

Luke 21:5-28 ESV

# Don't Be Deceived, the Bible Is True!

Sunday, Nov. 13 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, Nov. 14 at 7 PM  
 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – 2016

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: As we move toward the end of the church year – *with next week being the last Sunday*, we focus on *Jesus' return!* The words of today's gospel reading were spoken by Jesus on Tuesday of Holy Week: Jesus warned His followers **to** not be deceived, not be terrified, expect persecution, and flee from Jerusalem when it is surrounded! *Then Jesus told of His glorious return!* Even though Jesus' words seemed impossible, *they happened*; therefore, don't be deceived, the Bible is true!

1. **The End Will Not Be at Once:** <sup>5</sup> And while some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble *[beautiful]* stones and offerings, he said, <sup>6</sup> "As for these things that you see *[the temple and these massive stones]*, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." <sup>7</sup> And they asked him, "Teacher, when will these things be *[when will the temple be destroyed]*, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?" <sup>8</sup> And he said, "See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them. <sup>9</sup> And when you hear of wars and tumults *[disturbances, unrest]*, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once."

a. How did the devil lead Eve to sin? *By getting her to believe **his words** over **God's Word** (Gen. 3:1)!*  
The same strategy is used today; therefore, do not be deceived, the Bible is true!

b. Does war seem like the end? For those who are being **shot at** or **bombed**, *it must seem like the end of the world!* Such things have happened and will continue, *but let us not be terrified; **God is in control** and **we are saved through Jesus!***

2. **You Will Be Persecuted:** <sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. <sup>11</sup> There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences [plagues]. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. <sup>12</sup> But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues [for trial] and prisons [for confinement], and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake [Jesus spoke specifically about His disciples at that time (and generally about future disciples like you and me); such things would happen because they know Jesus]. <sup>13</sup> This will be your opportunity to bear witness. <sup>14</sup> Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate [practice] beforehand how to answer, <sup>15</sup> for I will give you a mouth [to speak] and wisdom [thus understanding], which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. <sup>16</sup> You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends [Jesus by Judas], and some of you they will put to death [like Jesus]. <sup>17</sup> You will be hated by all for my name's sake. <sup>18</sup> But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup> By your endurance you will gain your lives.” // **But wait, most**

of the apostles were put to death; for example: James, the brother of John, was beheaded; Peter, Andrew, and Bartholomew were crucified; and Matthew was killed with a spear.<sup>1</sup> Lenski explained: “When a disciple suffers persecution, even death through wicked men, let him not think that God has forgotten him—he is in God’s care and keeping to the last hair of his head.... they who suffer for Christ, even die for him with brave, true hearts, achieve everything” (1017-1018). So, *when we are persecuted, let us NEVER give up on Jesus!*

3. **Many in Jerusalem Will Die:**<sup>20</sup> “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near.<sup>21</sup> Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it,<sup>22</sup> for these are days of vengeance [*against their unbelief*], to fulfill all that is written.<sup>23</sup> Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people.<sup>24</sup> They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.” // Jesus clearly told people to **flee from Jerusalem**, but many **fled to Jerusalem**. Jesus said that many would die, *and they did*: “According to Josephus, 1.1 million non-combatants died in Jerusalem, mainly as a result of the violence and famine.”<sup>2</sup> Even though it *made sense* to

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<sup>1</sup> Foxe’s *Christian Martyrs of the World* (New Jersey: Barbour and Company, Inc., 1985), 5-7.

<sup>2</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege\\_of\\_Jerusalem\\_\(AD\\_70\)#cite\\_note-Wars\\_6.9.3-1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Jerusalem_(AD_70)#cite_note-Wars_6.9.3-1)

run into the city, *those who ran out were saved!* Even today, *large parts of Jerusalem are controlled by non-Jews*; therefore, *do not be deceived*, **the Bible is true!**

4. **Jesus Will Return:** <sup>25</sup> “**And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity [anxiety] because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, <sup>26</sup> people fainting [literally dying] with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. [Why?] For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> And then they [those living at that time] will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory [Acts 1:9-11; Mark 8:38]. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption [release, deliverance, acquittal] is drawing near.” // Think about history: ➔The Savior was promised, *then He came*; ➔Jesus said His followers would be persecuted, *then many were put to death*; and ➔Jesus said that those who flee into Jerusalem will die, *then they did*. Therefore, let us also know that Jesus will come again! Then, *when He comes*: ➔For those who continue to reject Him, *it will be the beginning of unending sadness*; ➔but for those who know Him as Savior and Lord, *it will be the beginning of total deliverance from sin, death, and the devil!***

**Conclusion:** Let us pray: Dear Jesus, all of Your words are true, so enable us to ✓believe them, ✓live them, and ✓share them! And all God’s people said: **Amen!**