

Luke 21:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

Analysis

As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. Jesus delivers one of Scripture's most shocking prophecies: οὐκ ἀφεθῆσεται λίθος ἐπὶ λίθῳ ὃς οὐ καταλυθήσεται, 'not will be left stone upon stone which will not be thrown down'). The double negative emphasizes totality—complete, utter destruction. The verb *katalyō* (καταλύω) means 'demolish,' 'destroy utterly,' 'throw down.' This isn't damage or defeat; it's obliteration.

The prophecy was fulfilled with horrifying precision in AD 70 when Roman legions under Titus besieged Jerusalem, slaughtered hundreds of thousands, and systematically dismantled the temple. Soldiers pried apart stones to retrieve gold that had melted in fires. The magnificent structure admired moments earlier in Jesus' prophecy ceased to exist. This demonstrates **Christ's prophetic authority** and teaches that no human institution, however impressive or religiously significant, stands unless God sustains it. External grandeur means nothing if internal corruption prevails.

Historical Context

The destruction of the Jerusalem temple in AD 70 was catastrophic for Judaism. After a brutal siege, Roman forces breached the city walls, burned the temple, and

demolished its structures. Josephus estimated 1.1 million Jews died in the siege and war. The temple's destruction ended the sacrificial system, scattered the Jewish people, and forced rabbinic Judaism to develop without temple worship. Jesus prophesied this destruction forty years before it occurred. His words would have seemed incredible to hearers—the temple had stood for centuries, represented Jewish identity, and symbolized God's presence. Yet history vindicated Christ's prophecy exactly. Early Christians remembered this prophecy and escaped Jerusalem before the siege, heeding Jesus' warning (Luke 21:20-21).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does the temple's destruction teach about the difference between human impressiveness and divine approval?
2. How should the fulfillment of Jesus' detailed prophecy forty years later strengthen confidence in His other unfulfilled prophecies?
3. What modern 'temples'—institutions, traditions, or structures Christians consider permanent—might God judge as He judged Jerusalem's temple?

Interlinear Text

Ταῦτα	ὅς	θεωρεῖτε	έλευσονται	ἡμέραι	ἐν	ὅς
As for these things	that	ye behold	will come	the days	in	that
G5023	G3739	G2334	G2064	G2250	G1722	G3739
οὐ	ἀφεθήσεται	λίθω	ἐπὶ	λίθω	ὅς	οὐ
not	be left	another	upon	another	that	not
G3756	G863	G3037	G1909	G3037	G3739	G3756
						καταλυθήσεται
						be thrown down
						G2647

Additional Cross-References

Mark 13:2 (Parallel theme): And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

Matthew 24:2 (Parallel theme): And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

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