

Comparing Matthew 24 and Luke 21

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A comparison of Matthew 24 and Luke 21 (NASB). Also included are the 3 verses in Matthew that immediately precede Matthew 24, and the verses they correspond to in Luke. Text that differs is highlighted **like this**.

Jesus weeps over Jerusalem: in Matthew, this section appears after the triumphal entry (Mt 21), but in Luke it appears before His triumphal entry (Luke 19). Thus, either Jesus said it twice, or the event is discussed out of chronological order in Matthew or Luke.	
Matthew 23:37-38: 37 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. 38 Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! 39 For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'	Luke 13:34-35: 34 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it! 35 Behold, your house is left to you desolate; and I say to you, you will not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' (followed by Luke 14:1): It happened that when He went into the house of one of the leaders of the Pharisees on the Sabbath to eat bread, they were watching Him closely.
Matthew 24	Luke 21
Widow's mite: this does not appear in Matthew 24. In Luke, the location is the temple (its treasury to be precise).	
	1 And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. 2 And He saw a poor widow putting in two small copper coins. 3 And He said, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them; 4 for they all out of their surplus put into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on."

Location: not specified in Luke, but from Luke 21:6, the disciples are looking at the temple. Thus, location might still be the temple. However, it is also possible to view the temple from the Mount of Olives. In Matthew, Jesus is just outside the temple, on his way to the Mount of Olives.	
1 Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when	

Not one stone left on another: essentially identical	
1b His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. 2 And He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you , not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down."	5 And while some were talking about the temple, that it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts , He said, 6 "As for these things which you are looking at, the days will come in which there will not be left one stone upon another which will not be torn down."

Location: not specified in Luke, so location might be the temple.	
3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives,	

The disciples ask a question: Note that the question is different. In Matthew, the second part of the question refers to the sign of His coming and the end of the age, whereas in Luke, the question is about "these things".	
3b the disciples came to Him privately , saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age? "	7 They questioned Him, saying, "Teacher, when therefore will these things happen? And what will be the sign when these things are about to take place? "

Do not be misled: Nearly identical.	
4 And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.	8 And He said, "See to it that you are not misled; for many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, ' The time is near. ' Do not go after them.

Wars and rumors of wars / disturbances: nearly identical.	
6 You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end.	9 When you hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end does not follow immediately."

<p>Nation against nation, famine, earthquakes: Luke adds significant extra events: “great” earthquakes, plagues, and “terrors and great signs from heaven.” Luke places these extra events before the events described in Luke 21:12 and following.</p>	
<p>7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.</p>	<p>10 Then He continued by saying to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, 11 and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.</p>

<p>“Beginning of birth pangs” (Matthew) versus “Before these things” (Luke): these two statements are very different. In both cases, “these things” refers to the events just described (verses 4-7 in Matthew, and verses 8-11 in Luke).</p>	
<p>8 But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.</p>	<p>12 “But before all these things, ...</p>

<p>Persecution: both Matthew and Luke describe tribulation/persecution, death, betrayal, and hatred because of His name. Matthew adds: many will fall away, and false prophets arising and misleading many. Luke adds additional detail about the betrayal and persecution will (bringing before kings/governors, and advice on how to give testimony). Otherwise these sections seem to describe the same events.</p>	
<p>9 “Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. 10 At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. 11 Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.</p>	<p>12b they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name’s sake. 13 It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony. 14 So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; 15 for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute. 16 But you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death, 17 and you will be hated by all because of My name.</p>

<p>Lawlessness</p>	
<p>12 Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold.</p>	

Endure: nearly identical	
13 But the one who endures to the end , he will be saved.	18 Yet not a hair of your head will perish. 19 By your endurance you will gain your lives.

Gospel preached to whole world	
14 This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.	

When you see ... is very different.	
15 “Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),	20 “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near.

Flee: minor differences	
16 then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. 17 Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. 18 Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak.	21 Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city;

Days of vengeance	
	22 because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled.

Woe to expecting mothers, and children: minor differences	
19 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.	23 Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days;

Great tribulation versus great distress: this description is very different. In Matthew, nearly complete extinction (unless the days cut short). In Luke, people are led captive (and thus survive).

21 For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. 22 Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

23b for there will be great distress upon the land and wrath to this people; 24 and 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.

False christs and prophets

23 Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him. 24 For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. 25 Behold, I have told you in advance. 26 So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out, or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them. 27 For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. 28 Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

Return of the Son of Man: Luke and Matthew add different details, Mt 24:31 and Luke 21:28 being the most important.

29 "But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, **and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn**, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. **31 And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.**

25 "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, **and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, 26 men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world;** for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. **28 But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."**

Parable of the fig tree: minor differences

32 "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when **its branch has already become tender and** puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; 33 so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that **He** is near, **right at the door.** 34 Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

29 Then He told them a parable: "Behold the fig tree **and all the trees;** 30 as soon as they put forth leaves, **you see it** and know for yourselves that summer is now near. 31 So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that **the kingdom of God** is near. 32 Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all things take place. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

Be alert: this part of the discourse is very different in Matthew and Luke

36 “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. 37 For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be. 40 Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left. 42 “Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. 43 But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. 44 For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will. 45 “Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? 46 Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. 47 Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions. 48 But if that evil slave says in his heart, ‘My master is not coming for a long time,’ 49 and begins to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards; 50 the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know, 51 and will cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

34 “Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap; 35 for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. 36 But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Teaching in the temple	
	<p>37 Now during the day He was teaching in the temple, but at evening He would go out and spend the night on the mount that is called Olivet. 38 And all the people would get up early in the morning to come to Him in the temple to listen to Him.</p>