

# Jesus' Warning Concerning Jerusalem

Luke 21:5-36

# Jesus' Warning Concerning Jerusalem

- Prompted by a visit to the temple
- Jesus prophesied that the temple would be completely destroyed

## Luke 21:5–7 (ESV)

**5** And while some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, he said, **6** “As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” **7** And they asked him, “Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?”

# The Disciples' Two Questions

1. “When will these things be?”
2. “What will be the sign when these things are about to take place?”

# The Destruction of Jerusalem

- When? Soon, but not immediately
  - Deception first
  - Political upheaval first
  - Intense persecution first

## Luke 21:8–11 (ESV)

**8** And 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. **9** And 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.**” **10** Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. **11** There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven

## Luke 21:12–19 (ESV)

**12** But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. **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. **16** You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. **17** You will be hated by all for my name's sake. **18** But not a hair of your head will perish. **19** By your endurance you will gain your lives.

# The Destruction of Jerusalem

- When? Soon, but not immediately
- Sign? Jerusalem surrounded by armies
  - That is the signal to flee
  - Wrath will fall on the Jewish nation

## Luke 21:20–24 (ESV)

**20** “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. **21** Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, **22** for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. **23** Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. **24** They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

# Josephus

And now Vespasian had fortified all the places round about Jerusalem, and erected citadels at Jericho and Adida, and placed garrisons in them both.... And now the war having gone through all the mountainous country, and all the plain country also, those that were at Jerusalem were deprived of the liberty of going out of the city; for ... [the Roman] army kept them in, by encompassing the city round about on all sides.

- Josephus, F., & Whiston, W. (1987). The works of Josephus: complete and unabridged. Peabody: Hendrickson.

# Josephus

Now as Vespasian was returned to Cesarea, and was getting ready, ...to march directly to Jerusalem, he was informed that Nero was dead, after he had reigned thirteen years and eight days.

- Josephus, F., & Whiston, W. (1987). The works of Josephus: complete and unabridged. Peabody: Hendrickson.

# Josephus

And now [Vespasian and Titus] were both in suspense about the public affairs, the Roman empire being then in a fluctuating condition, and did not go on with their expedition against the Jews, but thought that to make any attack upon foreigners was now unreasonable, on the account of the sollicitude they were in for their own country.

- Josephus, F., & Whiston, W. (1987). The works of Josephus: complete and unabridged. Peabody: Hendrickson.

# Year of the Four Emperors

## Chronology

**Galba**

68 – 69 AD

**Otho**

69

**Vitellius**

69

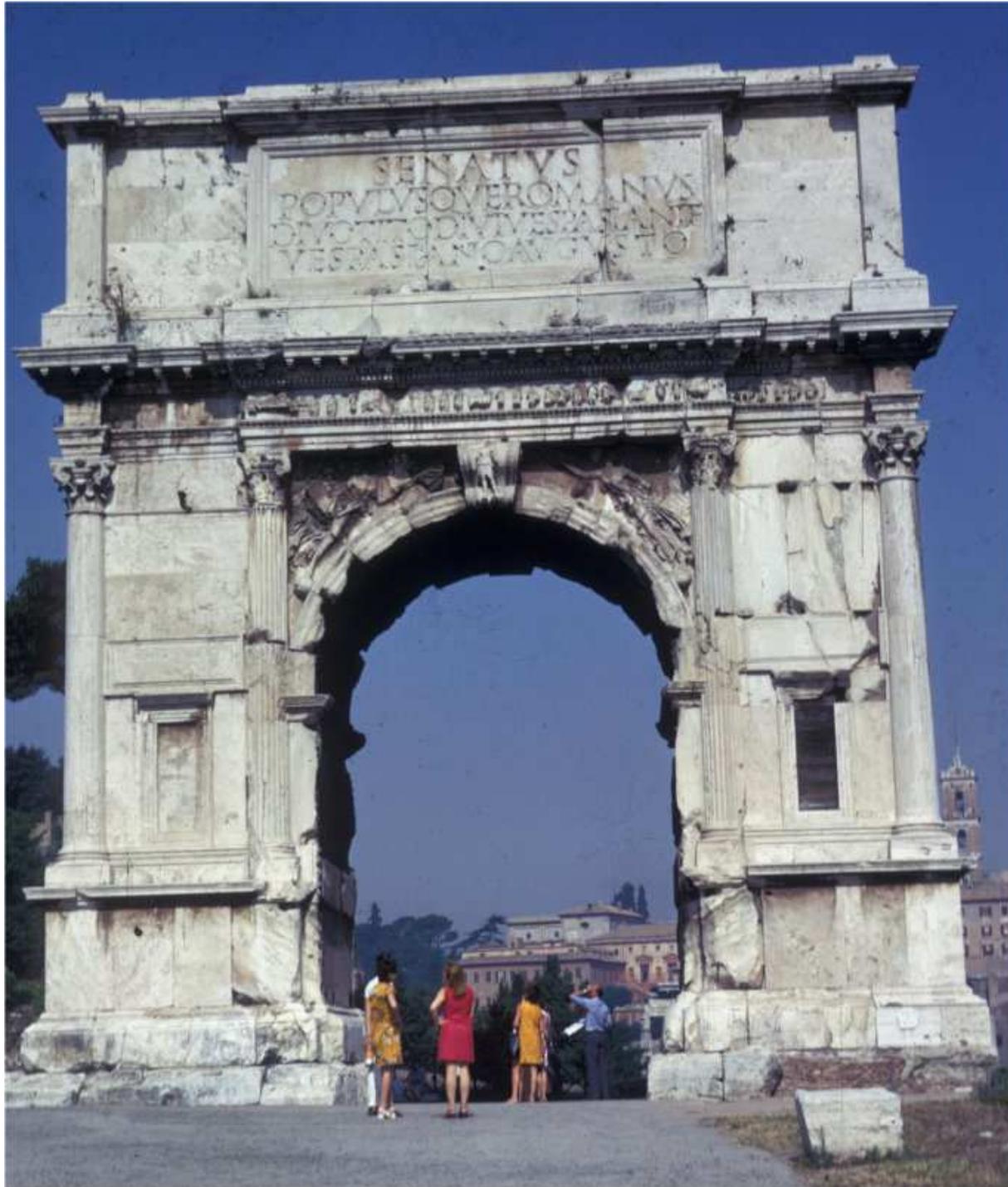
**Vespasian**

69 - 79

# Josephus

So upon this confirmation of Vespasian's entire government, which was not settled, and upon the unexpected deliverance of the public affairs of the Romans from ruin, Vespasian turned his thoughts to what remained unsubdued in Judea. However, he himself made haste to go to Rome, as the winter was now almost over, and soon set the affairs of Alexandria in order, but sent his son Titus, with a select party of his army, to destroy Jerusalem.

- Josephus, F., & Whiston, W. (1987). The works of Josephus: complete and unabridged. Peabody: Hendrickson.



# Arch of Titus (Detail)



# The Destruction of Jerusalem

- When? Soon, but not immediately
- Sign? Jerusalem surrounded by armies
- This judgment would be a demonstration of the power and glory of the Son of Man

## Luke 21:25–28 (ESV)

**25** “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, **26** people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. **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.”

# The Destruction of Jerusalem

- When? Soon, but not immediately
- Sign? Jerusalem surrounded by armies
- This judgment would be a demonstration of the power and glory of the Son of Man
- The fulfillment will be unmistakable, soon & sure

## Luke 21:29–33 (ESV)

**29** And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. **30** As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. **31** So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. **32** Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. **33** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

# The Destruction of Jerusalem

- When? Soon, but not immediately
- Sign? Jerusalem surrounded by armies
- This judgment would be a demonstration of the power and glory of the Son of Man
- The fulfillment will be unmistakable, soon & sure
- Be ready!!

## 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.”

# Christians Fleeing Jerusalem Before its Destruction

The Christians of Jerusalem, remembering the Lord's admonition, forsook the doomed city in good time and fled to the town of Pella in the Decapolis, beyond the Jordan, in the north of Peraea, where king Herod Agrippa II., before whom Paul once stood, opened to them a safe asylum.

- Schaff, P., & Schaff, D. S. (1910). History of the Christian church (Vol. 1, p. 402). New York: Charles Scribners Sons.

## Luke 21:20–22 (ESV)

**20** “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. **21** Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, **22** for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written.

# Another Coming Judgment

- The end of the world

## **2 Peter 3:10 (ESV)**

**10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

# Another Coming Judgment

- The end of the world
- Requires us to bear persecution, avoid deception, and endure great upheaval

# Another Coming Judgment

- The end of the world
- Requires us to bear persecution, avoid deception, and endure great upheaval
- Also a demonstration of the power and glory of the Son of Man

## **Matthew 25:31 (ESV)**

**31** “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

# Another Coming Judgment

- The end of the world
- Requires us to bear persecution, avoid deception, and endure great upheaval
- Also a demonstration of the power and glory of the Son of Man
- Day and hour unknown; no sign to predict

## Matthew 24:36–44 (ESV)

**36** “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ...**44** Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

# Another Coming Judgment

- The end of the world
- Requires us to bear persecution, avoid deception, and endure great upheaval
- Also a demonstration of the power and glory of the Son of Man
- Day and hour unknown; no sign to predict
- We must be ready

## 2 Peter 3:11–13 (ESV)

**11** Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, **12** waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! **13** But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

## **Revelation 22:20 (ESV)**

**20** He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!