

LESSON 7

THE FINAL DEPARTURE

TUESDAY: “THE GREAT DAY OF QUESTIONS” (CONTINUED)

(MT. 23:1—25:46; MK. 12:38—13:37;
LK. 20:45—21:36; JN. 12:20–50)

As Jesus and His enemies engaged in verbal combat, the crowd grew (see Mk. 12:37b). Before Christ ended the encounter, He had one more task. It would not be pleasant, but it needed to be done. From His lips issued a stern indictment of the Pharisees. [See *Life of Christ*, 2, pp. 303–308.]

1. Why did Jesus speak so strongly to the Pharisees?
2. What exactly does it mean to be a hypocrite?

A few days before, the Pharisees had said concerning Jesus, “. . . the world has gone after Him” (Jn. 12:19). The next event illustrates Christ’s universal appeal. While the Lord was in the temple, some Greeks came, seeking Him. (See Jn. 12:20–50.)

3. What did it mean to be a “God-fearer” in New Testament times?
4. What does Jn 12:42, 43 reveal about the Jewish rulers?

Christ’s departure from the temple was significant. God’s glory (Jesus; see Jn. 2:11; 8:54) had departed, never to return (see 1 Sam. 4:21, 22). Though it would be several decades until the temple was destroyed, its fate was sealed (Mt. 23:37, 38). (See Mt. 24:1—25:46; Mk. 13:1–37; Lk. 21:5–36.)

5. What did the temple look like in Jesus’ day?
6. What were the disciples thinking of when they asked Jesus about His Second Coming and the end of the age?

7. Why does Jesus' answer to their question seem so cryptic to modern readers?
8. What events did Jesus warn the disciples were possibly misleading signs?
9. To what part of Daniel did Christ refer in Mt. 24:15, 16?
10. What did Jesus instruct His disciples to do when they saw the real sign of the city's destruction?
11. Does history tell us that Jesus' predictions were accurate regarding the fall of Jerusalem? Explain.
12. What seems to be a reasonable interpretation of Christ's words in Mt. 24:29–31?
13. In what generation would "all these things take place" (Mt. 24:34)?
14. What indications does Mt. 24:36 give that it begins a different subject than that previously discussed?
15. Why did Jesus give no signs to prepare His disciples for His Second Coming?
16. In the parable of the ten virgins, why did the wise maidens not share their oil with the others?
17. What is the message of the parable of the talents?
18. What does Mt. 25:31–46 tell us about the Judgment?
19. How completely does this passage give a prescription for salvation?
20. How long will the "punishment" and "life" (25:46) to which all will be sent last?