

Notes on the Greek New Testament Day 112 – April 22nd – Luke 21:1-28

Works frequently referenced in these notes on Luke

Geldenhuis, Norval	<i>Commentary on the Gospel of Luke</i> , Marshall Morgan and Scott, London, 1950
Marshall, I Howard	<i>The Gospel of Luke</i> , The New International Greek Testament Commentary, Paternoster, Exeter, 1978
Morris, Leon	<i>Luke</i> (Tyndale NT Commentaries), IVP, London 1974

Luke 21:1

Ἀναβλέψας δὲ εἶδεν τοὺς βάλλοντας εἰς τὸ γαζοφυλάκιον τὰ δῶρα αὐτῶν πλουσίους.

ἀναβλεπω look up

εἶδεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s ὁραω trans see, observe

γαζοφυλακιον, ου n Temple treasury, offertory box

Here and in Mk 12:41,43; Jn 8:20.

δωρον, ου n gift, offering; τα δ. offertory box (see v.4)

πλουσιος, α, ον rich, well-to-do

Verse 2

εἶδεν δὲ τινα χήραν πενιχρὰν βάλλουσαν ἐκεῖ λεπτὰ δύο,

χήρα, ας f widow

πενιχρος, α, ον poor, needy

Here alone in the NT

βάλλουσαν Verb, pres act ptc, f acc s βαλλω ἐκεῖ there, in that place, to that place

λεπτον, ου n lepton (copper coin worth 1/2 quadrans or 1/128 denarius)

Verse 3

καὶ εἶπεν· Ἀληθῶς λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι ἡ χήρα ἢ πτωχὴ αὕτη πλεῖον πάντων ἔβαλεν·

ἀληθως adv truly, in truth

πτωχος, η, ον poor, pitiful

πλειων, πλειον ογ πλεον more, most

Verse 4

πάντες γὰρ οὗτοι ἐκ τοῦ περισσεύοντος αὐτοῖς ἔβαλον εἰς τὰ δῶρα, αὕτη δὲ ἐκ τοῦ ὑστερήματος αὐτῆς πάντα τὸν βίον ὃν εἶχεν ἔβαλεν.

περισευω intrans. be left over, be more than enough, have plenty

I.e. they gave what cost them nothing.

τα δωρα offertory box

Many MSS read τα δωρα του θεου

ὑστερημα, τος n what is lacking, need, absence

βιος, ου m life, living, possessions

εἶχεν Verb, imperf act indic, 3 s ἔχω

"It is no accident that the prophecy of the destruction of the temple follows: the priests were no better than the scribes in their attitude to wealth (20:45f.)." Marshall

Verse 5

Καὶ τινῶν λεγόντων περὶ τοῦ ἱεροῦ, ὅτι λίθοις καλοῖς καὶ ἀναθήμασιν κεκόσμηται εἶπεν·

ἱερον, ου n temple, temple precincts

λιθος, ου m stone, precious stone

καλος, η, ον good, right, proper, fine, beautiful, precious

ἀναθημα, τος n votive gift, offering, consecrated to God

κεκοσμηται perf pass ptc κοσμεω adorn, decorate, put in order

The participle applies both to the λίθοις καλοῖς and ἀναθημασιν – the temple is adorned with beautiful stones and with the offerings of worshippers in fulfilment of vows.

Verse 6

Ταῦτα ἃ θεωρεῖτε, ἐλεύσονται ἡμέραι ἐν αἷς οὐκ ἀφεθήσεται λίθος ἐπὶ λίθῳ ὃς οὐ καταλυθήσεται.

θεωρω see, watch, observe, notice

ἐλεύσονται Verb, fut midd dep indic, 3 pl

ἐρχομαι

ἀφεθήσεται Verb, fut pass indic, 3 s ἀφιημι leave

καταλυθήσεται Verb, fut pass indic, 3 s

καταλυω destroy, tear down

Verse 7

Ἐπηρώτησαν δὲ αὐτὸν λέγοντες· Διδάσκαλε, πότε οὖν ταῦτα ἔσται, καὶ τί τὸ σημεῖον ὅταν μέλλῃ ταῦτα γίνεσθαι;

ἐπηρωτησαν Verb, aor act indic, 3 pl

ἐπερωτω ask, interrogate, question

διδασκαλος, ου m teacher

ποτε interrog adv when?

ἔσται Verb, fut indic, 2 s εἰμι

σημειον, ου n miraculous sign, sign

ὅταν when, whenever, as often as

μελλω (before an infin) be going, be about, intend

"The character of Jesus' answer implies that his questioners assumed that there was some link between the destruction of the temple and the end of the world." Marshall

Verses 8-36

Marshall summarises Ellis's analysis of the following verses. Ellis suggests that the discourse falls into four main 'sign' sayings:

- i) 21:8-11 prophecies the coming of false prophets and wars which might be mistaken for signs of the End; in fact there will still be further wars and earthly and heavenly convulsions.
- ii) Before all these things happen, there will be persecution for the disciples, during which they must rely on the help given them by Jesus and persevere faithfully to the end (21:12-19).
- iii) The encircling of Jerusalem by troops will be a sign that its prophesied fate is at hand. There will be terrible suffering for the Jews and Jerusalem will remain in the power of the gentiles for an indefinite period (21:20-24).
- iv) There will be heavenly and earthly portents which will be followed by the glorious coming of the exalted Son of man. These events will signal the coming of the final redemption of the people of God (21:25-28).

These sayings are followed by an assurance that the end will follow the signs of its coming, and that Jesus' words will be fulfilled (21:29-33). It follows, as a practical admonition, that the disciples must not be deluded by sin into failing to recognise the signs and so be unready for the sudden, unexpected coming of the Son of man (21:34-36).

Verse 8

ὁ δὲ εἶπεν· Βλέπετε μὴ πλανηθῆτε· πολλοὶ γὰρ ἐλεύσονται ἐπὶ τῷ ὀνόματί μου λέγοντες· Ἐγὼ εἰμι καί· Ὁ καιρὸς ἤγγικεν· μὴ πορευθῆτε ὀπίσω αὐτῶν.

βλεπω see, beware of

πλανηθῆτε Verb, aor pass subj, 2 pl πλαναω lead astray, deceive

ἐλεύσονται Verb, fut midd dep indic, 3 pl ἔρχομαι

The combination of ἐπὶ ὀνόματι μου and ἐγὼ εἰμι suggests that these are people who claim to be the Christ.

καιρος, ου m time

ἤγγικεν Verb, perf act indic, 3 s ἐγγίζω approach, draw near

πορευθῆτε Verb, aor pass dep subj, 2 pl πορευομαι go, proceed

ὀπίσω after, behind

"The point is the false claim that the prophet is an eschatological figure whose appearance signifies that the End has drawn near; the disciples might be tempted to follow such people, i.e. become their disciples, in order to gain salvation..., and might perhaps follow them literally into the wilderness (cf. Acts 5:37; 20:30; Lk 17:23)." Marshall

Verse 9

ὅταν δὲ ἀκούσητε πολέμους καὶ ἀκαταστασίας, μὴ πτοηθῆτε· δεῖ γὰρ ταῦτα γενέσθαι πρῶτον, ἀλλ' οὐκ εὐθέως τὸ τέλος.

ὅταν when, whenever, as often as πολεμος, ου m war, battle, conflict ἀκαταστασια, ας f disorder, insurrection, mob violence

Here and Jas 3:16; 1 Cor 14:33 – probably means civil war, Roman civil war or internecine struggles in Palestine.

πτοηθῆτε Verb, aor pass dep subj, 2 pl πτοεομαι be terrified, startled

Only here and 24:37.

δεῖ impersonal verb it is necessary, must

Such are part of God's plan but they are not signs of the end.

τελος, ους n end, conclusion, termination

Verse 10

τότε ἔλεγεν αὐτοῖς· Ἐγερθήσεται ἔθνος ἐπ' ἔθνος καὶ βασιλεία ἐπὶ βασιλείαν,

τοτε then, at that time

ἐγειρω raise

ἔθνος, ους n nation, people; τα ἔ. Gentiles

Cf. Is. 19:2; 2 Ch 15:6.

Verse 11

σεισμοὶ τε μεγάλοι καὶ κατὰ τόπους λιμοὶ καὶ λοιμοὶ ἔσονται, φόβητρά τε καὶ σημεῖα ἀπ' οὐρανοῦ μεγάλα ἔσται.

σεισμος, ου m earthquake, storm (on the sea)

Found in apocalyptic contexts (Rev. 6:12; 8:5 *et al*; cf. Is 13:13; Hag 2:6; Zac 14:4).

τε enclitic particle and, and so; τε και and also

τοπος, ου m place; κατα τοπους in various places

λιμος, ου m & f famine, hunger

Cf. the adjective Acts 24:5.

λοιμος, ου m plague, pestilence, nuisance, trouble maker

ἔσονται Verb, fut indic, 3 pl εἰμι

φοβητρον, ου n dreadful sight or event

Here alone in the NT. Cf. Joel 2:30f.; Amos 8:9; Rev 6:12-14.

"The signs described are typical of apocalyptic, and recur in Rev. 6, a passage which bears some relation to the present sayings and is probably based on them... Luke's version has a combination of earthly and heavenly signs, as in Acts 2:19f... Such signs were believed to have occurred before the fall of Jerusalem (Jos. Bel. 6:288-315), and Luke may have regarded these sayings as referring to them, in which case there is a parallel between the signs before the fall of Jerusalem and before the End." Marshall

Verses 12-19

The Persecution of Disciples. Cf. Mk 13:9-13. "In general, the wording points forward to the experiences of the church recorded in Acts." Marshall

Verse 12

Πρὸ δὲ τούτων πάντων ἐπιβαλοῦσιν ἐφ' ὑμᾶς τὰς χεῖρας αὐτῶν καὶ διώξουσιν, παραδίδόντες εἰς τὰς συναγωγὰς καὶ φυλακάς, ἀπαγομένους ἐπὶ βασιλεῖς καὶ ἡγεμόνας ἕνεκεν τοῦ ὀνόματός μου·

"While cosmic disasters are more closely associated with the end, persecution set in from the beginning – and involved Jesus himself." Marshall

ἐπιβαλοῦσιν Verb, fut act indic, 3 pl
ἐπιβαλλω lay (hands) on
χειρ, χειρος f hand, power

Cf. 1 Sam 21:6

διωκω persecute, seek after
παραδιδωμι hand or give over, deliver up

"The συναγωγή here functions as the Jewish court for trying minor cases; offenders might be beaten by the synagogue officials." Marshall

φυλακη, ης f prison, imprisonment

Cf. Acts 8:3; 22:4

ἀπαγω lead away by force, lead, bring before

βασιλευς, εως m king
ἡγεμων, ονος m governor, ruler, prince
ἐνεκα (ἐνεκεν and εἵνεκεν) prep with gen because of, for the sake of

"The whole saying envisages persecution among both Jews and gentiles for the sake of loyalty to Jesus." Marshall

Verse 13

ἀποβήσεται ὑμῖν εἰς μαρτύριον.

ἀποβήσεται Verb, fut midd dep indic, 3 s
ἀποβαινω turn out, ἀ. εἰς result in, turn out

Cf. Phil 1:19, the only other occurrence of the word in the NT.

μαρτυριον, ου n testimony, witness

"The traditional translation is 'This will be a time for you to bear testimony' (RSV), and this fits in with the usual interpretation of Mark's phrase. L Hartman defends the meaning, 'For you it will have as a result a testimony'; on this view μαρτυριον does not mean the *activity* of bearing witness but the *evidence* that will be available on the day of judgment for the disciples and against their enemies;... The strong point in favour of this view is that in the NT generally μαρτυριον means 'evidence, testimony', not the activity of bearing testimony." Marshall

Verse 14

θέτε οὖν ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν μὴ προμελετᾶν ἀπολογηθῆναι,

θέτε Verb, aor midd imperat, 2 pl τιθημι
place, appoint; midd decide, resolve

θέτε οὖν ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν 'make up your minds', 'decide'

προμελεταω prepare ahead of time

Here alone in the NT.

ἀπολογηθῆναι Verb, aor pass dep infin
ἀπολογεομαι speak in one's own behalf, defend oneself

Verse 15

ἐγὼ γὰρ δώσω ὑμῖν στόμα καὶ σοφίαν ἣ οὐ δυνήσονται ἀντιστῆναι ἢ ἀντειπεῖν ἅπαντες οἱ ἀντικείμενοι ὑμῖν.

δώσω Verb, fut act indic, 1 s διδομι
στομα, τος n mouth, utterance, eloquence

"The use of στομα is reminiscent of Ex 4:11,15; Ezek 29:21; here the sense is metaphorical, 'utterance, eloquence'." Marshall

σοφια, ας f wisdom, insight, intelligence

Cf. Acts 6:10.

δυνήσονται Verb, fut midd dep indic, 3 pl
δυναμαι

ἀνθιστημι resist, oppose, withstand

Cf. Acts 6:10; 13:8; 2 Tim 3:8; 4:15.

ἀντειπεῖν Verb, aor act infin ἀντιλεγω
object to, oppose

Cf. Acts 4:14

ἄπας, ασα, αν (alternative form of πας) all
ἀντικειμαι oppose, be against

Verse 16

παραδοθήσεσθε δὲ καὶ ὑπὸ γονέων καὶ ἀδελφῶν καὶ συγγενῶν καὶ φίλων, καὶ θανατώσουσιν ἐξ ὑμῶν,

παραδοθήσεσθε Verb, fut pass indic, 2 pl
παραδίδωμι see v.12

γονεὺς, εὼς m parent
συγγενής, οὺς m relative, kinsman
φίλος, οὺς m and φίλη, ἡς f friend
θανάτω kill, put to death, put in danger of death

ἐξ ὑμῶν 'some of you'

Verse 17

καὶ ἔσεσθε μισούμενοι ὑπὸ πάντων διὰ τὸ ὄνομά μου.

ἔσεσθε Verb, fut indic, 2 pl εἶμι
μισέω hate, despise, be indifferent to

Verse 18

καὶ θριξὶ ἐκ τῆς κεφαλῆς ὑμῶν οὐ μὴ ἀπόληται.

θρίξ, τριχὸς f hair
κεφαλή, ἡς f head
ἀπόληται Verb, aor midd subj ἀπολλυμι
midd be lost, perish

Cf. 12:7; Acts 27:34; 1 Sam 14:45; 2 Sam 14:11; 1 Kings 1:52. Geldenhuys thinks the meaning is that no harm will occur to the disciples *without the Father's permission*. More commonly it is argued that the verse is referring to spiritual safety.

Verse 19

ἐν τῇ ὑπομονῇ ὑμῶν ἵκτήσασθε τὰς ψυχὰς ὑμῶν.

ὑπομονή, ἡς f patience, endurance
κτήσασθε Verb, aor midd dep imperat, 2 pl
κταομαι acquire, gain

Some MSS read the future rather than aorist imperative.

I.e. it is through patient endurance that you will gain eternal life.

Verses 20-24

The Devastation of Jerusalem: Cf. Mk 13:14-20. Geldenhuys, Beasley-Murray & Ellis think that Luke may have rewritten the account in Mark before 70 AD in order to make Mark's cryptic language more intelligible to gentiles. Dodd argues that Luke draws on the LXX descriptions of the siege of Jerusalem.

Verse 20

Ὅταν δὲ ἴδητε κυκλουμένην ὑπὸ στρατοπέδων Ἱερουσαλήμ, τότε γινώτε ὅτι ἤγγικεν ἡ ἐρήμωσις αὐτῆς.

ὅταν when, whenever
ἴδητε Verb, aor act subj ὄρω trans see
κυκλω surround, gather round, march round
στρατοπεδόν, οὺς n army

Here alone in the NT.

τότε then, at that time
γινώτε Verb, aor pass subj, 2 pl γινωσκω
ἤγγικεν Verb, perf act indic, 3 s ἐγγίζω
approach, draw near
ἐρημωσις, εὼς f desolation, destruction

Only here and in Mk 13:14; Mt 24:15 in NT. Cf. 2 Ch 36:21; Je 4:7; 7:34; 22:5; 25(32):18; 44(51):6,22; Ps 73(72):19

Verse 21

τότε οἱ ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ φευγέτωσαν εἰς τὰ ὄρη, καὶ οἱ ἐν μέσῳ αὐτῆς ἐκχωρείτωσαν, καὶ οἱ ἐν ταῖς χώραις μὴ εἰσερχέσθωσαν εἰς αὐτήν,

τότε then, at that time
φευγῶ flee, run away from, avoid
ὄρος, οὺς n mountain, hill

Cf. Gn 19:26; Is 15:5; Je 49:8; Am 5:19; Zc 14:5.

"Since Judaea itself is mountainous, the reference is to flight into Transjordan, or into the remoter areas of Judaea itself, such as the inaccessible mountains and caves around the Dead Sea. The saying has been identified with the oracle mentioned in Eus. HE 3:5, as a result of which the Christian church fled from the Jewish war to Pella; but this is improbable, since Eusebius himself would surely have pointed out the Gospel passage." Marshall

μεσος, ἡ, ον middle
ἐκχωρεῶ leave, go away
χωρά, ας f country, land, field

Verse 22

ὅτι ἡμέραι ἐκδικήσεως αὐταὶ εἰσιν τοῦ πλησθῆναι πάντα τὰ γεγραμμένα.

ἐκδικησις, εὼς f retribution, rendering of justice, punishment

Cf. Acts 7:24; Dt 32:35; Hos 9:7; Je 46(26):10,21; 50(27):27,31; 51(28):6

πλησθῆναι Verb, aor pass infin πιμλημι fill, end, fulfill; aor pass come to an end
γεγραμμένα Verb, perf pass ptc, n nom/acc pl γραφω

"The prophecies in mind may include 1 Ki 9:6-9; Dan 9:26; Mic 3:12." Marshall

Verse 23

οὐαὶ ταῖς ἐν γαστρὶ ἐχούσαις καὶ ταῖς
θηλαζούσαις ἐν ἐκεῖναις ταῖς ἡμέραις· ἔσται
γὰρ ἀνάγκη μεγάλη ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς καὶ ὀργὴ τῷ
λαῷ τούτῳ,

οὐαὶ woe!

γαστρί Noun, dat s γαστηρ, τρος f womb;
ἐν γαστρὶ ἔχω conceive or be pregnant
θηλαζω nurse (of a mother feeding her child
at the breast)

ἔσται Verb, fut indic, 2 s εἰμι

ἀναγκη, ης f distress

Cf. 1 Cor 7:26; 2 Cor 6:4; 12:10; 1 Thess 3:7.

ὀργη, ης f wrath, anger

λαος, ου m people, a people

'the wrath of God will be upon this people' i.e.
the Jews.

Verse 24

καὶ πεσοῦνται στόματι μαχαίρης καὶ
αἰχμαλωτισθήσονται εἰς τὰ ἔθνη πάντα, καὶ
Ἰερουσαλὴμ ἔσται πατουμένη ὑπὸ ἐθνῶν, ἄχρι
οὗ πληρωθῶσιν καιροὶ ἐθνῶν.

πεσοῦνται Verb, fut midd/pass dep indic, 3 pl
πιπτω fall, fall down

στομα, τος n mouth, edge (of a sword)

μαχαира, ης f sword

Cf. Jer 20:4-6; 21:7

αἰχμαλωτισθήσονται Verb, fut pass indic, 3 pl
αἰχμαλωτιζω make captive, take
prisoner

Here and Rom 7:23; 2 Cor 10:5; 2 Tim 3:6.

ἔθνη Noun, nom & acc pl ἔθνος, ους n
nation, people; τα ἔ. Gentiles

πατεω trans trample

Cf. Zac 12:3; Dan 8:10,13; Is 63:18; Ps 79:1.

ἄχρι (and ἄχρις) until, as long as

πληρωθῶσιν Verb, aor pass subj, 3 pl

πληρωω fill, fulfill, accomplish

καιρος, ου m time (viewed as occasion
rather than an extent), appointed/proper
time, season, age

The words do not imply that the times of the
Gentiles will be followed by a time of Jewish
dominion. The phrase refers rather to the
whole of this present age, dominated by the
kingdoms of this world, which will give way at
Christ's coming to the "kingdom of our Lord
and of his Christ" (Rev 21:15) and not to a
glorified Jewish kingdom.

Verses 25-28**Signs of the Coming of the Son of Man.**

Marshall says that "Luke's version is more
literary than Mk.", but that in both forms the
passage "is closely based on the OT and is
related to the apocalyptic tradition found
especially in Rev."

Verse 25

Καὶ ἔσονται σημεῖα ἐν ἡλίῳ καὶ σελήνῃ καὶ
ἄστροις, καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς συνοχη ἐθνῶν ἐν
ἀπορίᾳ ἤχους θαλάσσης καὶ σάλου,

ἔσονται Verb, fut indic, 3 pl εἰμι

σημειον, ου n miraculous sign, sign

ἡλιος, ου m the sun

σεληνη, ης f moon

ἄστηρ, ερος m star

συνοχη, ης f distress, anxiety

Only here and in 2 Cor 2:4

ἀπορια, ας f despair, perplexity

Here alone in the NT

ἤχος, ου m sound, noise

Here alone in NT. Cf. Ps 65(64):8; Is 17:12

θαλασσα, ης f sea

σαλος, ου m wave

'Anxiety at the roaring of the sea'. The image
of the roaring of the seas is often used in
Scripture to symbolise the turbulent affairs of
nations. Here it seems to be used in the sense
of the whole universe being in disarray and
dissolution as Christ is on his way. "It is God
who holds back the sea from engulfing men:
now they fear that it is being let loose."
Marshall

Verse 26

ἀποψυχόντων ἀνθρώπων ἀπὸ φόβου καὶ
προσδοκίας τῶν ἐπερχομένων τῇ οἰκουμένῃ, αἱ
γὰρ δυνάμεις τῶν οὐρανῶν σαλευθήσονται.

ἀποψυχω faint, lose heart

Literally, 'to stop breathing'.

προσδοκια, ας f expectation, foreboding

ἐπερχομαι come, come upon

οἰκουμενη, ης f world, inhabited earth

δυναμις, εως f power

δυναμεις των ουρανων the heavenly bodies
mentioned in v.25 (cf. 2 Ki 17:16; Dan 8:10) –
the very structure of the universe.

σαλευθήσονται Verb, fut pass indic, 3 pl

σαλευω shake, disturb

Cf. Is 34:4

Verse 27

καὶ τότε ὄψονται τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου
ἐρχόμενον ἐν νεφέλῃ μετὰ δυνάμεως καὶ δόξης
πολλῆς.

τοτε then, at that time

ὄψονται Verb, fut midd dep indic, 3 pl ὄρω
trans see, observe

νεφελῃ, ης f cloud

The singular suggests "an indication of the divine presence or rather of the glory which is associated with God and hides him from men (cf. 9:34)," Marshall. There are also links with Acts 1:9,11.

δόξα, ης f glory

See Daniel 7:13,14

Verse 28

ἀρχομένων δὲ τούτων γίνεσθαι ἀνακύψατε καὶ
ἐπάρατε τὰς κεφαλὰς ὑμῶν, διότι ἐγγίξει ἡ
ἀπολύτρωσις ὑμῶν.

ἀρχω rule, govern; midd begin

ἀρχομένων δὲ τούτων γίνεσθαι "When these things begin to take place"

The 'these things' does not include Christ's coming itself, for that will be an instantaneous event (17:20-37); they refer to the things which are spoken of in the previous verses that will precede Christ's coming.

ἀνακυπτω straighten up, stand up, look up
ἐπάρατε Verb, aor act imperat, 2 pl ἐπαίρω
raise, lift up

κεφαλῆ, ης f head

A sign of hope, cf. Jdg 8:28; Pss. 24:7; 83:3; Job 10:15.

διότι because, for, therefore

ἐγγίζω approach, draw near

ἀπολύτρωσις, εως f redemption,
deliverance

"Here used of release from affliction and the consummation of salvation (cf. Is 63:4; Ps 111:9; Dn 4:34...)." Marshall