

The Time Is Coming

Luke 21

by Don Falkos

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Jesus watched as some wealthy people dropped their gifts into the Temple's offering boxes. Then he noticed a poor widow putting in two small copper coins that were practically worthless. He said to his disciples, "You see that widow? She has given more than all the others. They only put in what they didn't need. But she is very poor and has given everything she had."

Some of the disciples were talking about the Temple's magnificent stonework. Jesus said, "Admire it while you can. The time is coming when not one stone will be left in place. Every one of them will be thrown down."

They asked, "When will this happen?"

Jesus said, "Don't be fooled by those who will come and claim to be me. When you hear about wars and uprisings, don't be afraid. Those things have to happen first, but the end won't come right away. Nation will rise up against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be violent earthquakes, famines, and plagues. You will be arrested and persecuted. Some of you will be killed, and you will be hated everywhere because of me. But remain faithful to me, and you will be saved.

"Strange things will happen in the sky, on the earth, in the seas. People will be in a panic, weak-kneed in terror as everything is turned on its head. Then... they'll see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and glory. When these things start to happen, stand up! Hold your head high! Your redemption is on its way.

"That day will close in suddenly, unexpectedly, like a trap. So stay alert, and pray that you'll be strong enough to come safely through all that's going to happen, and stand in the presence of the Son of Man."