

Jesus Teaches His Disciples

5 Some of the disciples were talking about the temple complex. They noted that it was built with fine stones and decorated with beautiful gifts. So Jesus said, **6** “About these buildings that you see—the time will come when not one of these stones will be left on top of another. Each one will be torn down.”

7 The disciples asked him, “Teacher, when will this happen? What will be the sign when all this will occur?”

8 Jesus said, “Be careful that you are not deceived. Many will come using my name. They will say, ‘I am he!’ and ‘The time is near.’ Don’t follow them!

9 “When you hear of wars and revolutions, don’t be terrified! These things must happen first, but the end will not come immediately.”

10 Then Jesus continued, “Nation will fight against nation and kingdom against kingdom. **11** There will be terrible earthquakes, famines, and dreadful diseases in various places. Terrifying sights and miraculous signs will come from the sky.

12 “Before all these things happen, people will arrest and persecute you. They will hand you over to their synagogues and put you into their prisons. They will drag you in front of kings and governors because of my name.

13 It will be your opportunity to testify to them. **14** So make up your minds not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. **15** I will give you words and wisdom that none of your enemies will be able to oppose or prove wrong.

16 “Even parents, brothers, relatives, and friends will betray you and kill some of you. **17** Everyone will hate you because you are committed to me. **18** But not a hair on your head will be lost. **19** By your endurance you will save your life.

20 “When you see armies camped around Jerusalem, realize that the time is near for it to be destroyed. **21** Then those of you in Judea should flee to the mountains. Those of you in Jerusalem should leave it. Those of you in

the fields shouldn't go back into them. **22** This will be a time of vengeance. Everything that is written about it will come true.

23 "How horrible it will be for women who are pregnant or who are nursing babies in those days. Indeed, the land will suffer very hard times, and its people will be punished. **24** Swords will cut them down, and they will be carried off into all nations as prisoners. Nations will trample Jerusalem until the times allowed for the nations _{to do this} are over.

25 "Miraculous signs will occur in the sun, moon, and stars. The nations of the earth will be deeply troubled and confused because of the roaring and tossing of the sea. **26** People will faint as they fearfully wait for what will happen to the world. Indeed, the powers of the universe will be shaken.

27 "Then people will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

28 "When these things begin to happen, stand with confidence! The time when you will be set free is near."