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**Judgment Series -
Why Was
Jerusalem
Destroyed If Christ
Returned?**



By Dan Maines

Why Was Jerusalem Destroyed If Christ Returned?

Matthew 22:7

But the king was enraged, and he sent his armies and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire.

† Jesus spoke this parable against the leaders of Israel who rejected Him.

† The "armies" are the Roman legions who, in AD 70, burned Jerusalem just as Christ foretold.

† Roman historian Tacitus confirms the city's burning and wholesale slaughter, showing that the prophecy was fulfilled in

history.

† The parable proves the destruction wasn't an accident of politics but a divine verdict on those who killed the Son.

Luke 21:20-24

But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near. Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city, because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled. Woe to those 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, and 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.

† This prophecy was fulfilled with chilling accuracy.

† Josephus records that Titus' army encircled the city, fulfilling "surrounded by armies."

† Christians fled to Pella in obedience to Christ's warning and were spared.

† Over a million Jews perished according to Josephus, and the survivors were sold as slaves, exactly matching "led captive into all the nations."

† Gentile control of the site began then and still continues in various forms today.

Hebrews 12:28

Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which can't be shaken, let's show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe.

† The Old Covenant order with its earthly temple was shaken and removed, but the kingdom of Christ endured.

† This proves that His reign is spiritual and indestructible.

† The tearing down of Jerusalem's temple was the visible sign that the unshakable kingdom had come and could never be

overthrown.

John 18:36

Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would be fighting so that I wouldn't be handed over to the Jews, but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.

† Christ refused all earthly power because His kingdom was never tied to stone walls or human thrones.

† The fact that no palace was raised and no rebellion was waged proves that His return was to establish a heavenly reign, not a political state.

† The fall of Jerusalem showed the end of the old system and the full arrival of His heavenly kingdom.

Luke 21:22

Because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled.

† Jesus declared that every prophetic warning of judgment, from Moses through the prophets, would find completion in that generation.

† Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Daniel all foresaw a climactic destruction tied to covenant breach.

† The Roman siege is the historical event that closed the prophetic canon with undeniable finality.

AD 70 Judgment: Prophets, Historians, and Archaeology Prove Christ's Return

† Historical witnesses such as Josephus in *The Jewish War* and Tacitus in *Histories* record the famine, fire, and unparalleled devastation of AD 70.

† Source: Josephus, *The Jewish War*, Books 5–6; Tacitus, *Histories*, Book 5, sections 10–13.

† Their independent testimonies, written from different perspectives, agree that the slaughter and destruction were unlike anything before.

† Source: Josephus, *The Jewish War*; Tacitus, *Histories*.

† Suetonius, in his *Life of Titus*, records the conquest of Jerusalem and the triumph that followed, confirming the fire and complete destruction described by Jesus.

† Source: Suetonius, *Life of Titus*, sections 5–8.

† His Roman perspective reinforces the gospel accounts from outside the Christian community.

† Old Testament prophecies connect directly to these events.

† Daniel 9:26–27 foretold the destruction of the city and the sanctuary and the ending of sacrifice.

† Micah 3:12 predicted Zion would be plowed like a field and Jerusalem become ruins.

† Deuteronomy 28:49–57 warned of a foreign nation coming like an eagle, bringing siege, famine, and unspeakable distress.

† All of these align with the Roman siege, the famine Josephus describes, and the end of temple sacrifice.

† Rabbinic testimony also supports this fulfillment.

† Source: Talmud, *Gittin* 56–57; Talmud, *Yoma* 39b.

† The Talmud (*Gittin* 56–57) preserves Jewish memory of the catastrophe and dispersion.

† Source: Talmud, *Gittin* 56–57.

† *Yoma* 39b recounts ominous signs in the Temple for forty years before the destruction, which later rabbis recognized as foreshadowing the end of the Second Temple era.

† Source: Talmud, *Yoma* 39b.

† Early Christian writers give further confirmation.

† Source: Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History*, Book 3, chapter 5; *Epistle of Barnabas*, chapter 16.

† Eusebius, in *Ecclesiastical History* 3.5, records that the church in Jerusalem fled to Pella before the siege, showing believers trusted Christ's prophecy and were preserved.

† Source: Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History*, Book 3, chapter 5.

† The *Epistle of Barnabas* 16 interprets the Temple's fall as proof that God was finished with the old house, confirming the covenant shift.

† Source: *Epistle of Barnabas*, chapter 16.

† Archaeological findings add physical proof.

† Source: First-century destruction layer documented in

Jerusalem excavations, including burn debris, collapsed masonry, and Roman siege stones.

† Excavations in Jerusalem show a first-century destruction layer with widespread burn evidence, collapsed masonry, and Roman siege stones.

† Source: Jerusalem excavation reports of the Temple Mount and City of David.

How it applies to us today

† We live in the unshakable kingdom foretold by the prophets and secured by Christ's finished work.

† No earthly turmoil can remove us from His reign.

† Just as the first-century believers trusted His words and were delivered, we trust His promises now, knowing He rules over every power and nation.

† The destruction of Jerusalem stands as a permanent reminder that God keeps every word He speaks, both in judgment and in salvation.

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

Source Index

† Matthew 22:7 Luke 21:20-24 Hebrews 12:28 John 18:36 Luke 21:22 Josephus, The Jewish War Tacitus, Histories 5.10-13 Suetonius, Life of Titus 5-8 Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5 Epistle of Barnabas 16 Talmud Gittin 56-57 Talmud Yoma 39b Daniel 9:26-27 Micah 3:12 Deuteronomy 28:49-57

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