

# The DAILY JESUS NEWS #268

## Tuesday of Passion Week... Day of Testing and Teaching Jesus' Private Teaching to His Disciples: The "Olivet Discourse"

### Part II: Jesus Prophesies the Destruction of Jerusalem MT 24.15-22 (Parallel Texts: M 13.14-20; LK 21.20-24)

*<sup>L</sup>When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near.*

*<sup>15</sup><sup>MT</sup>"So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel (Dan 9.27, 11.31, 12.11)-- let the reader understand-- <sup>16</sup>then I command those who are in Judea to flee to the mountains; <sup>L</sup>those in the city get out, and those in the country not enter the city. <sup>17</sup><sup>MT</sup>I command no one on the housetop to go down to take anything out of the house. <sup>18</sup>Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. <sup>L</sup>For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written.*

*<sup>19</sup><sup>MT</sup>"How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! <sup>20</sup>Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. <sup>21</sup>For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning, <sup>M</sup>when God created the world <sup>MT</sup>until now—and never to be equaled again. <sup>22</sup>If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.*

*<sup>L</sup>"There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."*

=====

NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	On Mount Olivet, Just Outside Jerusalem
Timeline	Early April (Month 39)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VIII: Passion Week
	C. Tuesday: Day of Testing and Teaching
	Jesus' Private Teaching to His Disciples: "The Olivet Discourse"
Title	Part II: Jesus Prophesies the Destruction of Jerusalem

#### COMMENT:

The first four readings of the Olivet Discourse in the DAILY JESUS NEWS illustrate the value of blending parallel texts in the four gospels into one chronological account. Today's reading is especially so.

Jesus had publicly prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem in his lament over Jerusalem (DJN #266, and privately with his disciples in greater detail as they walked out of the temple compound (DJN #267).

Jesus knew that the destruction of the temple and his final coming were two distinct events, separated by thousands of years. However, the disciples had asked two questions, so he answered both of them in the discourse, with the majority of the content devoted to his final coming. When Matthew and Mark wrote their

## The DAILY JESUS NEWS #268

gospels the destruction of the temple had not occurred yet. The possibility that the final coming of Jesus would occur immediately after the destruction of the temple still made the most sense to them. Matthew and Mark wrote their gospels with this mindset, and did not clearly differentiate the content of what Jesus said about the destruction of the temple, from his final coming.

Luke wrote his gospel after Mark at the least, and probably Matthew as well, though before the destruction of Jerusalem. As he researched the Olivet discourse it must have been clear to him (by the power of the Holy Spirit) that Jesus answered both questions in his discourse in such a way that the destruction of the temple and the final coming were distinct, different events. Luke's account makes this point clear.

Please carefully note the superscript <sup>L</sup> in today's reading that indicates content unique to Luke. His contribution to the Olivet Discourse greatly clarified the truths that Jesus was speaking to his disciples, as the blended DAILY JESUS NEWS reading shows. It is remarkable that Luke was able to so clearly understand what Jesus had spoken in this discourse, and write his gospel in a manner that made it more clear. Luke completed his gospel about seven years before the actual destruction of the temple.

Finally, in the DAILY JESUS NEWS I have chosen to separate the material that Jesus spoke about the temple's destruction, by placing it before what he taught about his final coming. In all three gospels the information about the destruction of the temple comes mid-way through Jesus' explanation about his final coming.

This is the only point in the 365 readings that make up the complete life of Jesus that I have changed the order of the material within an actual discourse of Jesus. Please be aware that I have taken this liberty to increase the clarity of Jesus' words, which is our goal in the DAILY JESUS NEWS.

### APPLICATION:

The destruction of the temple, and Jerusalem was unavoidable. Jesus made that clear in his lament, and first words on Mt. Olivet. He said: **"It is a time of punishment in fulfillment of all that stands written."** Yet, Jesus also commanded, **"Pray that your flight does not occur in winter or on the Sabbath."**

This is a great example of the way God's sovereignty and our prayers work together. The time of punishment was fixed and sure; prayer could bring a measure of mercy in the details of how and when the punishment occurred.

There is another indication of mercy here as well. God would **"cut short the days"** so that total annihilation was not the result of the punishment. Faith and prayer did would have an influence on mercy in this regard, too.

Jesus' final teachings to his disciples (the 'Olivet Discourse,' and the 'Farewell Discourse') would both emphasize the role of prayer, as does the narrative of his arrest, trials, and death. As we have seen, Jesus firmly believed that prayer really matters. We should, too.

*How can you increase your involvement in prayer? Even five more minutes a day spent in intercession can make a profound difference over a lifetime.*

*How will you renew your commitment to daily, private prayer? When will you begin? What new step will you take today?*