

Matthew 24:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down (οὐ μὴ ἀφεθῇ ὡδε λίθος ἐπὶ λίθον)—The emphatic double negative (οὐ μὴ) makes this prophecy absolute and unavoidable. Jesus predicts total destruction, fulfilled precisely when Titus's Roman legions sacked Jerusalem in AD 70. Josephus records that soldiers pried apart stones to extract gold that had melted between them when Romans set the temple aflame.

This echoes Micah 3:12 ("Zion shall be plowed as a field") and demonstrates Jesus's prophetic authority. The phrase *katalyō* (thrown down) is the same word used when Jesus said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19)—speaking of his body. The physical temple's destruction validated the spiritual temple's resurrection.

Historical Context

The Romans besieged Jerusalem from April to September AD 70. Josephus reports that 1.1 million Jews died and 97,000 were taken captive. The temple was burned on the 9th of Av (Tisha B'Av), the same calendar date Babylon destroyed Solomon's temple in 586 BC. Only portions of the retaining walls remain today, including the Western Wall. Eusebius and later historians confirm no stone of the temple proper remained upon another.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the AD 70 fulfillment of this prophecy authenticate Jesus as a true prophet according to Deuteronomy 18:21-22?
2. What does God's willingness to destroy his own temple teach about his priorities regarding heart worship versus ritual?
3. How should the certainty of this fulfilled prophecy increase our confidence in Jesus's still-future prophecies?

Interlinear Text

ο	δὲ	Ἰησοῦς	εἶπεν	αὐτοῖς	οὐ	βλέπετε	πάντα
G3588	And	Jesus	said	unto them	not	See ye	all
G1161	G2424	G2036	G846	G3756	G991	G3956	
ταῦτα	ἀμὴν	λέγω	ὑμῖν	οὐ	μὴ	ἀφεθῆ	ἄδε
these things	verily	I say	unto you	not	G3361	There shall	here
G5023	G281	G3004	G5213	G3756	G863	G5602	G3037
ἐπὶ	λίθον	ὅς	οὐ	μὴ	καταλυθήσεται		
upon	another	that	not	G3361	be thrown down		
G1909	G3037	G3739	G3756		G2647		

Additional Cross-References

Luke 19:44 (Parallel theme): And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

Jeremiah 26:18 (Parallel theme): Micah the Morasthite prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spake to all the people of Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Zion shall be plowed like a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of a forest.

Micah 3:12 (Parallel theme): Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest.

2 Peter 3:11 (Parallel theme): Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,
