

Jesus Foretells Events both Frightful and Hopeful  
About 4 minutes, from Luke 21: 5-36

Participants (*No need to memorize lines; the aim is to relive sacred events, not to perform*)

Peter

Voice (of Jesus)

Prompter Shout a brief line, and Echoes repeat it.

Echoes Children and all adults who want to take part. Echoes need no script.

Peter I am Peter. Jesus is taking us disciples up on the Mount of Olives.  
Oh look! See the amazing beauty of the holy city of Jerusalem.  
Lord! See how enormous and glorious the great temple is!

Prompter & Echoes Magnificent!

Peter Look at those immense walls!  
No enemy will ever get past them!

Voice Wrong, Peter.  
The day is coming when there will not be left  
one stone upon another.

Peter What? How could that be?  
Rabbi, when will such destruction happen?  
What will be the sign when these things are about to take place?  
When will you establish your eternal Kingdom?

Voice Do not let anyone mislead you;  
for many will come in my name, saying, "I am he."  
When you hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified.  
These things must take place first;  
the end does not follow immediately.

Prompter & Echoes Not yet?

Voice Nation will rise against nation;  
there will be wars and rumors of wars.  
There will be great earthquakes, plagues and famines,  
also terrors and great signs from heaven.

Prompter & Echoes Dear God, spare us!

Voice Your enemies will arrest and persecute you.  
They will imprison you  
and take you before governors because of me.  
This will give you opportunity to testify on my behalf.  
Do not prepare a defense beforehand;  
I will give you answers and wisdom  
that your opponents cannot refute.

Prompter & Echoes We will need your help!

Peter It sounds so dire, Lord!  
Surely you'll establish your rule on earth first, to avoid all that.

Voice Not now.  
Even parents, brothers, relatives and friends will betray you.  
They will kill some of you, and everyone will hate you  
because of my name. Yet, not a hair of your head will perish.

Peter I cannot imagine how any army could destroy such a huge temple.  
When will it happen?

Voice When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies,  
then her destruction is near.  
Those in Judea must flee to the mountains,  
and those in the city must leave.

Prompter & Echoes How terrifying!

Voice Woe to those who are pregnant or are nursing babies in those days;  
there will be great distress upon the land and wrath to this people.  
They will fall by the edge of the sword,  
and be led captive into all the nations;  
Gentiles will trample Jerusalem underfoot until their time is fulfilled.  
The Holy City that we are looking at now is awaiting God's judgment!

Prompter & Echoes Doomed!

Peter And then? Will you return to rule over all the earth?

Voice Not yet.  
There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay,  
perplexity at the roaring of the sea and waves, men fainting from fear,  
for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.  
Then they'll see the Son of Man come in a cloud with great power.

Prompter & Echoes Power and glory!

Voice When you see these things begin to take place, take courage.  
Your redemption is drawing near.

Prompter & Echoes Lord, give us courage!