### Luke

## Chapter 21

[Editor note: This chapter division appears to be in the wrong place – perhaps placed here deliberately to change the meaning. The account below is a continuation of the one at the end of chapter 20.]  
  
  
1Well, as he looked up, he noticed the rich dropping their gifts into the [Temple] treasury chests. 2And then he saw a poor widow drop in just two small copper coins, 3and he said:  
  
 ‘I tell you the truth, although this widow is very poor, she dropped in more than they all did, 4since they dropped in gifts from their surplus, while this needy person dropped in her whole means of living!’  
  
5Then, as certain ones were discussing the Temple (how fine its stonework was and how nicely it was adorned), 6he said:  
  
 ‘When it comes to these things that you see... The days are coming when there won’t be a stone left on top of a stone here that won’t be thrown down!’  
  
7So they asked him:  
  
 ‘Teacher, when will these things take place… What will be the signs that they’re about to happen?’  
  
8And he replied:  
  
 ‘Be careful that no one misleads you, for many will come in my name and say, I’m the one, and, The time has arrived…  
  
 ‘But don’t follow them!  
  
 9‘You’ll also hear about wars and disorders, but don’t be frightened by this, for all those things must happen first.  
  
 ‘However, the end doesn’t come right away.’  
  
10And he told them:  
  
 ‘Then nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, 11there’ll be many great rumblings, and there’ll be famines and plagues everywhere, as well as fearful sights and signs in the skies.  
  
 12‘However, before all these things happen, they’re going to persecute you and arrest you, then lead you up before religious courts and have you locked up. Yes, because of my name they’ll drag you before governors and kings… 13And that’ll be your sign!  
  
 14‘[But when this happens], don’t bother to plan your defense. 15For I’ll give you a mouth and enough wisdom so that anyone who lies about you will be unable to resist or contradict you.  
  
 16‘However, your own brothers and parents… Yes, even your own families and friends will betray you and kill some of you! 17And although everyone will dislike you because of my name, 18not a hair on your heads will be harmed.  
  
 19‘So by your endurance, you’ll have gained your own lives!  
  
 20‘Now, when you see armies camped around JeruSalem, know that her destruction is near. 21Then those in Judea should run to the mountains… Yes, everyone in her midst should flee, and those who are in [fields] must not come back into her! 22For those will be days of avenging and for accomplishing all that’s been written about her.  
  
 23‘Woe to those who are pregnant and nursing babies in those days, for there’ll be great distress in the land as [God’s] wrath is brought upon these people. 24They’ll either be cut down by swords or be carried off to the nations as captives.  
  
 ‘Then JeruSalem will be trampled by the gentiles until the times of the nations are filled.  
  
 25‘At that time there’ll be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And on the earth, the nations will all be in distress, for they’ll be confused by the roaring and the rolling surges of the seas.  
  
 26‘Then men’s hearts will become weak with fear in expectation of the things that will be coming upon the habitation of mankind, as [they see] the powers in the heavens being shaken. 27And that’s when they’ll see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with great power and glory!  
  
 28‘But as [you see] these things start to happen, you should stand erect and raise your heads high... For you’ll know that the time of your deliverance has drawn near!’  
  
29Then he gave them this parable:  
  
 ‘Consider the figs and all other trees;  
 30For, when they start putting out buds,  
 You know that summer is near.  
  
 31‘Thus, when you see these things start to happen,  
 You should know that the Kingdom of God has drawn near.  
  
 32‘I tell you the truth...  
 This people won’t pass away  
 Until all these things are fulfilled…  
 33Although the lands and the skies may all pass away,   
 My words won’t pass away!  
  
 34‘So pay attention to yourselves,  
 And don’t let your hearts become overburdened…  
 Don’t allow the worries of life  
 To make your hearts reel, and let you get drunk,  
 So that day doesn’t sneak up upon you.  
 35For, it’ll arrive like a snare  
 Upon all that sit on the face of the earth.  
  
 36‘Therefore, you must keep watch in every season  
 And keep praying that you’ll have the strength  
 To escape all these things that will happen,  
 And before the Son of Man, be able to stand.’  
  
37Well, [Jesus] taught in the Temple during the daytime, and every night he would go and camp on the hill called The Mount of Olives.  
  
38So, all the people would come to the Temple early each morning to listen to him.