

22T12f Matthew 24

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me @ the PUNLA coffee table. I just have to say it. I don't really like eschatology or end times theology. I always figured it was going to happen so why worry about it. I would say things like, it does not help me follow Jesus, it does not help me reach others for Jesus, then why. What's the point? And this is true.

And I still kind of feel this way but over recent years, this topic keeps coming up over and over and over again. I think Jesus is trying to tell me something. So, I'm trying to be obedient and study the word of God as Jesus wants me to, not as I would like to do it.

Anyway, here we are talking again about eschatology and prophecies. Today we will discuss Matthew 24 and the prediction of the destruction of the Temple. There are parallel scriptures in Mark 13 and Luke 21 as well.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father. Thank you for your good news. Lord use me to share your message. If I say something in error, please let them remember what you wanted them to hear, not my errand words. Help us not to be confused by the many voices and opinions we hear. May we stay focused on your word Lord. Guide our discussion. We pay in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.

Okay, today I want to discuss Matthew 24, Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple. I have heard so many opinions and interpretations of these verses, so I wanted to study them fresh without any preconceived ideas.

The simplest way is to just read it. I am going to be using the BibleHub New American Standard translation and associated Greek lexicons today.

Let's read Matthew 24:1-3 (NAS) *¹Jesus left the temple area and was going on His way when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. ²But He responded and said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down." ³And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"*

The most common way people seem to understand this, is the disciples were confused. They asked three things thinking they were asking only one. They asked, when the temple would be destroyed, sign of the 2nd coming and the end of the age. Three questions, right? But then my sister Joy asked a simple question, why did the disciples ask about the 2nd coming when they did not even believe Jesus would die. They had no concept of the 2nd coming until after the ascension. I was stunned by the question, but she was right. If you read Acts 1:6 (NAS) *Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"* After this the Great Commission then the ascension. It is quite obvious the disciples did not imagine a 2nd coming, they still thought Jesus would overthrow the Romans and set up a earthly kingdom right up until Jesus' ascension.

I was puzzled for a while, why did the disciples ask about something they did not even conceive to be possible. I looked at 34 English translations, including NIV, NLT, NAS, AMP, ESV, KJV, NKJV and they all had some form of these three questions. This just did not make sense to me. The parallels in Mark 13:4

and Luke 21: where slightly different. Let me read them to you, first Mark 13:1-4 (NAS) *1As He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples *said to Him, “Teacher, look! What wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” 2And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.” 3As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew were questioning Him privately, 4“Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?”*

Now Luke 21:5-7 (NAS) *5And while some were talking about the temple, that it was decorated with beautiful stones and vowed gifts, He said, 6“As for these things which you are observing, the days will come when there will not be left one stone upon another, which will not be torn down.” 7They asked Him questions, saying, “Teacher, when therefore will these things happen? And what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?”*

Do you hear the difference? In Mark and Luke, the disciples are just asking about the destruction of the Temple. When? What will be the signs it is about to happen? These questions make sense, considering Jesus had just predicted the destruction of the Temple. So, let’s look at just their question in parallel, or in all three gospels at the same time

Matthew 24:3b (NAS)	Mark 13:4 (NAS)	Luke 21:7 (NAS)
<i>“Tell us, when will these things happen,</i>	<i>Tell us, when will these things be,</i>	<i>“Teacher, when therefore will these things happen?</i>
<i>and what will be the sign of Your coming,</i>	<i>and what will be the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?”</i>	<i>And what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?”</i>
<i>and of the end of the age?”</i>		

This intrigued me, so let’s look at the Greek we have to see what we can see. First in Luke. First for those of you that are not familiar with looking at a Greek lexicon. The verse in English is in Column on the left. Reading from top to bottom, the middle column is the Greek, Greek symbols, then English equivalent spelling, then in brackets is the phonetic pronunciations and then the right column is the literal meaning of the Greek word. One other note, you will see English words that don’t have Greek. These have been added by the translators in an effort to make the sentence read properly in English. These additions are not intended to change the meaning of the texts. The translators have to make assumptions about what the texts are saying, so they can develop a readable English sentence. It’s not perfect but in most cases, they have done great jobs of making the Bible readable in English.

NAS (Luke 21:7)	Greek	Meaning
<i>when</i>	Πότε pote (pot'-eh)	when, at what time.
<i>therefore</i>	οὖν (oun)	therefore, then, so
<i>will these things happen?</i>		
<i>And what</i>	τί (ti)	who, which, what, why.
<i>will be</i>		
<i>the sign</i>	Σήμειον sēmeion (say-mi'-on)	a sign
<i>when</i>	ὅταν otan (hot'-an)	when, whenever.
<i>these things</i>		

<i>are about</i>	μέλλη mellē (mel'-lee)	to be about to
<i>to take place?"</i>	Γίνεσθαι ginesshai (ghin'-es-th-ahēe)	to come into being, to happen, to become

Okay, let's put the Greek meanings together, this will not read like a normal English sentence. Try to hear the original concept through the broken English. Here we go. **“When so what, a sign, when, to be about to happen”** or in my own words, “when and how will this all happen. This actually seems like a reasonable question given what they understood at the time. Now let's look at Mark the same way.

NAS (Mark 13:4)	Greek	Meaning
<i>when</i>	Πότε pote (pot'-eh)	when, at what time.
<i>will these things be and</i>		
<i>what</i>	τί (ti)	who, which, what, why.
<i>will be</i>		
<i>the sign</i>	Σήμιον sēmeion (say-mi'-on)	a sign
<i>when</i>	ὅταν otan (hot'-an)	when, whenever.
<i>all</i>	Πάντα panta (pan-ta)	all, every
<i>these things</i>		
<i>are going</i>	μέλλη mellē (mel'-lee)	to be about to
<i>to be fulfilled?"</i>	συντελεῖσθαι sunteleisthai (soon-tel-eh'-is-th-ahēe)	to complete, accomplish

Okay, let's put the Greek meanings together, this will not read like a normal English sentence. Try to hear the original concept through the broken English. Here we go. **“When, what, sign, when, all, to be about to happen”** or in my own words Jesus when and how will this all happen. This is consistent with Luke's account and actually seems like a reasonable question given what they understood at the time. Now let's look again Matthew the same way.

NAS (Matthew 24:3b)	Greek	Meaning
<i>when</i>	Πότε pote (pot'-eh)	when, at what time.
<i>will these things happen,</i>		
<i>and what</i>	τί (ti)	who, which, what, why.
<i>will be</i>		
<i>the sign</i>	Σήμιον sēmeion (say-mi'-on)	a sign
<i>of Your</i>		
<i>coming,</i>	Παρουσίας parousias (par-oo-see'-ah-s)	a presence, a coming
<i>and of the end</i>	Συντελείας sunteleias (soon-tel'-i-ah-s)	complete, end
<i>of the age?"</i>	αἰῶνος aiōnos (ahēe-ohn'-os)	a space of time, an age

Okay, let's put the Greek meanings together, this will not read like a normal English sentence. Try to hear the original concept through the broken English. Here we go. **“When, what, sign, coming, complete or end, time”** or in my own words when and how will this all happen. This is phrased a little different from Mark and Luke but if we consider them to be consistent accounts, then it is tough to see the questions about end times as reasonable conclusions. Based on what we know the disciples understood at the time, then interpreting this like Mark and Luke is just more logical. Jesus says the Temple will be destroyed, Then the disciples ask when, what, how, how will we know. Now I can't be certain but neither can anyone else. But this seemingly, straight forward question opens an opportunity for Jesus to teach His disciples some amazing lessons, not contained anywhere else in the Gospels.

Let's continue reading Matthew 24:4-5 (NAS). *⁴And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you. ⁵For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will mislead many people.*

(remember the disciples don't understand that Jesus is going to die, rise again, then ascend into heaven, they still think He will overthrow the Romans) Matthew 24:6-14 (NAS) *⁶And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. ⁷For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pains. ⁹“Then they will hand you over to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. ¹⁰And at that time many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹And many false prophets will rise up and mislead many people. ¹²And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will become cold. ¹³But the one who endures to the end is the one who will be saved. ¹⁴This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.*

Okay, for the moment, think about the question the disciples asked. When, how will the temple be destroyed. Jesus answers them quite directly. I'm going away, then other will claim to be Christ. Ignore them, wars, rebellions, famines and earthquakes will happen. This happened after the cross and before 70AD, the Romans fought many battles, Israel faced famine which Paul talk about in Acts, 2 Corinthians, Galatians and others. The Jewish people rebelled against Roman, we know this from history. The disciples were persecuted, some killed and all hated everywhere they went. Our best historical accounts have the disciples scattering throughout the know world from India and even China to the East, Africa to the south, North into Europe. We know from the New Testament that many turned away from their faith during the persecutions of these times. Paul writes about false prophets and those teaching gospels which are not from Christ. But those who endure will be saved. The gospel of the kingdom was truly preached to all of the known world, then 70 AD and the destruction of the Temple.

I know people will say, “well not every people and nations have heard the gospel even today”. Well literally yes. But when you say something like, the gospel is preached through out Houston Texas. Yes the gospel is preached in Houston, some estimate 2000 churches in Houston. B. does this mean every person or even every neighborhood has heard the gospel or even the true gospel of the kingdom of God. Well of course not. But that does not make the statement that the gospel is preached through out Houston false. This does not have to literally mean every person in every nation. That is what many believe but not necessarily is that accurate interpretation for this scripture.

So I believe, Jesus has just answered their question, but now He is about to expand on the topic. They don't understand that He will be killed, rise again, then leave for heaven. They still believe Jesus is about to setup an earthly Kingdom and restore Israel. So Jesus now teaches this, in Matthew 24:15 (NAS) *15“Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place—let the reader understand—* Now there are many interpretation of Daniel 12 but if you watched my video on this prophecy. There are many who don't see this as an end-times prophecy at all. In fact, it seems to point to the first advent of Christ, not the 2nd. The abomination of desolation is very possibly the crucifixion of Jesus.

But I could be wrong, of course no one can be certain. I just believe the whole Bible points to Jesus. Old Testament to 1st advent of Jesus primarily. Let's continue Matthew 24:16-22 (NAS) *16then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. 17Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get things out of his house. 18And whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. 19But woe to those women who are pregnant, and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20Moreover, pray that when you flee, it will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. 21For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will again. 22And if those days had not been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.*

Okay there are lots who point to this as end-times. “the great tribulation”. So let's look at Matthew 24:21 a little more closely.

NAS (Matthew 24:21)	Greek	Meaning
<i>For then</i>	τότε tote (tot'-eh)	then, at that time
<i>there will be a</i>		
<i>great</i>	μεγάλη megalē ,q ik tēpi i-	great
<i>tribulation,</i>	θλίψις thlipsis ,xipt tēnw-	persecution, affliction, distress, tribulation.
<i>such</i>	οἷα oia ,s} tē-	what sort or manner of
<i>as has not</i>		
<i>occurred</i>	Γέγονεν gegonen ,kik lsr līr-	to come into being, to happen, to become
<i>since</i>	ἀπ' ap (ap)	from, away from
<i>the beginning</i>	ἀρχῆς arches ,evble} tīw-	beginning, origin
<i>of the world</i>	κοσμοῦ kosmou ,osw tē sy-	order, the world, Universe
<i>until</i>	ἕως eōs ,il tēsgi-	till, until, as far as, up to, as much as
<i>now</i>	νῦν nun ,rskr-	now, the present
<i>nor</i>	οὐδ' oud ,ss h+	neither, nor, not even, and not.
<i>Ever</i>	οὐ ou ,ss-	not, no
<i>will again</i>		

Okay, let's put the Greek meanings together, this will not read like a normal English sentence. Try to hear the original concept through the broken English. Here we go. **“then, great, distress or tribulation, such,**

to happen, since, the beginning of the universe, until now, not even, no” or in my own words then big trouble like nothing that has ever happened before.

So let’s do it again for Mark 13:19 (NAS),

NAS (Mark 13:19)	Greek	Meaning
For those	ἐκεῖναι ekeinai ,ioHrel-	that, that one there, yonder.
days	ἡμέραι ēmerai (e}H ivel-	a day, the period from sunrise to sunset
will be a [time of]		
tribulation	θλίψις thlipsis ,x1pt-4w-	persecution, affliction, distress, tribulation.
such	οἷα oia ,s}4e-	what sort or manner of
as has not		
occurred	Γέγονεν gegonen ,kik1sr1ir-	to come into being, to happen, to become
since	ἀπ’ ap (ap)	from, away from
the beginning	ἀρχῆς arches ,evble}4iw-	beginning, origin
of the creation	κτίσεως ktiseōs (oxw-4il1sw-	creation
which	ἣν ἔν (en)	who, which, what, that.
God	θεός theos ,x1il4sw-	God, a god
created	ἔκτισεν ektisen ,i1oxh4wir-	to build, create
until	ἕως eōs ,il4sgi-	till, until, as far as, up to, as much as
now,	νῦν nun ,rssr-	now, the present
and never	οὐ ou ,ss-	not, no
will.		

Okay, let’s put the Greek meanings together, this will not read like a normal English sentence. Try to hear the original concept through the broken English. Here we go. **“that day, (of) distress or tribulation, such, to happen, since, the beginning of God’s creation, until, now, not”** or in my own words then big trouble like nothing that has ever happened before.

Again for Luke 21:22,

NAS (Luke 21:22)	Greek	Meaning
because	ὅτι οτι ,sx4i i-	that, because, since
these	αὗται autai (oo teh)	This, these
are days	ἡμέραι ēmerai (ay-mer'-ah)	day

of vengeance,	ἐκδικήσεως ekdikēseōs ,ιοι hro- e } lsw-	vengeance, vindication
so that all things	πάντα panta (pan-ta)	all, the whole, every kind of.
which are written	γεγραμμένα gegrammena	written
will be fulfilled.		

So Luke’s account is differently phrased. Okay, let’s put the Greek meanings together, this will not read like a normal English sentence. Try to hear the original concept through the broken English. Here we go. **“because that day, (of) vengeance,(of) every kind, (as it is) written”** or in my own words those days are God’s vengeance as it is written in the scriptures.

If we put them all together, we get this idea that it is going to be bad. Worse than ever before and that this is God’s punishment which fulfills the scriptures (old testament scriptures). Not necessarily end-times. Israel was scattered to ends of the earth for their rejection of Christ, just like the old testament predicted. And this happened in 70AD. We can’t be sure but this is a very good literal interpretation which is consistent with what Jesus was discussing with His disciples.

I just believe the whole Bible points to Jesus. Old Testament to 1st advent of Jesus primarily. Let’s continue Matthew 24:23-28 (NAS) *23Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘He is over here,’ do not believe him. 24For false christs and false prophets will arise and will provide great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. 25Behold, I have told you in advance. 26So if they say to you, ‘Behold, He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Behold, He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe them. 27For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. 28Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.*

This again could have been pertaining to the eminent destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem. Then Jesus completes this teaching with Matthew 24:29-31 (NAS) *29“But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. 31And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET BLAST, and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.*

Verse 29 is referencing Old Testament scriptures which could have been Amos 8:9, Joel 3:15, Isaiah 13:10, Isaiah 24:23 or others. All of these speak of the darkened sun and moon, stars falling etc. I want to just look at two words, “immediately after”. In Matthew the Greek is Εὐθέως eutheōs (yoo-theh'-oce) meaning soon or directly, and μετ᾿ meta (met-ah') meaning with, among, after. Or soon after, maybe immediately but some time after is probably a more conservative translation. Mark 13:24 says it almost the same way, “after the tribulation of those days”. After meaning immediately after or maybe much later we can’t be sure. But I think I like Luke’s account better. Luke 21:20-28²⁰*“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near. 21Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are inside the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; 22because these are days of punishment, so that all things which have been written will be fulfilled. 23Woe to those women who are pregnant, and to those who are nursing babies in those days; for*

there will be great distress upon the land, and wrath to this people; ²⁴and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶people fainting from fear and the expectation of the things that are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

I really like Luke's account. Jerusalem is going to fall and it did in 70AD by the gentile armies of Rome. But after the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled, then there will be signs in the heavens and seas that the end is near. After that, Jesus' 2nd coming. Then Jesus finishing Matthew 24 and Mark 13 with some teaching about the 2nd coming and judgement which is without a doubt end-times discussions.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father. Thank you for your good news. Thank you are every story, every message in the Bible. Help us understand your purpose for giving them. Help us to understand how you intend us to view them. Help us not to be confused by the many voices and opinions we hear. May we stay focused on your word Lord. Help me Lord to let your word lead the way so we can see your message. Thank you, Jesus, for what you did for me or all of us. We pray in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.

So, okay. What did you think of Mathew 24 and the parallels in Mark 13 and Luke 21? If you want this to be fulfilled in history, then 70AD is the point when the temple was destroyed. This is a fact of history. Did armies encircle Jerusalem, yes, they did in 70AD. Was the city, temple and most of the people destroyed, yes it was. I don't know what to do with the phrase sun and moon are dark and the stars fall. This phrase or phrases like it are all over the scriptures. In fact, at Jesus death on the cross these things happened. But it is equally likely this may be a metaphor which is used over and over in scripture, instead of a literal event. But who am I to say? One thing is for sure, no one else knows for sure either. If what I've presented is true, this does not diminish the 2nd coming of Jesus in any way. In fact, it should be more encouraging when we see that scripture has been fully realized in history. Authenticity of scripture is reinforced by prophecy fulfilled in history. That excites me.

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope you will join me as we study and learn about different ways to view these end times scriptures.

If you liked the message, please click like. And share the link with your friends. Leave comments here, or our website or email me. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.