

LUKE Lesson 37

Your House is Left Unto You Desolate (Chapter 13:31-35)

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In Luke 13:31-35 we have a record of Israel rejecting Jesus Christ. Upon their words of rejection (vs 31), the Lord proclaimed the fulfillment of many prophecies concerning the desolation of Jerusalem resulting from the nation of Israel rejecting their Messiah. It is important to keep in mind when reading Luke that the events do not necessarily occur in chronological order. The events of these verses took place the week of the Lord's crucifixion.

Vs 31 The Pharisees told Jesus to get out (rejection) and assumed that He would fear Herod.

Vs 32 Jesus wanted the Pharisees to understand that He didn't fear Herod even a little. In fact, Herod, Pilate, and the religious leaders had very good reason to fear Jesus (John 19:7-8, Matt 27:64).

Jesus said, "**I shall be perfected.**" That doesn't mean He *became* sinless. He was already sinless. "Perfect," in the Bible means complete. The things Jesus experienced as a man taught Him some things that He could not otherwise understand as God (Heb 5:8, 2:10, Isa 53:10, Job 9:32-33).

His sufferings made Him able to *succor* (support, help, relieve) men in their sufferings (Heb 2:18, 4:15).

Those who are born again are being perfected (Eph 4:13, 1 Pet 5:10). We are growing, improving, maturing.

Vs 33 This verse reveals that these words were spoken three days before Christ's crucifixion. Jesus was a prophet, and like the prophets of old, He would be in Jerusalem when He is put to death. Jerusalem is the central point of the earth.

Vs 34 The exclamation mark at the end of the sentence indicates that Jesus was crying out with forceful words. He WOULD have gathered them! THEY would NOT! This is more proof that John Calvin is wrong about "*irresistible grace.*" Men resist God's will all the time.

Vs 35 "**Your house is left unto you desolate.**" These are very provocative words because those Pharisees understood that Jesus was referring to their rejection of Him as their Messiah. God promised that Israel would become desolate because of their rejection.

Warnings of Desolation in the Old Testament:

Leviticus 26:27-35

Verse 28 gives the length of chastisement for disobedience ("seven times" = 7 years). That's a future reference to the Tribulation, but when Jesus said, "**Your house is left unto you desolate,**" they knew what He meant. God's wrath was coming. Once they rejected Him, they were going to be scattered throughout the earth and their nation would be completely destroyed. Jerusalem was left desolate after Titus sacked the city in 70 A.D., but it will be even worse in the Tribulation.

Psalm 69:24-27

This passage speaks of the wrath of God (Col 3:6, Rom 2:5, Rev 19:16), particularly upon those Israelites who persecuted Jesus Christ. God is the one who “hast smitten” and “hast wounded” Christ, but for their part in it (Luke 22:22), their habitation was made desolate (vs 25).

Isaiah 1:2-9

The rebellion of God’s children, Israel, a sinful nation that forsook the Lord, provoked the Holy God unto anger. Their country is desolate (vs 7), but the Lord left a “very small remnant” (vs 9).

Daniel 9:24-27

Seventy weeks of years ($70 \times 7 = 490$ years) would be needed to “finish the transgression” of Israel. They suffered 483 years (69 weeks of years) up to the crucifixion of Christ when He was cut off. There are seven years left (Tribulation). The 2,000 + years Church Age is not counted; Christians are not included because our transgressions were finished on Calvary’s Cross. “The people of the prince that shall come (Antichrist) shall destroy the city (vs 26)...and make it desolate” (vs 27).

New Testament Summary of the Fall of the Nation of Israel (Romans 11:1-12)

God did not cast His people away (vs 2). There is a remnant of Jews just like there is a remnant of Christians (vs 5); those who are saved by grace; not works (vs 6).

Israel’s loss was the Gentile’s gain (vs 11). They were scattered and blinded to spiritual truth. The Gentiles benefitted by being the primary recipients of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8, 13:46, Matt 12:21), resulting in forgiveness of sins, salvation, and eternal life.

Israel’s fulness will benefit the Gentiles even more (vs 12). When God restores Israel and establishes His kingdom with His people in their proper place, the world will be blessed for a thousand years!

All the kingdom promises will be fulfilled at the end of the Tribulation when the Jewish nation finally says, **“Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!”** Luke 13:35
