

Notes on the Greek New Testament Week 26 – Luke 21:12-38

Day 126: Luke 21:12-19

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 διωξουσιν, παραδιδόντες 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, χειρὸς f hand, power

Cf. 1 Sam 21:6

διώκω 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

φυλακή, 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 (ἕνεκεν 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

θετε 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 ἧ οὐ δυνήσονται ἀντιστῆναι ἢ ἀντειπεῖν ἅπαντες οἱ ἀντικείμενοι ὑμῖν.

δώσω Verb, fut act indic, 1 s δίδωμι
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

ἅπας, 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
συγγενῆς, οὺς m relative, kinsman
φίλος, οὺς m and φίλη, ἡς f friend
θανατώω kill, put to death, put in danger
of death

ἐξ ὑμῶν 'some of you'

Verse 17

καὶ ἔσεσθε μισοῦμενοι ὑπὸ πάντων διὰ τὸ ὄνομά μου.

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

Verse 18

καὶ θριξὲς ἐκ τῆς κεφαλῆς ὑμῶν οὐ μὴ ἀπόληται.

θριξ, τριχος 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 κτήσασθε 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.

Day 127: Luke 21:20-24**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 γνῶτε ὅτι ἤγγικεν ἡ ἐρήμωσις αὐτῆς.

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

Here alone in the NT.

τότε then, at that time
γνῶτε 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 χωραῖς 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

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

Verse 22

ὅτι ἡμέραι ἐκδικήσεως αὐταὶ εἰσὶν 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 γραφῶ

"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 ἐκείναις ταῖς ἡμέραις· ἔσται γὰρ ἀνάγκη μεγάλη ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς καὶ ὄργῃ τῷ λαῷ τούτῳ.

οὐαὶ **woe!**

γαστρὶ 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 εἶμι

ἀνάγκη, ης f **distress**

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

ὄργη, 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 Ἱερουσαλὴμ 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)

μαχαίρα, 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.

Day 128: Luke 21:25-28

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 ἀστροῖς, καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς συνοχὴ ἐθνῶν ἐν ἀπορίᾳ ἤχους θαλάσσης καὶ σάλου,

ἔσονται Verb, fut indic, 3 pl εἶμι

σημεῖον, ου n **miraculous sign, sign**

ἥλιος, ου m **the sun**

σεληνη, ης f **moon**

ἀστηρ, 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 ἀνθρωπων 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.

This verse may be understood in one of a number of senses: Some understand Jesus to mean that those currently living will not pass away before all of the which he had said concerning the destruction of Jerusalem have taken place (Plummer, Geldenhuys, Beasley-Murray). Others understand Jesus to be saying that the Jewish people will not pass away until the end of the world – the time of his coming (Morgan, Hendriksen). Ellis thinks that the reference is to the fact that the last days have dawned. 'This generation' is the people of the last days, a people who will still be living when the End comes. Marshall says, "The last of these three possibilities gives the best sense: the emphasis is on the certainty of the End rather than on limiting the date of the end. This fits the parallelism of the next saying."

Verse 33

ὁ οὐρανὸς καὶ ἡ γῆ παρελεύσονται, οἱ δὲ λόγοι μου οὐ μὴ παρελεύσονται.

παρελεύσονται Verb, fut midd dep indic, 3 pl

"The language is reminiscent of that used of the law in 16:17 par Mt 5:18; cf. Pss 102:25-27; 119:160; Is 40:6-8; 51:6... it reflects Jesus' claim to authority and knowledge of the will of God." Marshall

Day 130: Luke 21:34-38**Verses 34-36**

Cf. 1 Thess 5:1-3,7,8-10.

Verse 34

Προσέχετε δὲ ἑαυτοῖς μήποτε βαρηθῶσιν ὑμῶν αἱ καρδίαι ἐν κραυγῇ καὶ μέθῃ καὶ μερίμναις βιωτικαῖς, καὶ ἐπιστῆ ἐφ' ὑμᾶς αἰφνίδιος ἢ ἡμέρα ἐκείνη

προσεχω pay close attention to, be on guard, watch, watch out

μηποτε lest, otherwise

βαρηθῶσιν Verb, aor pass subj, 3 pl βαρεω burden, weigh down, overcome

Cf. Ex 7:14

κραυγαλή drunkenness, dissipation

Here alone in the NT.

μεθῃ, ης f drunkenness

Cf. Is 24:20; Lk 12:45; Mt 24:49; Eph 5:18; 1 Thess 5:7. "Clearly we have here a theme of catechetical instruction, expressed in language reminiscent of Is 24:20. A warning against literal drunkenness is no doubt included, but the main force is probably metaphorical, warning disciples against succumbing to the intoxicating attractions of the sinful world." Marshall

μεριμνα, ης f care, concern, anxiety
βιωτικός, η, ον pertaining to everyday life

Cf. 1 Cor 6:3.

ἐπιστῆ Verb, aor act subj, 3 s ἐφιστημι come up to, approach, appear
αἰφνίδιος, ον sudden, unexpected

Cf. 1 Thess 5:3

Verse 35

ὡς παγίς. ἐπεισελεύσεται γὰρ ἐπὶ πάντα τοὺς καθημένους ἐπὶ πρόσωπον πάσης τῆς γῆς.

παγίς, ιδος f snare, trap

ἐπεισελεύσεται Verb, fut midd dep indic, 3 s ἐπεισερχομαι come upon

"If we read ὡς παγίς ἐπεισελεύσεται γὰρ (x* B D it^{pt} sa bo; UBS...), ὡς παγίς must go with the preceding clause; if we read ὡς παγίς γὰρ ἐπεισελεύσεται (A C W Γ Θ fl f13 ... it^{pt} vg sy; TR), it will go with what follows." Marshall

καθημαι sit, sit down, live

πρόσωπον, ου n face

Verse 36

ἀγρυπνεῖτε δὲ ἐν παντὶ καιρῷ δεόμενοι ἵνα κατισχύσητε ἐκφυγεῖν ταῦτα πάντα τὰ μέλλοντα γίνεσθαι, καὶ σταθῆναι ἔμπροσθεν τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου.

ἀγρυπνεω be alert, watch over

Cf. Mk 13:33; Eph 6:18 cf. Heb 13:17.

δεομαι ask, beg, pray

κατισχύσητε Verb, aor act subj, 2 pl

κατισχυω have strength

ἐκφυγω escape, flee

Cf. 1 Thess 5:3. "Has the force of coming unscathed through the terrible events of the last days and not giving up the faith in view of them." Marshall

μελλω (before an infin) be going, be about
σταθῆναι Verb, aor pass infin ἰστημι midd & pass stand, stand firm

ἔμπροσθεν before, in front of

The thought is of securing a favourable verdict.

Verse 37

Ἦν δὲ τὰς ἡμέρας ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ διδάσκων,
τὰς δὲ νύκτας ἐξερχόμενος ἠϋλίετο εἰς τὸ
ὄρος τὸ καλούμενον Ἐλαιῶν·

τας ημερας an accusative of duration,
'during the days'

ἱερον, ου n temple, temple precincts
διδασκω teach

Cf. 19:47.

νυξ, νυκτος f night

αϋλιζομαι spend the night

ὄρος, ους n mountain, hill

ἐλαια, ας f olive tree

In view of 19:29 it is possible to regard Luke's phrase here as referring to Bethany (Mk 11:11f.; Mt 21:17).

Verse 38

καὶ πᾶς ὁ λαὸς ὄρθριζεν πρὸς αὐτὸν ἐν
τῷ ἱερῷ ἀκούειν αὐτοῦ.

λαος, ου m people, a people

ὄρθριζω come early in the morning

"Can mean 'to get up very early in the morning' (Ex 24:4; 2 Ki 6:16; Ct 7:13) or simply 'to seek someone diligently' (Job 8:5; Ps 78(77):34; *et al.*) The use of similar words in Lk 24:1,22; Acts 5:21; cf. Jn 8:2, perhaps supports the former meaning (so all translations)." Marshall

The public ministry of Jesus is brought "to a triumphant conclusion with eager crowds anxious to hear him." Marshall

"After αὐτου eight manuscripts that belong to family 13 ... add the account of the woman taken in adultery (Jn 7:53-8:11). The insertion was no doubt suggested by the parallel between the situation implied in Jn 8:1-2 and that described here." Metzger.