

Exegetical Notes - Luke 21:29-38

“The Little Apocalypse, The Conclusion”

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen, Pastor, Cornerstone Fellowship

101 Kylies Road, Coatesville, PA 19320

610-384-1375

charleshjensen@aol.com

Luke 21:29-38

Verse 29-31

He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.”

- Jesus concluded his discourse on the end times by telling his hearers a simple story. He suggested that they look at the trees. He said that we can tell when summer approaches because the trees leaf.
- The lesson is that we can tell when the end of time is at hand by observing the signs of it which he gave to us in the preceding verses.

Verse 32

“I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.”

- This verse has presented problems for many scholars throughout the Christian era. Jesus seems to say that those to whom he spoke would not die before the signs of the end, which he gave, were accomplished. But they did die and the end has not yet come.
- Sign #1 is the coming of false teachers who would mislead the faithful. Those who heard Jesus say these things saw that occur before they died. It continues to happen to this very day.
- Sign #2 is the breaking out of persecution against believers. Those who heard Jesus say these things saw that occur before they died. It continues to happen to this very day.
- Sign #3 is the destruction of the temple and the siege of Jerusalem. Those to whom Jesus spoke did see these things happen before they all died.

- Sign #4 is climatic changes and the shifting of celestial bodies. This is the only unfilled sign. Jesus did not say that his hearers would see all of the signs accomplished before they died. However, at the time of Jesus' birth and death, there were signs in the sky.

Verse 33

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

- Jesus said that his words were more reliable than the cycles of nature and the earth and the skies. The natural things are coming to an end, but Jesus' words will endure eternally.

Verse 34-36

“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness, and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

- Jesus says that there are several things which are certain and which we must not forget. 1. The last day of time is coming. 2. That day will affect everything and every person on the face of the earth. 3. The day will come suddenly and will catch many people unaware as if in a trap.
- Jesus says that things of life and the debauchery of sin will cause many people to come to the end without a clue as to what is happening to them and to the world in which they live.
- His point is that those of us who know him and who believe his words should live in the expectation of his coming and of the end of time.
- We will be able to stand before the Son of Man, Jesus, at the end of time not because we are knowledgeable or strong, but because we believe him to be our savior and have made him our Lord.

Verse 37-39

Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple, and each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives, and all the people came early in the morning to hear him at the temple.

- All of the discourse on the end of time was spoken by Jesus during the last week of his life as a human here on earth. Every day he taught

openly in the temple. People came there and listened to his words from early morning until late at night.

- In the evening, Jesus went outside the city to the Mount of Olives. This is the place where Jesus was arrested. It is the place from which Jesus ascended into heaven and when he returns to earth to put all of God's enemies under God's feet, Jesus' feet will touch earth again at the Mount of Olives.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *The Little Apocalypse, The Conclusion*³. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by *Cornerstone Fellowship & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen*. They are used here by permission.)