

Key References:

Luke 21:7–9 (ESV)

⁷And they asked him, "Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?" ⁸And he said, "See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them. ⁹And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once."

Luke 21:13-15 (ESV)

¹³ This will be your opportunity to bear witness. ¹⁴ Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, ¹⁵ for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict.

Luke 21:27-28 (ESV)

²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Luke 21:34–36 (ESV)

³⁴ "But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Luke 21:33 (ESV)

³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

1 – HARD TIMES AHEAD

Are we living in end times?

Luke 21 contains three prophesies from Jesus about the destruction of the temple in AD70, coming wars and persecutions, the destruction of Jerusalem. Why did Jesus choose this point in time to tell the disciples these things?

Read Luke 21:7-9. Why does Jesus answer the disciples' questions about discerning the times in this way? How do false teachers stir up terror? Why does Jesus say that we should not be afraid here?

The temple was something the Jews wouldn't have been able to imagine living without, yet Jesus told them it was going away. What are the temples in your life that it's hard to imagine living without? Do we need to be prepared for them to go away?

In the second prophesy how does Jesus again give his followers hope in v13-15?

2 – HOW TO MAKE IT THROUGH

What does Jesus mean by saying *"by your endurance you will gain your lives"* in v19? Where does the only power to endure come from?

Read Luke 21:28. Jesus knows that he's not delivering the happiest news to the disciples and us. How are we able to *"straighten up and raise our heads"*? How has salvation enabled you to enduring seasons of suffering?

Read Luke 21:33. The things we decide to put our hope in are important, how does this verse direct that?

Read Luke 21:34-36. Why do we need to watch ourselves? What is dissipation and why does Jesus warn us against it along with the cares of this life?

How can we stay awake in the realities of end times? How do we do that without being consumed by worry?

What kinds of prayers should we be praying in end times?