

Lesson 46 Matthew 24:1-2 (1) Jesus teaching "no conceit" in buildings

Impressive bulwarks

Jesus marched out of the temple and his disciples came to Him to show off or display the buildings of the temple. This was understandable as Jesus was a Tekton or master in stone and wood. However, despite the finish after 46 years of work and the skilful construction and in particular the nature of the stone "ashlars" which ranged from over 20 feet long and 5 feet high and 7 feet wide Jesus gave no answering delight in the construction. To pride oneself on the security that these great stones afforded was beside the point

The destruction of the temple

"I tell you the truth not one stone here will be left on another"(v.2) The Greek **λιθος** refers to the great "ashlars" from which the temple and its surrounding walls were constructed. The historical narrative of Josephus is worthy of note as a confirmation of the LORD'S word that the destruction would be more awesome than the construction.

Titus summary reads, "We have certainly had God for our assistant in this war, and it was no other than God who ejected the Jews out of these fortifications for what could the hands of men or any machines do toward overthrowing these towers?"(Josephus Wars 6.9.1)

The history of the temple

"The number of years that passed from its foundation, which was laid by king Solomon, till this destruction, which happened in the second year of Vespasian, are collected to be one thousand one hundred and thirty, besides seven months and fifteen days; and from the second building of it, which was done by Haggai, in the second year of Cyrus the king, till the destruction under Vespasian, there were six hundred and thirty nine years and forty five days."(Josephus Wars 6.5.3)

The western wall

"This wall was spared, in order to afford a camp for such as were to lie in garrison; as were the towers also spared, in order to demonstrate to posterity what kind of city it was, and how well fortified, which Roman valour had subdued: but for all the rest of the wall, it was so thoroughly laid even with the ground by those that dug it up to the foundation, that there was left nothing to make those that came thither believe it had ever been inhabited."



From paper to practice.(Complete the blanks)

- 1 Other _____ can no man lay than is laid, which is Christ! (1 Cor 3.11)
- 2 You are God's _____ (1 Cor 3.9)
- 3 Your body is the _____ of the Holy Ghost (1 Cor. 6.19)
- 4 In Him the whole building is _____ together and rises to become a holy temple (Eph 2.21)