

Synoptic Eschatology

Mark 13:1-37	Matthew 24:1-44	Luke 21:5-36	SYNOPSIS
vv.1-2 Jesus predicts the destruction of the temple. This was fulfilled some 40 years later when Titus destroyed Jerusalem. This corresponds with Daniel 9:26, indicating that the city and temple would be destroyed after messiah was killed (i.e. 'cut off'). When the Romans burned the temple, the gold dome and ornamentation melted between the limestone blocks and were, for that reason, pulled apart – not one stone left on another.	vv.1-2 [ditto Mark]	vv.5-6 [ditto Mark]	The trigger in all three accounts is the disciples admiring the temple and Jesus predicting its destruction.
vv.3-4 The disciples ask: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When will vv.1-2 happen? • What is the sign when all these things are to be fulfilled 	v.3 The disciples ask: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When will vv.1-2 happen? • What will the sign of your coming be? • What will the sign of the end of the age be? 	vv.7 [ditto Mark]	Matthew records more detail about the disciple's questions than Mark or Luke.
vv. 5-6 Jesus first warns them to not be misled by pseudo-Christ agents. vv.7-8 Next Jesus warns them to not be misled by catastrophic events (e.g. wars, earthquakes, famines) which he describes as merely the beginning of birthpangs. vv.9-13 Then Jesus warns them that they will be persecuted by family, Jewish and secular authorities as a testimony. He also says that the gospel must first be preached to all the nations.	vv. 4-5 [ditto Mark] vv.6-8 [ditto Mark] vv.9-14 [ditto Mark] + love grows cold	v.8 [ditto Mark] v.9-11 [ditto Mark] + terrors and 'great signs' from heaven v.12-19 [ditto Mark] + Luke indicates that the persecutions precede the pseudo-Christ agents and catastrophes (i.e. 'before all these things').	Luke 21:12-24 appears to be a description of events surrounding the Titus invasion of 70AD. Some things are similar to the other accounts (e.g. vv.8-11 describing pseudo-Christ agents & catastrophes) but Luke indicates that the events of vv.12ff happen before the catastrophes and pseudo-Christ agents. So, Luke, seems to include a line of prophecy the other two do not include.
vv.14-19 Jesus now turns his attention to the question they did ask and offers this 'sign' (v.2) of the onset of the great tribulation – the 'abomination of	vv.15-21 [ditto Mark]	v.20 is different from Mark & Matthew, focused, not on the abomination but on Jerusalem being surrounded by armies.	

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<p>desolation' where it should not be (c.f. Dan 9:27; 11:31; 12:11). He also offers warnings to flee Jerusalem without delay.</p>		<p>vv.21-23 the warnings to flee are the same but Luke describes this as the 'days of vengeance' v.24 also differs from Mark/Matthew in that, while using the same language, he appears to be describing the Roman destruction b/c of the statement, <i>'they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.'</i></p>	
<p>v.20 Jesus claims that apart from God's intervention, humanity would destroy itself during this period.</p>	<p>v.22 [ditto Mark]</p>		
<p>v.21-23 Jesus reiterates the dangers of being misled</p>	<p>vv.23-28 [ditto Mark] + indicates that there will be obvious indicators.</p>		
<p>vv.24-26 Jesus quotes various prophets saying that the sun, moon and stars will be darkened, heavenly powers shaken and Jesus will return in power. v.27 Jesus then says that angels will gather all of his people together from around the world.</p>	<p>vv.29-30 [ditto Mark] v.31 [ditto Mark]</p>	<p>vv.25-27 [ditto Mark] + dismay among the nations in perplexity at the roaring of the sea & waves; men fainting in fear</p>	
<p>vv.28-37 Jesus indicates that it's not through prediction but through vigilance & discernment that we will be able to anticipate the end (i.e. nobody knows the hour). Sidebar on vv.30-31 'this generation will not pass before all these things come to pass' 1. Will those he's speaking with see the end? This didn't happen. 2. Will those he's speaking with see the temple destruction? This did happen. 3. Will those who see these signs see the end? This will happen</p>	<p>vv. 32-44 [ditto Mark]</p>	<p>vv.28-36 [ditto Mark viz. being alert & discerning; but nothing re: nobody knowing the hour]</p>	

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4. Willl humanity/Israel persist to the end (i.e. <i>genea</i> = generation or race) This is possible, addressing extinction concerns.			
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