

Mark 13:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

There shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. Jesus' prophecy was literally fulfilled in AD 70. After a five-month siege, Roman legions under Titus burned the temple. Gold ornamentation melted between stones; soldiers dismantled walls to extract it, leaving not one stone on another. The Greek *katalythē* (καταλυθῆ, 'thrown down') means total demolition.

This fulfilled Daniel 9:26—'the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.' Jesus wept over Jerusalem's refusal to recognize 'the time of thy visitation' (Luke 19:41-44). The temple's destruction marked the Old Covenant's definitive end—no more Levitical priesthood, sacrifices, or temple worship. Christ's once-for-all sacrifice (Hebrews 10:10-14) made temple obsolete. The New Covenant creates a spiritual temple—the Church—where believers are living stones (1 Peter 2:5).

Historical Context

Jesus prophesied ca. AD 30-33; fulfillment came AD 70. The Jewish revolt against Rome (AD 66-70) led to Jerusalem's siege. Josephus, eyewitness historian, recorded over 1 million Jews killed, 97,000 enslaved. Titus initially tried preserving the temple, but it burned (whether accidentally or deliberately debated). Soldiers dismantled stones for gold, fulfilling Jesus' words precisely. This ended Second Temple Judaism. Rabbinic Judaism emerged, centered on Torah and synagogue

rather than temple and sacrifice. For early Christians, AD 70 validated Jesus' prophetic authority and confirmed the New Covenant superseded the Old.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the temple's literal destruction illustrate that religious externals cannot substitute for heart relationship with God?
2. What does this prophecy's precise fulfillment teach about Jesus' authority as prophet and Scripture's reliability?
3. How should Christians view the Old Covenant institutions—temple, priesthood, sacrifices—in light of Christ's fulfillment and their historical ending?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ό	Ἰησοῦς	ἀποκριθεὶς	εἶπεν	αὐτῷ	Βλέπεις	ταύτας	
And	G3588	Jesus	G2424	answering	G611	said	G2036	unto him
G2532							G846	Seest thou
							G991	G3778
τὰς	μεγάλας	οἰκοδομάς	οὐ	μὴ	ἀφεθῇ	λίθῳ,	ἐπὶ	λίθῳ,
G3588	great	buildings	G3756	G3361	be left	another	upon	another
G3173		G3619			G863	G3037	G1909	G3037
ὅς	οὐ	μὴ	καταλυθῇ					
that	G3756	G3361	be thrown down					
G3739			G2647					

Additional Cross-References

Luke 21:6 (Parallel theme): 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.

Matthew 24:2 (References Jesus): 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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