key Themes

##### 1. Judgment and Fulfillment

- The destruction of Jerusalem was not an accident — it fulfilled both covenant warnings and messianic prophecy.

##### 2. God's Compassion Amid Judgment

- Jesus grieves for the suffering that judgment will bring, especially for the most vulnerable.

##### 3. A Transitional Period in God's Plan

- “Times of the Gentiles” indicates a shift in focus from Israel to the wider world in God's redemptive mission, though Israel's restoration is still promised in prophecy.

## Luke 21:5-37 – The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

**25 “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. 26 People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. 27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”**

## Luke 21:5-37 – The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

**29 He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. 30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. 31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.**

### Key Themes

#### 1. Cosmic Signs Precede Christ's Return

- These are not hidden events but unmistakable disruptions in creation.

#### 2. Two Responses: Fear or Hope

- The same events that cause the world to faint in fear are the ones that cause believers to lift their heads in expectation.

#### 3. Assurance of Redemption

- “Redemption” here is the full completion of salvation — freedom from sin’s presence and the restoration of all creation.

### Interpretive Views of Luke 21:32

View	Meaning of “This Generation”	How It Relates to Fulfillment	Strengths	Challenges
Preterist (Past Fulfillment)	Refers to the literal generation alive during Jesus’ ministry.	Fulfilled in A.D. 70 with the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple.	Fits natural meaning of “generation”; aligns with historical events witnessed within ~40 years.	Difficult to fit cosmic signs (vv. 25–28) entirely into A.D. 70 events.
Futurist (End-Time Fulfillment)	Refers to the generation alive when end-time signs begin.	Once the events of vv. 25–28 start, all will occur within one generation.	Keeps cosmic signs and Second Coming literal; allows for dual fulfillment (A.D. 70 & future).	Requires “generation” to mean a future group, not the immediate audience.
Symbolic / Ethnic View	“Generation” means a type of people (e.g., unbelieving humanity, or the Jewish people as a nation).	These people will persist until all is fulfilled — including the Second Coming.	Fits biblical use of “generation” as “kind” or “race” in some passages; explains long delay.	Less natural reading; risks removing time-bound urgency from the text.

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### Luke 21:5-37 – The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

**34 "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. 35 For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."**

### Luke 21:34 — Watch Yourself

**Main Point:** Be spiritually alert so "that day" doesn't catch you by surprise.

### Dangers to Avoid

- **Dissipation** – reckless, wasteful living
- **Drunkenness** – literal or anything that clouds judgment
- **Cares of this life** – worries & distractions that pull you away from God

### The Warning

- A weighed-down heart leads to spiritual dullness.
- The Day of the Lord can arrive **suddenly, like a trap.**

### The Call

- Guard your heart daily.
- Keep your priorities eternal, not just earthly.

### Luke 21:5-37 – The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

<sup>37</sup> Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple, and each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives, <sup>38</sup> and all the people came early in the morning to hear him at the temple.

