

## **BEGINNING OF THE END**

Dear Prayer Partners,

**Luke 21:6** *“These things which you see—the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down.”*

This **Sunday (9/08)** we turn our attention to **Luke 20:41-21:6**. **Jesus** had been confronted by members of the Sanhedrin. They had plotted to ask Him tough questions, first by the Pharisees and then by the Sadducees, and by doing so, set a trap.

Instead of being trapped, Jesus answered each question with such clarity, that it literally caused them to be speechless. They marveled at His wisdom. They couldn't believe He was able to answer each question without pause, thought, or trepidation.

Jesus then asked them a question. It was not an effort to trap them, or from a malevolent heart seeking revenge. Even though the Sanhedrin hated Jesus, He still desired for them to understand who He was.

Jesus knew that in a few short years, life as they knew it would come to an end. He foresaw the Romans coming to destroy Jerusalem. No one would be spared and the entire city would be razed to the ground. *“One stone would not be left upon another”* (Luke 21:6). All of this would be done because *“they failed to recognize that Jesus was their Messiah”* (Luke 19:41-44).

He was able to know this, because He is and has always been God. He knows the beginning from the end. He knew their hatred,

their hardness of heart, stubbornness and unbelief, yet He still loved them.

It was His will, *“That none should perish, but all come to Him in repentance”* (2 Peter 3:9). Jesus was one last time, revealing Himself to His enemies, so they might have their eyes opened, hearts convicted, turn to Him and be saved.

All of this was done in the presence of His disciples. He was evangelizing the lost and simultaneously equipping His saints. In three short days He would be dead. His lifeless body would be buried and then three days later raised out from among the dead. Jesus in His glorified body would then ascend to Heaven and sit at the right hand of the Father. Then He would rest from His earthly ministry. Having done everything that needed to be accomplished for man’s salvation; His mission would be left in the hands of His disciples.

Jesus was demonstrating what they must do after His exaltation. They were to *“go into all the world and preach the Gospel”* (Mark 16:15). Jesus had promised that He would be with them *“all the way to the end of the age”* (Matthew 28:20). And that, *“He would never leave them or forsake them”* (Hebrews 13:5).

Just as Jesus preached the Gospel with urgency, so should we. He knew His death was imminent. He spent the last few days He was alive, preaching and teaching the good news of His coming. Now, *“He gives us the power of His Spirit”* (Acts 1:8) that we would go into all the world preaching *“Jesus was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation”* (Hebrews 9:28).

As followers of Christ, we must recognize we are in the last moments of the last days. Any moment the sky will open and, *“The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air”* (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

Please invite as many as you can (Sunday, 10:00 am). **Time is short. Jesus is coming and the harvest is plentiful.**

Hope to see you,

BE BLESSED,  
Pastor