



## Introduction

*The disciples point out the greatness of the temple. But Jesus predicts its destruction and goes on to talk about his return to the earth.*



## Questions

1. What was the first problem Jesus warned his followers about?
2. What family problems did Jesus warn about?
3. Jesus said he didn't know "the day or the hour". Who else, did he say, did not know?



*Stones from the temple thrown down by the Romans in fulfilment of Jesus' prediction (v 2).*



## Summary Points

- **v 1 to 4** While his disciples are admiring the temple Jesus tells them that it will be totally destroyed (*the Romans destroyed it about 40 years later in AD 70*). They ask when this will be and ask if there will be any signs before it happens
- **v 5 to 13** Jesus gives them warnings and indicates signs to look for:
  - false christs
  - national disputes and natural disasters
  - persecution and problems from relatives
- **v 14 to 23** When they see the "abomination of desolation" (see information below) standing in the wrong place they need to flee to the mountains immediately, expect terrible oppression and be ready to ignore false christs
- **v 24 to 27** After the terrible oppression they will see signs in the sun, moon and stars (see theme) followed by his return (see theme) when his chosen ones will be gathered together
- **v 28 to 37** He tells them that as sure as a fig tree producing leaves indicates summer, so these signs that herald his coming are sure. He encourages his followers always to be ready for his return as no one knows exactly when it will be

**Timeline** AD 30 (see below)



## Themes / Information

### The abomination of desolation

In the prophecy on the Mount of Olives, Jesus refers to "the abomination of desolation" mentioned by the prophet Daniel. The relevant verses in Daniel's prophecy are:

*Daniel 11 verse 31*

*Daniel 12 verse 11*

These verses make it clear that the "abomination of desolation" refers to a time when offerings made in connection with the worship of God in the temple will be replaced. Sacrifices stopped when the temple was destroyed in AD 70.



### **Signs in the sun, moon and stars**

*Sun, moon and stars are used as symbols for nations by the Old Testament prophets.*

The destruction of ancient Babylon is described symbolically as the darkening of the sun, moon and stars:

*Isaiah 13 verses 9 to 11*

Similar language is used predicting the end of Egypt as a superpower:

*Ezekiel 32 verses 7 to 9*

The prophet Jeremiah talks about the end of the kingdom of Judah in similar terms:

*Jeremiah 4 verses 23 to 26*

The prophet Joel talks about the destruction of the enemies of Israel symbolically as the darkening of the sun, moon and stars:

*Joel 3 verses 14 to 16*

### **Jesus Christ will return to the earth**

*A selection of verses showing that Jesus will return to the earth.*

*Matthew 16 verse 27, 24 verse 30,*

*Mark 13 verse 26*

*Acts 1 verses 10 and 11*

*1 Corinthians 11 verse 26*

*1 Thessalonians 4 verse 16*

## **? Answers to questions**

Verses which answer the questions:

Q 1: v 5 and 6. Q 2: v 12, Q 3: v 32



# Bible timeline

