

Matthew 24:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple.

Analysis

And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple (ἐξῆλθεν ἀπὸ τοῦ ἱεροῦ)—Jesus's final departure from the temple marks a theological watershed. His leaving (ἐξέρχομαι, exerchomai) signals divine abandonment, echoing how God's glory departed from Solomon's temple (Ezekiel 10). When the disciples point to **the buildings of the temple** (τὰς οἰκοδομὰς τοῦ ἱεροῦ), they're marveling at Herod's renovations—massive white limestone blocks, some weighing 100 tons, overlaid with gold plates that blazed in the sun.

This sets the stage for the Olivet Discourse, delivered on the Mount of Olives overlooking the temple complex. The disciples' architectural admiration contrasts sharply with Jesus's prophecy of total destruction, creating dramatic irony that underscores the insufficiency of external religious magnificence without the presence of God.

Historical Context

Herod the Great began renovating the Second Temple in 20 BC, and construction continued until AD 64—just six years before its destruction. The temple complex covered 35 acres with porticoes, courts, and the sanctuary proper. Josephus describes stones 67 feet long, 7.5 feet high, and 9 feet wide. Jesus spoke these words during Passion Week, likely Tuesday afternoon, AD 30 or 33.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What modern religious structures or traditions might we admire while God's presence has departed?
2. How does Jesus's departure from the temple foreshadow the New Covenant reality that believers themselves are now God's temple (1 Corinthians 3:16)?
3. What does the disciples' focus on buildings rather than spiritual reality reveal about human nature?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐξελθὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐπορεύετο ἀπὸ τοῦ ἱεροῦ
And went out Jesus and departed from of the temple
G2532 G1831 G2424 G4198 G575 G3588 G2411

καὶ προσῆλθον οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτῷ ἐπιδεῖξαι αὐτῷ
And came disciples him to him for to shew him
G2532 G4334 G3588 G3101 G846 G1925 G846

τὰς οἰκοδομὰς τοῦ ἱεροῦ
the buildings of the temple
G3588 G3619 G3588 G2411

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 8:6 (Temple): He said furthermore unto me, Son of man, seest thou what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, that I should go far off from my sanctuary? but turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations.

Jeremiah 6:8 (Parallel theme): Be thou instructed, O Jerusalem, lest my soul depart from thee; lest I make thee desolate, a land not inhabited.

Matthew 23:39 (Parallel theme): For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 21:23 (Temple): And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?

John 2:20 (Temple): Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

Hosea 9:12 (Parallel theme): Though they bring up their children, yet will I bereave them, that there shall not be a man left: yea, woe also to them when I depart from them!