

In this section the Sadducees set a **religious trap** for Jesus
- so, they tell Him a fictitious story about 1 woman and 7 husbands.

- 20:28**
- They address Jesus as “Teacher” – since they do not believe in Him.
 - Their story refers to Moses’ teaching about **LEVIRATE MARRIAGE**: Cf. Deut 25:5 Gen 38:8
 - According to **this law** a man was obliged to take his dead brother’s wife and beget children who would receive **his brother’s name** and inheritance when his brother had died **childless**.

So, the story told by the Sadducees showed – in their minds – the ridiculousness of the idea of the resurrection – whose wife would she be **then**?

- 20:35** **Jesus’ reply**: Marriage is only for **earthly** life *“until death do us part”*.
- Those judged **worthy** of the resurrection (of the **just** only, here)
 - **In the resurrection** – which **Jesus absolutely affirms** – marriage and procreation are no longer needed.
 - Those who are glorified live like the angels - as **Sons of God**
- Hence the woman and the seven husbands will **all be individuals** and their **former relationships** will not be relevant, since **all** will be united together – in God.

(NB) **Jesus proved the resurrection of the dead FROM SCRIPTURE!**

- 20:37-38** In Exodus 3:6, God affirmed that all were **alive** in Him. He is the God of **THE LIVING**
“For, to Him all men are in FACT alive

Jesus now Challenges the Scholars / Leaders: 20:41-44

On the interpretation of Scripture:

- **The Challenge is: is the Christ merely human or is he divine also?**
Ps 110:1: King David – a human lord – calls the Messiah “Lord” – Adonai . Since David calls him **Divine**, how **can** he be David’s “son”? ‘**Son of David**’ was one of the **titles** for **Christ**.

* The Psalm sees the Lord (Christ) at the Lord’s (God’s) right hand until Christ’s enemies are vanquished.

Cf. Stephen in Acts 7:55 saw this reality: *“Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into Heaven and saw the Glory of God, and Jesus standing a God’s Right hand.*

- (NB)** • Thus, Jesus showed that the Scribes **were wrong in presenting the Christ as merely human!!**

The Teachers of Scripture!

Warning Against Scribes: 20:45-47: (Scribes and Pharisees together).

This is for disciples as distinct from the general populace.

- (i) Jesus wants **No** ostentatious behaviour
- (ii) “ “ **No** seeking of best places at banquets / in Synagogues Cf. Lk 11:43, 14:7-11
- (iii) “ “ **No** misuse of power – **No** hypocrisy in Religion

CHAPTER 21

21:1-4 **The Widow's Mite**

Here Jesus shows that God's ways are not our ways
God's thoughts are not our thoughts } Is 55:8-9

- God looks at the heart } God rewards true generosity
man sees the external } man rewards big donations
- This is a warning to the future leaders of the church!!

The Destruction of the Temple: 21:5-19

21:5-7 **Introduction**

Some in Jesus' audience began to admire the beauty of the Temple

- This was the occasion for Jesus to **prophesy its destruction!!**
- They did not **reject** His words – they wanted to know **when** it would happen and **what signs** would precede it.

In the long teaching that followed Jesus connected the **following 3 points**:

- 1) **The destruction of Jerusalem** – which took place 40 years later
- 2) **The End of the Word** – the time unknown and in the future
- 3) **His Final Coming in Glory and Majesty** – unknown in the future.

- He also spoke about the **Persecution of Christians**, and He exhorts His followers...
 - a) to be patient
 - b) to pray
 - c) to be watchful

- ⓃB • Jesus does not want **just** to **satisfy our curiosity** about future events.
He wanted to alert them so that they would not be discouraged and scandalized about:

- (i) what was going to happen in His own Passion / Death / Resurrection
- (ii) “ “ “ “ “ “ the near future to their Beloved Temple / City

(iii) “ “ “ “ “ “ in Human History before His Return.

- Jesus exhorts us all
 - (i) To take **HEED** and not be led astray (vs 8)
 - (ii) Do not be tempted (vs 9)
 - (iii) Watch at **all** times (vs 34)

21:8-11 **Jesus does give warning signs** – but ones that apply **both** to the **near** Destruction of Jerusalem and the **far** End Times.

- a) **Deception** → **the white horse** of the Apocalypse - **False Messiahs**, false prophets, etc.
Plenty of these in 20/21st century.
 - False prophets in Israel after the death of Jesus: Acts 5:36-38
 - Since 20th century **we live in the Age of Deception!** (things are **not** what they seem!)
- b) Wars / Revolutions – **the Red Horse** of Apocalypse
- the shedding of human blood for political ends... } **alive / active today**
- c) Plagues and famines – **the Pale Horse of Apocalypse** (Revelation 6: 1-8)
These are a continuous reality since 20th century
- d) **The Black Horse of Death** of Apocalypse, follows from wars / plagues / famines
- e) **Great earthquakes** – there will be a **small** earthquake in Jerusalem at the Death / Resurrection of the Son of God.
- f) **Fearful sights + great signs in the Heavens** (ie) **Cosmic Events**

Before that the **Persecution of the Church: 21:12-19**

Jesus wanted to prepare His disciples for the Hostile reception they will receive after His Death.
- illustrated well in **Acts 1-12** were the Sanhedrin persecuted them...

- At all stages of the Church's history, she has been persecuted – **even today** and her greatest sorrow is still to come: **“deliver us from evil”**.
- God permits the Church to suffer **so that she will bear witness – in public** – before the authorities of every land...
- It is the **one** time His Witnesses will be **sure** to be **inspired** by God.
Cf. Stephen in Acts 7 Paul in Acts 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26!

21:18 **“You will be hated by all men on account of my Name”**

- this is true of Christians today!!

Cf. 2 Tim 3:12 **“all who desire to live a godly life, in Christ Jesus will be presented”**

Cf. Jn 15:20 **“a servant is not greater than his master”**

“If they persecuted me, they will persecute you.”

(NB) The Blood of the Martyrs is the life of the Church.

The Destruction of Jerusalem: 20:20-24

- Jesus counselled His followers to flee when the **Roman Army** arrived to destroy the city and its people: Cf. Josephus in Antiquities
- They did flee to Transjordan: Cf. Eusebius in “Ecclesiastical History”: 3-5
- **Because** it was **God’s KAIROS TIME** – the exact **Right** time for Divine punishment
Cf. Luke 17:31-37

(NB) In Catholic Tradition Jerusalem represents the **Church!!**
In Book of Revelation the Church is the New Jerusalem: Rev 21:2

(NB) ∴ **This is a veiled warning to the Church** – that after the accumulated sins of the centuries, she, too, will face such a disaster Cf. **Jn 21:18-23**

21:24 **The Age of the Gentiles** represents that period – now 2026 years when non-Jews would run the K.O.G. on earth.

- The Jewish People were – in fact – expelled from Israel by the Romans to wander all over the earth until the foundation of the Jewish State in 1948.
- St Paul in **Rom 11:11-32** proclaims a future time when the Jews will be converted and the Church will experience an extraordinary time of evangelisation...

Signs for the Return of Christ: 21:25-28 - The signs **here** will come from the heavens! **Cosmic Signs**

- Before the Return of Christ there will be great cosmic signs
 - (i) in the sun, moon and stars
 - (ii) which will affect **the oceans of the world** and **the stability of earth**
 - (iii) as a result **whole nations** will be in agony
 - (iv) people **dying of fear** – for what may happen
 - (v)

Why? ***“Because the powers of Heaven will be shaken”***

- At long last **God will GET OUR ATTENTION** and we will **HAVE** to pay attention to what is happening!!
- **What will happen?** The whole universe will tremble before the majesty and glory of the Lord as He returns to earth **in power** and glory.
- People **will fear Him now** as He comes to judge the **living** and the dead.
- they had **refused to love Him** and be saved beforehand.

- ⓃB • **Jesus will judge all men** in His **Human Capacity** as King and Judge.
 → His Judgement will be **PUBLIC** so that all can observe His Pure, Holy, Good and Merciful Justice to all souls...
 → everyone will see the Word of God put into action, whether they believed it or not...
 Men judged Jesus publicly! **Jesus will judge Humanity Publicly.**

21:28 **For believers**, for the good, the Day of the Lord – Yom Yahweh – will be a Day of Joy, a day of Liberation, for Heaven awaits them.

∴ St Paul in Titus 2:13 says that we should be *“awaiting on blessed hope, the Appearing (PAROUSIA) of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.”*

21:29-33 **When will he come?** The K.O.G. was already present among them:
 - it was announced by John, the Baptist...
 - “ “ explained in many parables...
 - “ “ open to everyone who wanted to join... Cf. Lk 17:20

- It will be **fully manifested** after the Passion / Death / Resurrection / Ascension / Pentecost but Israel as a whole will continue to reject it...
- The K.O.G. will spread to the rest of the world as the catastrophic events of the *Death of the Temple* and the *Death of Jerusalem* take place.
 (House of God) (City of God)

The Fig Tree: **when their blossoms come out, Summer is near.**

Summer = the Harvest time = the End Times

- **In April AD 70** the Roman Army destroyed both Temple and City under **Titus**
 (ie) the blossoms were out on the trees!

21:32 **Most** of those listening to Jesus would **experience everything here...**

- Jesus' Word is **eternal**: it cannot be changed or deleted
 - it **can** be ignored to our detriment

ⓃB **no matter what happens two things remain** 1) Jesus' Word
 2) Human Race

- This means that **the Human Race will not be destroyed** by the events Jesus' has predicted. It will last until **His Coming...** it will be present to see His Glory...
 - it will have to accept His Judgement – there is no escape

21:34-36 **Be Alert! Be Vigilant! Be Prayerful!**