

INTRODUCTION

- * Two weeks ago we considered the proclamations of the people regarding the Messianic fulfillment of Jesus as He journeyed to Jerusalem. We saw, as well, how Jesus confirmed those proclamations by declaring to the Pharisees that if the people would be quiet then the stones would immediately cry out!
- * In the Old Testament, the book of Lamentations contains the sorrowful account of Jeremiah as he looks upon the destruction of Jerusalem after Nebuchadnezzar's conquest. Chapters 1 and 2 declare how YHWH handed over Jerusalem, and His Temple, to the atrocities of Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon as punishment for treating His Temple with disdain and for bringing idolatrous practices into the Temple - in His presence - before Him.
- * In similar manner, Jesus - being omniscient - sees the destruction which will come upon Jerusalem within 40 years because they, as well, did not know the day of their visitation! They returned to treating YHWH's house with disdain and had rejected YHWH Himself when He had fulfilled His Word to come as a child and dwell in their midst.
- * Today, we consider a short - but very profound - passage which contains Jesus' Messianic Lamentations for Jerusalem and His Temple.

INSTRUCTION

I. A LAMENTATION FOR THE CITY (v. 41-44)

A. The G_____ of His Sorrow (v. 37-38)

- * cf. Matthew 2:17-18; 26:75; Mark 5:38-39; Luke 7:12-13; 23:27-28

B. The R_____ for His Sorrow (v. 39-40)

1. THE I_____ OF THE P_____ (v. 42, 44)

- a. They did not know the t_____ (v. 42; Luke 1:77-79; Proverbs 3:17)

- * cf. Isaiah 6:9-10; 2 Corinthians 3:14-16

- b. They did not know the d_____ (v. 44; Jeremiah 5)

i. THE MEANING OF "VISITATION"

- * cf. Genesis 21:1; 39:4-5; 40:4; 50:24-25; Exodus 3:16; 20:4-5; 32:31-35; 34:6-7; Numbers 16:28-29; Ruth 1:6; 1 Samuel 2:21; Psalms 8:3-6; 89:20-37; cf. Jeremiah 23:9-12

ii. THE DAY OF YHWH'S "VISITATION" (cf. John 1:10-14; Isaiah 55:6)

iii. THE FUTURE DAY OF "VISITATION" (1 Peter 2:9-16; 2 Corinthians 6:1-2; Hebrews 9:27-28)

2. THE F_____ OF THE C_____ (v. 43-44)

- a. The De_____ of the Destruction (cf. Daniel 9:24-26; Amos 8:1-12)

- b. The De_____ of the Destruction

II. A LAMENTATION FOR THE TEMPLE (v. 45-48)

A. His A_____ (v. 45)

B. His A_____ (v. 46; cf. Isaiah 56:7; Jeremiah 7:9-15; John 2:13-17)

1. THE D_____ OF GOD (cf. 1 Cor 3:16; 6:19-20; 2 Cor 6:16; 1 Peter 2:5)

2. THE D_____ OF MEN (cf. Matthew 6:24)

INTROSPECTION

- * What is your primary desire today? Do you desire increased fellowship with God, or increased financial gain?
- * Do you believe that what God has declared in the Revelation is literal - that He will judge the earth?
- * Do you believe that each person - as well - will have a "Day of Reckoning"? Are you ready for yours?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * How does Jesus' accusation apply to the church today? Do we treat "church" as a business? How should we - Biblically - separate the financial considerations of the church from a focus on financial gain?