

Kefa Learns About the Destruction of the Temple

In my last post, **Kefa** learned the **Lesson of the Withered Fig Tree**. We continue in our chronological journey of **Kefa** in this post, **Kefa Learns About the Destruction of the Temple**.

This lesson taken from **Mark** was taught on Tuesday afternoon of Passion week as **Yeshua** and His **talmidim** were leaving **Yerushalayim**.

Mark may have risked severe trouble with the Roman authorities for writing this chapter. Jewish underground tracts about the time of the end usually included **Isra'el's** exaltation, and Rome distrusted any threat to its power. Prophecies favoring Rome's greatness were welcome, but not those implying its demise. But this chapter before **Yeshua's** arrest climaxes **Yeshua's** warnings to His **talmidim**. ¹

¹ As Yeshua came out of the Temple, one of the talmidim said to Him, "Look, Rabbi! What huge stones! What magnificent buildings!"

The **First Temple**, built by King Solomon and destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE, was a building of great magnificence. The **Second Temple**, built under **Z'rubavel** in 516 BCE, could not compare with it. King **Herod, the Great**, to ingratiate himself with the Jewish people, undertook its renovation and expansion. According to **Yochanan** 2:20, it took forty-six years, but it was successful, and the remodeled **Second Temple** dominated all **Yerushalayim**.

The **Temple** complex consisted of many buildings and was perhaps the most massive, most magnificent structure in the ancient world; it was twice the size of Solomon's **Temple**. Construction had begun before **Yeshua's** birth and was still continuing at this time.

Although unnamed, based upon what we have learned so far in our study in this series, the **talmid** that said, ***"Look, Rabbi! What huge stones! What magnificent buildings!"*** was in all likelihood **Kefa**.

² "You see all these great buildings?" Yeshua said to him, "They will be totally destroyed - not a single stone will be left standing!"

This prophecy was fulfilled literally in 70 CE when Rome overwhelmed the First Jewish Rebellion by capturing **Yerushalayim** and sacking the **Temple**. Excavations made after the Six-Day War revealed enormous stones from the **Western Wall** of the Temple Court (of which the still-standing "Wailing Wall" is part) lying helter-skelter, not one left on another.

³ As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the Temple, Kefa, Ya'akov, Yochanan, and Andrew asked Him privately, ⁴ "Tell us, when will these things happen? And what sign will show when all these things are about to be accomplished?" ~ Mark 13:1-4 (CJB)

The **Mount of Olives** rose 300 feet above **Yerushalayim**, across the **Kidron Valley**. It provided a panoramic view of the **temple complex** and **Yerushalayim**. As **Yeshua** and his **talmidim** sat on the **Mount of Olives**, they asked him ***when*** these events would ***happen*** and about the ***sign*** of their accomplishment. They connected the events with the end of the age and the beginning of the **Messianic** kingdom (see Matt. 24:3).

Since we are only focusing on **Kefa** in this series, I am not going to address **Yeshua's** complete response.

In my next post, **Kefa** is instructed to **Make Preparations for the Pesach**.

¹ Bible Background Commentary - New Testament.