

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 For early Christians, AD 70 validated Jesus' prophetic authority and confirmed the New Covenant superseded the Old.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

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

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org