

Beware Deceivers

Jesus prepares his disciples

Literal Exegesis

Broadly, in first-century CE Judaism, there were four schools of exegesis:

- literal
- peshet
- midrashic
- allegorical

As they sat on the Mount of Olives, Jesus' disciples asked him about the fate of their beautiful temple.

The following study is a *literal* exegesis that presents Jesus' answer in the way that the disciples would have understood it at the time.

What Magnificent Buildings

As (Jesus) was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher! What massive stones! **What magnificent buildings!**” (Luke 21:5)

Some of his disciples were remarking about **how the temple was adorned** with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. (Mark 13:1; also see Matthew 24:1)



No stone on another



But Jesus said, “As for what you see here, the time will come when **not one stone will be left on another**; every one of them will be thrown down.” (Luke 21:5-6. Also Matthew 24:2 and Mark 13:2)

Destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 AD (David Roberts, 1796-1849)

When will the Temple be destroyed?

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, “Tell us, **when will these things happen?** And what will be **the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?**” (Mark 13:3-4)



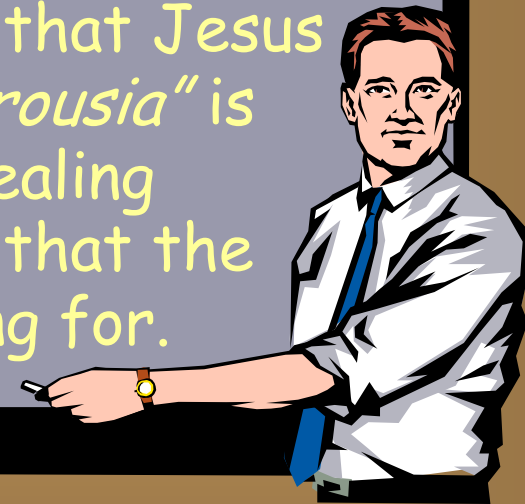
“Teacher,” they asked, **“when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?”** (Luke 21:7)

When will you arrive as king?

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “**when will this happen**, and what will be the **sign of your coming** (“parousia”, παρουσία) and of **the end of the age?**”
(Matthew 24:3)

The disciples associated the destruction of the Temple with the end of the Jewish Age, at which time Jesus would be recognized by everyone as the promised Messiah.

The disciples had no idea that Jesus was going to leave, so “*Parousia*” is speaking about Jesus revealing himself as being the King that the Jews had long been looking for.



A dignitary's ceremonial arrival

The word "parousia" described the grand arrival of a dignitary, such as a Governor or a King, to a town.

His parousia was associated with great pomp and ceremony, and it required much preparation by the people, such as building new roads and minting a special coin.

The disciples believed that when the great temple was destroyed, which would bring the end of the Age, Jesus would make his own grand arrival with great pomp and ceremony as the promised King - his parousia.

Watch out for deceivers

Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you.

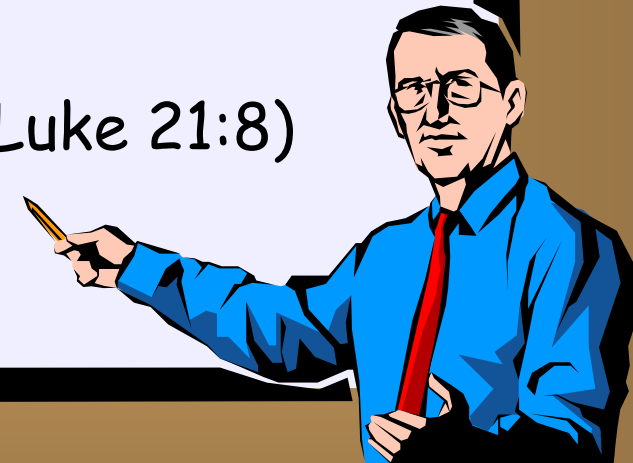
For many will come in my name, claiming, '**I am the Christ,**' and will **deceive many.**" (Matthew 24:4-5)

Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. Many will come in my name, claiming, '**I am he,**' and will **deceive many.**" (Mark 13:5-6)

Jesus replied: "Watch out that you are not deceived.

For many will come in my name, claiming, '*I am he,*' and, '*The time is near.*'

Do not follow them." (Luke 21:8)



What deceivers will say

You will **hear** of wars and **rumors** of wars, but **see to it that you are not alarmed**.

Such things must happen, but **the end is still to come**.

Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom

There will be **famines** and **earthquakes** in various places.

All these are the beginning of birth pains.

(Matthew 24:6-8)

(also see Mark 13:7-8
and Luke 21:9-11)

These deceivers will point to Wars, Famines, and Earthquakes. But the disciples were not to worry themselves about these messages.

Jesus did not mention the number of events, their size, extent, or the number of casualties. Only that deceivers will make use of these events, and that the disciples were to ignore them.

These pains begin a birth, not the destruction.



Because of JESUS' Name

You will be hated by all nations **because of ME**. ... **Many** will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and **many false prophets** will appear and **deceive many people.**" (Matthew 24:9-11)

You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. **On account of ME you will stand** before governors and kings as witnesses to them. ... All men will **hate you because of ME**, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. (Mark 13:9, 11-13)

But before all this, they will lay hands on you and persecute you. They will deliver you to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and **all on account of MY NAME**.

This will result in your being witnesses to them.

But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. For **I will give you words and wisdom** that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.

You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death.

All men will hate you **BECAUSE OF ME**. But not a hair of your head will perish. By standing firm you will gain life. (Luke 21:12-19)

The Gospel must be Preached

Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

And this **gospel of the kingdom** will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:12-14. See also Mark 13:10)

During his ministry, Jesus spoke most of all about the "Kingdom".

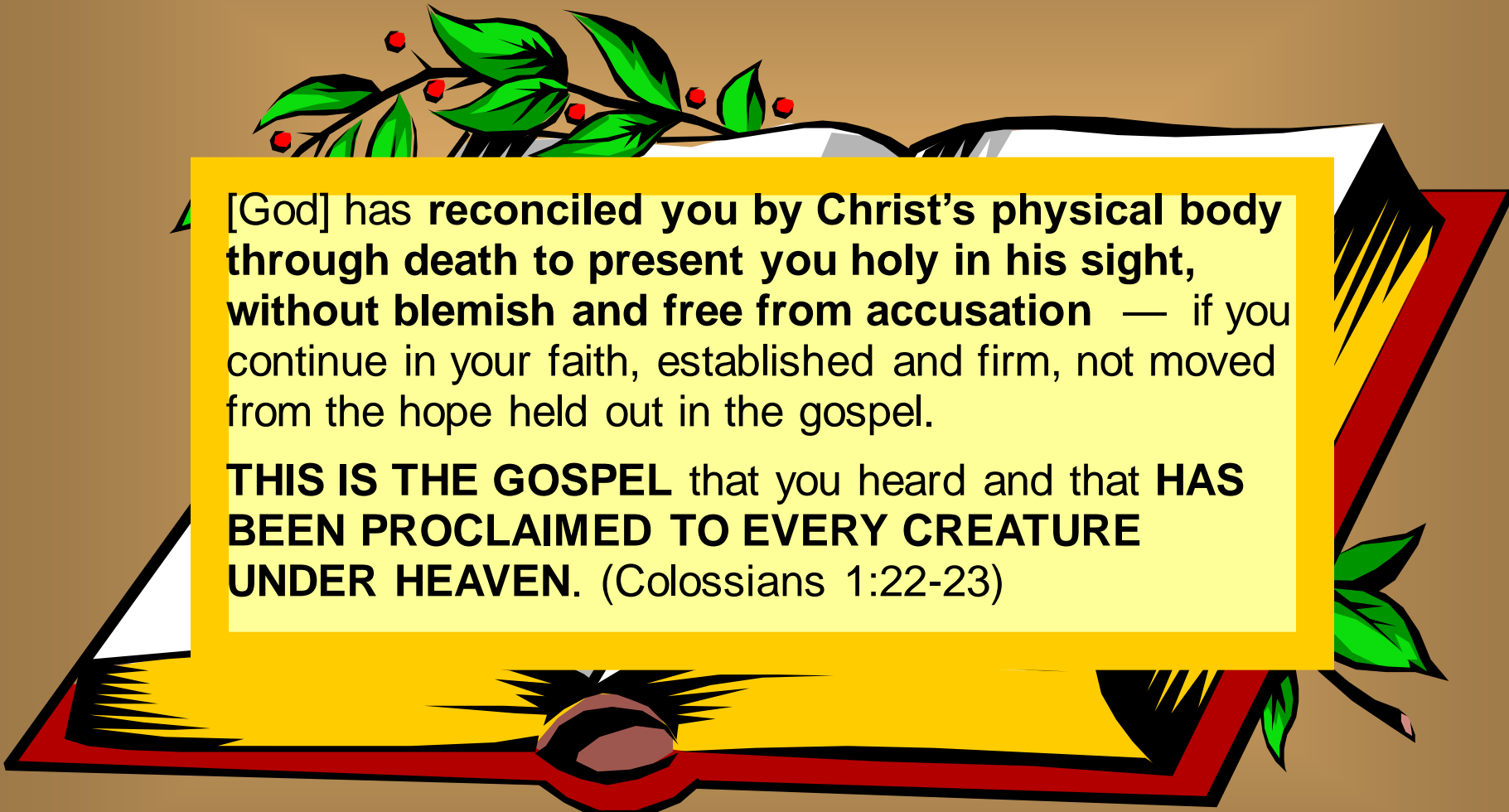
Jesus said that John the Baptist was at the end of the rule by the Law, and this had been replaced by the good news of the Kingdom.

Before the end, all had to have the opportunity to hear God's "good news", the "Gospel".



For my thoughts on the "Kingdom" go to:
http://www.jwstudies.com/Kingdom_Manifesto.pdf


The Gospel proclaimed to the whole world



[God] has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation — if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.


THIS IS THE GOSPEL that you heard and that **HAS BEEN PROCLAIMED TO EVERY CREATURE UNDER HEAVEN.** (Colossians 1:22-23)

The Gospel bearing fruit in the whole world



We have heard of **YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS** and of the love you have for all the saints —the **faith** and **love** that spring from **THE HOPE THAT IS STORED UP FOR YOU IN HEAVEN** and that you have already heard about in **the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you.**

ALL OVER THE WORLD THIS GOSPEL is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. (Colossians 1:4-6)



When you see the Abomination

So when you see **standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’** spoken of through the prophet Daniel — let the reader understand — then let those who are **in Judea flee to the mountains.**

Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house.

Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak.

(Matthew 24:15-18)
(also Mark 13:14-16)



The Destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem (Nicolas Poussin).
Courtesy www.abcgallery.com

When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are **in Judea flee to the mountains,** let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written. (Luke 21:20-22)

How Dreadful it will be

How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.

For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now — and never to be equaled again.

If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

(Matthew 24:19-22)
(also see Mark 13:17-20)



Francesco Hayez

There will be great distress in the land and wrath **against this people**. They will fall by the sword and will be **taken as prisoners to all the nations**.

Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. (Luke 21:23-24)

Summary: Jesus prepared his disciples

- Jesus warned his disciples about the deceivers who would claim to be Christ (the Anointed), who would say "the time is now", and would report events such as wars, earthquakes, famines and pestilences.
- Jesus told his disciples they would be persecuted over his name.
- Jesus taught his disciples about the Kingdom and to preach the Gospel to every person.
- Jesus gave his disciples the sign that would tell them when to leave Jerusalem.

