

THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES

TEXT:

Luke 21:24: And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

Jesus made this plain statement of prophecy regarding Jerusalem and the Time of the Gentiles. Surely it is deeply significant, or our Lord would have never uttered it.

When did the “Times of the Gentiles” begin? It began about 606 B.C. when Nebuchadnezzar, a Gentile king, and his armies waged war on the Holy Land and destroyed their beautiful temple. The temple was one of the greatest wonders of the world, and a majority of the Jews were carried away captive. The final mop-up operation took place 25 years later, or about 586 B.C.

From that time to the present to 1967, Jerusalem has been trodden down by the Gentiles. But the end has come for the domination of God’s people, the Jews, by the Gentiles!

Daniel outlines the Gentile’s times in the image he saw. A complete outline of the Times of the Gentiles is given in:

Daniel 2:27-45:

27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;

28 But there is a God in Heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;



29 As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.

30 But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.

31 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.

32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.



36 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

37 Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of Heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

The king had a dream in which he saw a great image. The head was of gold, his breast and arms of silver, his abdomen and thighs of brass, his legs of iron, and his feet of iron-clay mixture.

Daniel declares that the head of gold is Nebuchadnezzar, with his kingdom. He would be defeated by another world ruler, namely Medo-Persia. They will then be conquered by the brass kingdom, which was the Grecian, under Alexander the Great. The Greeks, in turn, would be overcome by the Romans, as represented by the legs of iron-clay. Iron has always stood for Rome.



Now we come to the ten toes in the feet of the image. They represent the ten nations of the Roman Empire over which the antichrist will reign. The ten crowns on the Beast in **Revelation 13** correspond with the ten toes of Daniel's image.

What will happen to the image? Daniel declares that a Stone was cut out of the mountain, without hands. It will smite the ten toes, and the whole image will crumble and be blown away. The Stone will then fill the whole earth.

Daniel 2:34-35:

34 Thou sawest till that a Stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the Stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.



Who is that Stone? None other than Christ, the Eternal Rock of Ages. That same Rock followed the children thru the wilderness.

1 Corinthians 10:4: And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

This is the Stone which the builders rejected, which is made the Head of the Corner.

Matthew 21:42: Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the Scriptures, The Stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

Matthew 16:18: And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this Rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

When will it smite the image and destroy it? It will be when Christ descends with His Church to smite the antichrist and his ten kings, and all the other armies of the world who will be allied with him.

Revelation 19:19-20:

19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him Who sat on the horse, and against His army.

20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a Lake of Fire burning with brimstone.



It will be a complete defeat for the Beast who will be the last world monarch to attempt to maintain a permanent rulership. God has ordained that none who have tried or will try to rule the world shall hold it very long, for He has reserved that right for His Son.

Nebuchadnezzar was the first to attempt to maintain a permanent world dynasty. He failed. Why? Because God, through His prophet Daniel, said so.

Cyrus, the Medo-Persian ruler, was the next to attempt to hold it, but he went down in defeat. Why? Because God, through His prophet Daniel, said so.

Alexander the Great was the next to attain world rulership, but his kingdom tottered and fell swiftly. Why? Because God declared it would, through Daniel, many years before.

Then, the Roman Empire tried it and it finally crumbled. Why? Because God said so. At least three have aspired to world rulership since then, namely Napoleon, the Kaiser, and Hitler.

Napoleon said, “*God is on the side of the largest battalions*”. But he suffered a surely disgraceful defeat, and was subsequently banished to the island of St. Helena where he was held prisoner until he died. Why did Napoleon fall? Because God, through Daniel, said so.

Why did the Kaiser fail in his ambitions to become world monarch? Because God said so.

Hitler high-bobbed around for awhile, but his success was short-lived. Why? Because God said so.

The last one to try will be the antichrist. He will succeed for a short time — but he, too, will meet defeat. Where? At Armageddon! Why? Because God, through His prophet Daniel said so!

Then will be set up Christ's kingdom which shall fill the whole earth during the Millennium. The smiting of the Image marks the end of the Gentile Times. This will take place at the end of the Great Tribulation.

Now, the great concern we should think about is: Have we entered the beginning of the end of the Times of the Gentiles?

Romans 11:25: For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.



And so all Israel shall be saved. Blindness IS actually being lifted from the eyes of Israel. The graphic picture of the fig tree is budding, which speaks of the children of Israel's revival. Note the following statements from Jewish leaders.

Mr. Solomon Shwayder of Denver, Colorado said, *“Christ is the greatest Jew that ever lived. The Jew has lost considerably by refusing the teaching of Jesus Christ. We cannot get away from Jesus. In years gone by, if we were asked by our children who Jesus was, we would just hush them up and say He was the great enemy of our people. But we cannot shut them up now. The Name of Jesus is coming into all our homes over the radio. The sweetness and beauty of it all is appealing to them. When they ask, ‘Who is Jesus that teaches people to love one another, who died for our sins?’ We must have an answer. Could it be possible that our fathers made a tremendous mistake when they rejected Him?”*

Several years ago, Rabbi Wise delivered a sermon in the Free Synagogue of New York, urging all Jews to accept Jesus as their own Prophet. *“We regard Him”, the famous rabbi said to the Christian, “not as yours only, but ours. He was the greatest Jew that ever lived. We want to venerate Him. We do venerate Him.”*

Dr. Max Nordau says, “*Jesus is the soul of our soul; flesh of our flesh. Who then would think of excluding Him from the people of Israel? St. Peter will remain the only Jew who said of the Son of David, ‘I know not the man’.*”

Dr. Isidor Singer, editor of the Jewish Encyclopedia, asserted, “*I regard Jesus of Nazareth as a Jew of the Jews; one whom all Jewish people are learning to love.*”

Joseph Klausner, foremost orthodox Hebrew scholar in the world, wrote an epoch-making book, “*Jesus of Nazareth, His Life, Times, and Teaching.*” It thrilled the world of Jewry. No wonder. The “Jewish World” said: “*For the first time in 1900 years, a rabbinical Jew discourses on the life of Jesus without prejudice and represents the founder of Christianity as the embodiment of religious and ethical idealism.*”

Israel Zangwell admitted that “Jesus must have the foremost and most honorable place in the links of the chain which composes the Jewish prophets.”

Then statements show an apparent heart-hunger among God’s Chosen People for one to satisfy that emptiness which the law lacks in fulfillment of their heart’s desire.

God is going to graft them in again, and all Israel will be saved as prophesied by Paul. God has not cast away His people forever. Anyone saying that is ignorant of the Scriptures.

Already the first-fruits of this harvest are appearing, and the promise is for a bountiful ingathering! Bibles are being asked for by the thousands among the Jews. They are putting New Testaments in Jewish schools in Palestine. Mr. Rohold, who has been ministering to Jews in Israel since the war, tells there is a copy of the New Testament in every room at some Jewish hotels.



In Europe, Jews are flocking to Christian mission halls, and scores of Bible classes are being held.

Recently, a Jew from St. Louis, Missouri, delivered an address in Los Angeles, “*While visiting in the home of a cousin — a strictly orthodox home — I found the children inquiring into new things that never came into that home before . . . Bibles, Oxford Press. I asked, ‘How did you come to study the Bible with the New*

Testament?’ The reply, ‘Cousin, we are living in momentous days. Father and the synagogue people say it is Messiah’s time. Christians claim that their Jesus is soon to come back again. We cannot afford to remain ignorant on these subjects so we are studying the matter for ourselves’.”

Yes! The blindness and the scales are being lifted from the eyes of the Jews today. We, like Paul, trust that they will go out and mightily convince the world that Jesus is Lord and Messiah!



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