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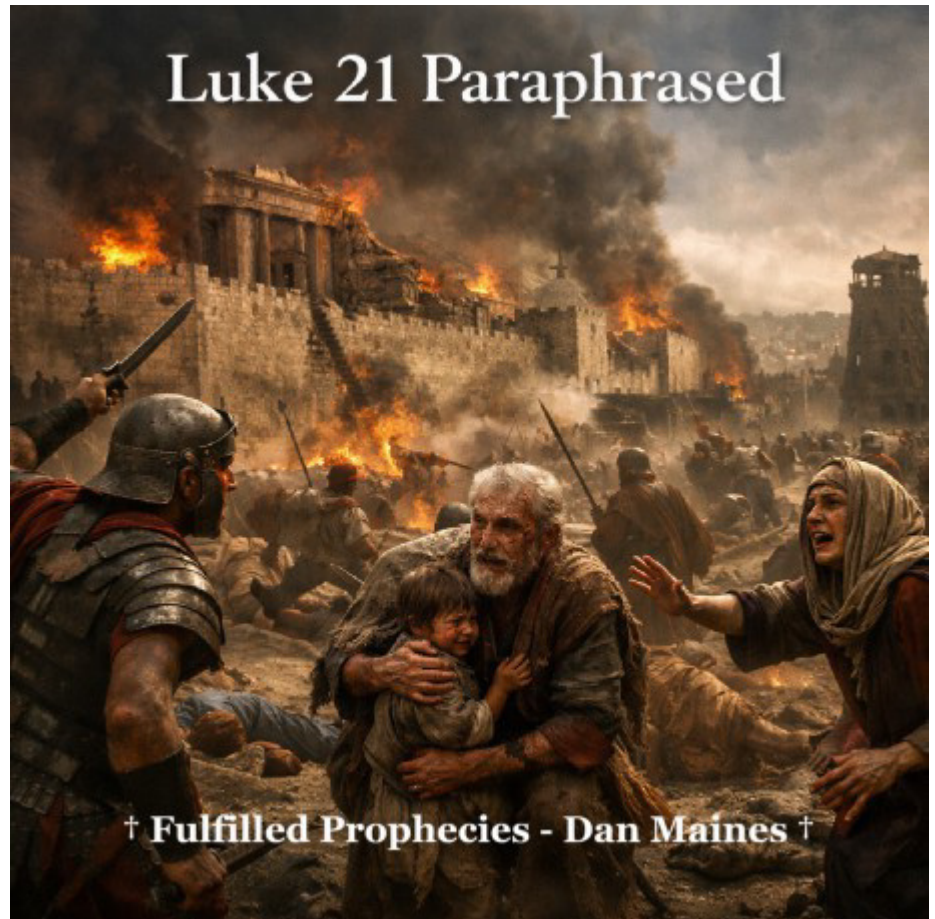
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Luke 21 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Luke 21 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Jesus is now pointing directly at the system that was about to fall, exposing the end of the old covenant world and warning that generation of what was coming.

† This chapter isn't about a distant future, it's about the judgment that was about to come upon Jerusalem within that generation.

† He connects signs, persecution, and destruction, showing the full transition from the old system into the new covenant reality.

Luke 21:1

He looked up and saw rich people dropping their offerings into the treasury

† Jesus is watching the temple system in action, exposing the outward show of giving

† This highlights the religious system that was about to be judged for hypocrisy (Matthew 23:27-28)

Luke 21:2

He saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins

† The contrast reveals true devotion versus empty religious display

† God values the heart, not the amount (1 Samuel 16:7)

Luke 21:3

He said that poor widow has given more than all of them

† Her giving wasn't measured by quantity but by sacrifice

† This exposes the false righteousness of the religious elite

Luke 21:4

They gave from their surplus, but she gave everything she had to live on

† The system praised the wealthy, but God honored the faithful

† This shows the coming reversal in the kingdom (Luke 16:15)

Luke 21:5

Some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and offerings

† The temple looked impressive outwardly, but judgment was already determined

† This sets the stage for the prophecy of its destruction

Luke 21:6

He said the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another

† This is a direct prophecy of the destruction in AD 70

† The temple, the center of the old covenant, would be completely removed (Micah 3:12)

Luke 21:7

They asked when these things would happen and what sign would show it was about to occur

† The question is about timing and signs, not about a distant end of the world

† Jesus answers within their generational context

Luke 21:8

He warned them not to be misled, many would come claiming to be Him and saying the time is near

† False messiahs were common before AD 70

† Josephus records multiple deceivers leading people astray

Luke 21:9

You will hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified, these things must happen first, but the end will not come immediately

† These are birth pains, not the final moment

† These events happened leading up to Jerusalem's fall (Josephus, Wars of the Jews)

Luke 21:10

Nation will rise against nation, kingdom against kingdom

† This describes the unrest of that time period

† The Roman world experienced constant conflict

Luke 21:11

There will be great earthquakes, famines, plagues, and terrifying signs from heaven

† These events are historically recorded in the first century

† They confirm the approaching judgment (Acts 11:28)

Luke 21:12

Before all this, they will lay hands on you and persecute you

† The disciples faced persecution before the destruction

† This is recorded throughout Acts

Luke 21:13

It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony

† Persecution becomes a platform for truth

† The gospel spread through suffering

Luke 21:14

Make up your minds not to prepare beforehand how to defend yourselves

† Trust in God's provision, not human planning

† This reflects reliance on the Spirit

Luke 21:15

I will give you words and wisdom that none of your opponents can resist

† Jesus promises divine authority in their testimony

† This was fulfilled in Acts (Acts 6:10)

Luke 21:16

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

† Division would cut through families

† Loyalty to Christ would cost everything

Luke 21:17

You will be hated by all because of My name

† The early church experienced this exact hatred

† This wasn't future, it was immediate

Luke 21:18

Yet not a hair of your head will perish

† This speaks of ultimate spiritual preservation

† Though physically harmed, they were secure in Christ

Luke 21:19

By your endurance you will gain your lives

† Faithfulness through suffering was required

† This is about enduring until the fulfillment

Luke 21:20

When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, know that her desolation is near

† This is the clearest sign, fulfilled when Rome surrounded Jerusalem

† This happened in AD 70 under Titus

Luke 21:21

Those in Judea must flee to the mountains

† This was a literal instruction

† Early Christians fled and were spared (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History)

Luke 21:22

These are days of vengeance, so that all things written will be fulfilled

† This is covenant judgment

† It fulfills all that was written against that generation (Deuteronomy 28)

Luke 21:23

Woe to those who are pregnant or nursing in those days

† The suffering would be severe

† Josephus describes extreme famine and horror

Luke 21:24

They will fall by the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled

† This was fulfilled in the Roman destruction

† Jerusalem was completely overrun and scattered

Luke 21:25

There will be signs in sun, moon, and stars, distress among

nations

† This is prophetic language of judgment

† Old Testament uses this imagery for nation collapse (Isaiah 13:10)

Luke 21:26

People will faint from fear, expecting what is coming upon the world

† The world here refers to their covenant world

† The system they trusted was collapsing

Luke 21:27

Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory

† This is not a physical return but a judgment coming

† This matches Daniel 7:13, authority being revealed

Luke 21:28

When these things begin, straighten up and lift your heads, your redemption is near

† Their deliverance was tied to Jerusalem's fall

† The old system ending meant freedom

Luke 21:29

He told them a parable about the fig tree and all the trees

† This illustrates recognizing signs

† It's about awareness of timing

Luke 21:30

When they sprout leaves, you know summer is near

† Signs indicate nearness

† The same applies to the coming judgment

Luke 21:31

When you see these things, know the kingdom of God is near

† The kingdom was about to be fully revealed

† This aligns with first century fulfillment

Luke 21:32

This generation will not pass away until all things take place

† This is the time limit

† Everything He said happened within that generation

Luke 21:33

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away

† This refers to the covenant system, not the physical universe

† The old covenant world was passing away

Luke 21:34

Be on guard so your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and worries

† Stay alert spiritually

† Distraction leads to destruction

Luke 21:35

That day will come suddenly like a trap on all who dwell on the face of the land

† This was sudden for those unprepared

† It came upon that land, Israel

Luke 21:36

Stay alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape and stand before the Son of Man

† Escape was possible, and many did

† This was fulfilled when believers fled

Luke 21:37

During the day He was teaching in the temple, and at night He stayed on the Mount of Olives

† Jesus remained active right up to the end

† He continued warning and teaching

Luke 21:38

All the people would get up early to listen to Him in the temple

† The message was being heard, but many still rejected it

† Judgment came despite the warnings

Historical References

† Josephus describes the siege, famine, and destruction of Jerusalem in detail, confirming these events

† Eusebius records that Christians fled Jerusalem before the destruction, obeying Jesus' warning

† Tacitus also records the devastation and collapse of the city under Rome

How it applies to us today

† We don't wait for these events, they've already happened, confirming Jesus' words are true

† It shows that God keeps His promises, both in judgment and salvation

† We live in the fulfilled kingdom, not waiting for it to come

Q & A Appendix

Q: What was Jesus warning about in Luke 21

A: The destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the old covenant system (Luke 21:20-22)

Q: Did these things happen in the future or their time

A: In their time, within that generation (Luke 21:32)

Q: What does the coming of the Son of Man mean here

A: It refers to judgment and authority being revealed, not a physical descent (Daniel 7:13)

Q: What is meant by heaven and earth passing away

A: The old covenant system being removed (Hebrews 8:13)

Q: Did believers escape the destruction

A: Yes, those who listened fled and were spared (Luke 21:21)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Luke 21

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Tacitus, Histories

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