

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

The Destruction of Jerusalem and The 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ, Part 3

Last time...after “the beginning of sorrows” (Matt 24:4-8), which is a period of time

- of unspecified length
- set in motion by the fulfillment of God’s 2nd sign of judgment
(Is 11:11-12, to Israel and the nations, fulfilled on May 14, 1948),
begins a unique 7 year period of time known as The Day of the Lord

As we sit here this morning,

- we are living in “the beginning of sorrows”, birth pangs which are getting more frequent and more intense
- the Day of the Lord (Matt 24:9-31) is future

Before the Day of the Lord, the faithful Church will be snatched off the earth to meet Jesus Christ in the clouds (1 Thes 4:13-18)...aka The Rapture

During the Day of the Lord/Jacob’s Trouble/70th Week of Daniel, faithful Israel will be the witness of Jesus Christ on earth

- 2 Witnesses in Jerusalem (Rev 11:1-13, ministry of 3½ years)
- the 144,000 evangelists (Rev 7:1-8)
- Jewish fruit of their witness (Zech 13:8-9)...1/3 of Jews

In Matt 24:9-13 Jesus warns Israel and the nations to flee from the wrath to come in a time known as “The Tribulation”, the 1st half (3½ years) of Day of the Lord/Jacob’s Trouble/70th Week of Daniel

This time...the mid-point of the DoL, the abomination of desolation

Remember: pieces of the puzzle are in 66 books, to be searched out

Matt 24:15-20

v15 the abomination of desolation:

In response to Peter and Andrew and John and James regarding what will be the sign of His 2nd Coming to earth,
Jesus arrives at a “signature event” in His prophetic answer

This verse is critical, the Anchor by which we are able to rightly divide Ch 24

Since Scripture interprets Scripture, we know we are at the mid-point of the last 7 years of mankind’s history before Jesus returns to judge the world and to set up the Kingdom of God on earth

When ye therefore...after v9-12

see the abomination...stand in the holy place...is yet future

Gospel of Matthew was written in late 30s or 50s or 60s...BEFORE 70AD
and the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem

There was no “abomination of desolation” as spoken of by the prophet
Daniel by the Romans in 70AD

Therefore the fulfillment of this prophesy by Jesus is yet future to us
(there is no Temple to defile on Temple Mount today)

According to none other than Jesus Christ, understanding the Book of
Daniel is key to understanding future prophetic events

Dan 2 Times of the Gentiles (when Gentile kings lord over Israel) from
the perspective of the nations

Neb’s dream – an image and a Stone cut without hands

Image: “lords over Israel” in the times of the Gentiles

1. Head of gold: Babylon
2. Breast and arms of silver: Media-Persia
3. Belly and thighs of brass: Greece
4. Legs of iron: Rome
5. Feet of iron and clay mixed: One World Gov’t

Stone cut without hands: Jesus Christ

- broke the image into pieces, like chaff on a threshing floor
- became a great mountain and filled the whole earth
(Kingdom of God on earth)

Dan 7 Times of the Gentiles from God’s perspective

Daniel’s dream – 4 great beasts

1. Lion: Babylon
2. Bear: Media-Persia
3. Leopard: Greece
4. Dreadful Terrible Strong with great iron teeth: Rome
 - different from all other kingdoms
 - devour the whole earth
 - tread down and break in pieces the whole earth
 - afterward, one king shall arise who will speak
great words against the Most High and the
kingdoms of the world will be given him for
3½ years

The Son of Man comes in the clouds of heaven to the
Ancient of Days on His throne
The Son of Man is given everlasting dominion and glory
and a kingdom of all people, nations, languages and
all will serve Him

Dan 9 The End

- v24 490 years upon Israel and Jerusalem to the end
1. of the rebellion against God
 2. to “solve” the sin problem
 3. to make reconciliation to God for sins
 4. to bring in everlasting righteousness – the reign of the Messiah King
 5. the visions foretelling of the end
 6. anoint the Most Holy – King Jesus
- Half (1-3) fulfilled, half (4-6) not yet fulfilled

- v25-26a 483 years to the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem by the
King of the Jews from the time the command is
given to rebuild Jerusalem (Neh 2)

The Messiah King will be executed, but for the
crimes/sins of others, for He is sinless

- v26b Jerusalem and the Temple will be destroyed...again
70 AD by the Romans, the people of “the prince who shall
come” (future, before the 2nd Coming of Jesus)

Note: This is why Jesus did not answer the “When will the
Temple be destroyed” question by the 4 disciples;
He already had via Daniel

- v27 The prince...counterfeit christ, antichrist...will establish a
7 year (70th Week of Daniel) peace treaty
(false peace) with Israel...counterfeit **Ezk 37:22-28**

he will allow the Jews to build their Temple and
re-institute the sacrificial system of the Law
The Jews will hail him as Messiah...John 5:43 fulfilled

In the middle of the 7 years...3½ years...the
prince/counterfeit Christ will halt the Jewish
sacrificial system and defile the Temple –
the Abomination of Desolation

he defiles the temple in Jerusalem that he made possible to build by

- sitting in the Temple
- proclaiming himself to be God

2 Thes 2:1-12

v1-2 **1 Thes 1:10**, **1 Thes 5:9**

- v3 let no man deceive you in “beginning of sorrows”, known for spiritual deception
apostasy before the prince/counterfeit Christ (aka “the man of sin”, “son of perdition”) is revealed
- v4 he opposes the OTL God and every other “concept” of God held by man
he is an imposter, posing as the God of AII, the Creator, the God of the Bible (satan incarnate, Is 14:12-17)
- v5-7 his identity will not be known so long as the faithful Church/Body of Christ is on earth restraining evil
- v8 the prince is also known as “that Wicked”... and he is no match for Jesus upon His 2nd Coming!
- v9-10 the prince will have the power of satan (indwelling of the unholy spirit) to perform lying signs and wonders that will deceive those who do not receive Jesus (John 1:12, John 14:6)
- v11-12 those who do not believe Jesus Christ (Truth) but do believe the counterfeit christ (lie) will be given by God what they want – a strong delusion unto damnation

All this takes place during Dan 9:27

Dan 12 The Archangel stands up for Israel during Jacob’s Trouble

- v1 in Jacob’s Trouble, a unique period of time on earth, a time of more trouble than the Jews have ever known (which is saying a lot!!!)
thy people delivered: Gal 3:29...the 1/3
- v2-3 the resurrection of all men, some (wise) to everlasting life and most (foolish) to everlasting contempt
the wise are children of the Light
- v4 in the time of the end, knowledge shall increase

- v5-7 When will all this end?
 3½ years...2nd half of the Day of the Lord when Israel is
 humbled (this week: 4th nation to the moon)
- v8-10 Lord, I don't understand
 You are not going to understand, Daniel
 The wise who live when knowledge increases will
 understand
- v11 There will be 1290 days (3½ yrs + 1 month) from the time
 sacrificial system is ended and the abomination of
 desolation is set up (an idol in the Temple in
 Jerusalem?)...after the prince/counterfeit christ/man
 of sin/son of perdition/that Wicked/Antichrist kills
 God's 2 Witnesses (Rev 11:7-10)
 "We can fight God and win!!! I will (Is 14:12-17)!!!

(whoso reads let him understand):

parenthetical comment...an echo of Dan 9:25a – know therefore and understand

Jesus Christ expected the Jews to know the day of His Triumphal Entry,
 as foretold by Daniel in Dan 9
 They didn't (Luke 19:41-44)

Likewise, He expects Jews now and Jews then to understand Dan 9 also!!!

- v16-20 in Judaea flee to the mountains...house top...field:
 The worldwide hatred of the 2 Witnesses in Jerusalem,
 The killing of the 2 Witnesses by Antichrist (believed to be a victory over God),
 The march of Antichrist into the Jewish Temple, proclaiming himself the true god
 The expulsion of satan from heaven, being bound on earth (will look at shortly),
 The Antichrist's proclamation of genocide of all Jews,
 seem to trigger a worldwide rebellion against the God of Israel/all earth

Jesus warns the Jews living in Judea when the Abomination of Desolation
 happens to flee

- to the mountains
- as fast as they can, as if their life depends on it (because it does!)

If someone is on the house top (cool breezes), do not take any time to pack...
 clothes or "valuables" or anything...because

- there is no time for that and no greater priority than to flee
- cannot be slowed down by the additional weight of any baggage

If someone is in the field, do not so much as go to the other side of the field to get
 your other clothes...make a beeline to the mountains

Woe if

- you are pregnant, not able to move quickly
- you are nursing, not able to move immediately and without stopping

Until the time comes to flee...pray that the time to flee does not happen

- in the winter...the cold, rainy months when it is difficult to safely run on slippery rocks and when travel is slowed and impeded
- on the Sabbath...and don't flee for fear of breaking the Law...
Sabbath travel limits (Sabbath is distinctly Jewish...given by God to Israel, not to the Gentiles)

“Flee to the mountains!”...where?

Hosea 5:15

After the 2 signs in Is 11 until 2 Witnesses + 144,000 evangelists
Israel blinded in part until the fullness of the Gentiles come in
(Rom 11:25)

But the Abomination of Desolation will wake them up and open
their eyes; (speculation) this may be the event that causes
many of the 1/3 to believe the testimony of the 2 Witnesses
and the 144,000 evangelists

Zeph 2:1-3

a message to Israel by the 2 Witnesses and 144,000 evangelists
a hiding place in the Day of the Lord's anger/wrath for the world's
most hated nation

Is 26:20-21

a hiding place until the Lord's indignation with the unbelieving
inhabitants of the earth is past

- shadow of the Rapture of the Church (1 Peter 2:10)
- “Flee to the mountains” after abomination of desolation

Micah 2:12-13

Bozrah...in Edom, SE of the Dead Sea,
modern day Jordan
capital city of the Edomites, on the King's Hwy,
a city protected on all sides by steep cliffs

or

Is 16:1, 4-5

Sela/Petra...south of Bozrah
Written after David, so Son of David (2 Sam 7) in view

or

“the mountains” are the wilderness in that entire area ESE of the Dead Sea
Unlike Num 20:14-21, Edom/Esau will be welcoming

Rev 12

- v1 Israel, per Joseph's dream (Gen 37)
- v2 The Messiah (Is 7:14, Is 9:6)
- v3-4 satan and his gang
- v5 Jesus' 1st Coming and Ascension with 2nd Coming in mind...
was to rule all nations with a rod of iron when He returns
- v6 Matt 24:16-20
In the mountains is a place prepared by God, a refuge for 3½ yrs
1 Cor 13:12a now we see thru a glass darkly
Bozrah or Petra/Sela or entire region
Either way, in modern-day Jordan
 - 1993 peace treaty with Israel
 - Dan 11:41...escape out of the hand of Antichrist
- v7-9 War in heaven, Michael defeats satan, who with his thugs is
cast out of heaven and bound to earth
- v10-11 Victory for the overcomers (1 John 5:4-5)!
- v12 Woe to the unbelieving inhabitants of the earth...these 3½ years!
- v13 that Wicked, satan incarnate, false Messiah turns on Israel;
worst persecution in their long history of persecutions
- v14 Divine escape plan/route and preserved for those last 3½ yrs
wings of eagles – high and fast
Is 40:29-31
- v15-17 a very angry dragon is no match for the God of Israel

Mark's account reads very similarly so let's look at Luke's account

Luke 21:20-21

v20-21 see Jerusalem compassed:

Matthew and Mark speak specifically of the abomination of desolation;

Luke does not

The Holy Spirit via Luke gives as the anchor "see Jerusalem compassed with
armies"

The Greek verb tense is "see Jerusalem "being/beginning to be" compassed with
armies (of the nations, the world)"

Zech 12:2-3 now in the "beginnings of sorrows" but a hint of then

Much more so in the "Tribulation" (1st half of 70th Week) during the
ministry of the 2 Witnesses in Jerusalem

Once “war is declared” on God by the prince/counterfeit Christ/man of sin/son of perdition, the armies of the world will begin to march on Jerusalem to take care of this problem once and for all... now that the 2 Witnesses of God are gone!

The movements of the world’s armies mean

- the destruction of Jerusalem is near
- it will be too late to escape once the city is surrounded

So

- flee to the mountains and don’t waste ANY time, whether you are in Judea or in Jerusalem
- don’t anyone go into Jerusalem (like millions will do when the Romans come in 70 AD and were slaughtered)

Application

Believer – in a right relationship with the Lord God Almighty, now and in those times

Nahum 1:7 The LORD *is* good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him

Backslider – wanderer

Come home!

Hide in the chamber Jesus has provided until His indignation is past!

Unbeliever – rebel

Heed the warning of John the Baptist!

Matt 3:7b-8 O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance

Matt 3:10 now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire

Matt 3:12 (Jesus Christ is coming) Whose fan *is* in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire

Heed the warning of Daniel

Dan 2:45 God has made known to you what shall come to pass... certain and sure

Temples on earth

<u>Temple</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
1. Tabernacle	Ex 35-40	upgraded
2. Solomon's/1 st	1 Kings 5-8	destroyed on 9 th of Av
3. Zerubbabel's/Herod's/2 nd	Ezra 1-6	destroyed on 9 th of Av
4. The Church	1 Cor 3:9-17, 1 Cor 6:19-20	raptured
5. Antichrist's	Dan 9:27, Rev 11:1-2, Rev 13:14-15, Matt 24:15	destroyed 2 nd Coming
6. The Christ's (Mil Reign)	Ezk 40-48	destroyed with earth
7. Lord God Almighty and Lamb	Rev 21:1-2, 22	eternal