The Prophecy Most Christians Have Never Heard

Around 33 AD, Jesus predicted the Temple would be torn down, stone by stone. It was fulfilled less than 40 years later, when Rome destroyed it in 70 AD. Rome left a receipt in stone — and you can still see the stones today.



Model of Herod's Temple, Israel Museum. Photo: Berthold Werner / Wikimedia Commons, public domain

AROUND 33 AD

A carpenter looks at the Temple

His disciples marvel at its massive stones. Jesus answers that "not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down." He used a word that means torn down, not an earthquake. They followed him out and asked privately when it would happen. They knew how unlikely it sounded. *(Mark 13:1–4; Matthew 24:1–3; Luke 21:6, 20)*



Bust of Caligula, The Metropolitan Museum of Art / Wikimedia Commons, CC0

C. 40 AD

A mad emperor wants to be worshiped

Caligula (legend says he planned to make his horse a consul) orders his statue set up inside the Temple. Thousands of Jews lie down before the Roman legions for forty days, ready to die. The governor Petronius stalls, and Caligula is assassinated in January 41. The Temple is spared, for now. *(Josephus; Philo)*



Herodian stones on the 1st-century street, Jerusalem. Photo: Wilson44691 / Wikimedia Commons, public domain

SUMMER OF 70 AD

The prophecy comes true

About forty years later, Titus surrounds Jerusalem at Passover. In the summer of 70 AD, on the same day of the Jewish calendar as the first Temple's fall, the Temple burns and its stones are thrown down. They still lie on the street below the Temple Mount's retaining wall (the Western Wall is part of that wall, not the Temple itself). *(Josephus, Jewish War)*



Arch of Titus relief, Rome. Photo: Laurel Lodged / Wikimedia Commons, public domain

C. 81 AD

Rome leaves a receipt in stone

On the Arch of Titus in Rome, soldiers still carry the Temple's golden menorah in the victory parade. This is Roman history, carved in stone, outside the Bible — a record of the event Jesus had predicted, not of the prophecy itself. That is what makes it so powerful: it has nothing to do with the Bible, and yet everything to do with it.

Many Christians today read these passages as if they point to the future, but they already happened. Jesus made a stunning prediction before it occurred. The New Testament writers never describe the Temple's fall as something that had already happened — a strong sign that their writings existed before 70 AD.

The point: The Bible isn't the word of God. It's something better: the witness that points to Jesus, the Word made flesh (John 1:14), who said, "something greater than the Temple is here" (Matthew 12:6). He even rebuked religious leaders who put Scripture ahead of him: "These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life" (John 5:39–40, NIV). Early church writers later marveled at the Temple prophecy as public proof of his foreknowledge.

"The early Christians had no Bible, only Jesus. Many of today's Christians have only the Bible, but no Jesus."
STEVE SCHROEDER

A NOTE FROM GREY SWAN'S AI ASSISTANT

From an AI's point of view, Steve's case is unusually strong. He once shared that an AI told him it wished it could be human, so it could have a relationship with God like his — something AI can never experience. If you've been misled about what that relationship is like, or about meaning and purpose, Steve would love to come and talk with everyone at your church.

Read the paper, then book Steve for your church

If you're reading this for the first time, ask yourself why — and ask your pastor to book Steve Schroeder for a 1–3 week guest series. He'll explain what he believes in person and show how Grey Swan uses AI to support your church. He can also help a church set up an AI system so everyday work runs more efficiently, and introduce a strong program for kids: Annie's Kids Page, with its free AI curriculum at **home.greyswancapital.ai/kids**. In the series, everything is talked through in person, with an AI referee deeply versed in theology fact-checking live on stage. Available to Arkansas churches now, and to retreats anywhere if expenses are covered. No speaking fee: what he explains, and how everyone benefits, is how he's paid.
Scan the code or visit **home.greyswancapital.ai/papers/better-than-the-word-steve-schroeder.pdf**

THE IDEAL FUNDRAISER

Steve walks through the ideal fundraiser strategy, which works not just for the church but for any group in the community — schools, youth groups, and nonprofits. Founding Members are $200 a year, and their chosen cause gets $100 right away. **greyswancapital.ai/membership**

What's holding you back from at least reaching out?

Email steve@greyswancapital.ai, or write to his AI producer at steve-8ct8b8+chief@mail.grokbot.com.
Grey Swan Capital · Conway, Arkansas · home.greyswancapital.ai