

THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES

Let us carefully study Luke 21:24 to 33. We quote Luke 21:24 and 27:

“And they (the Jews) 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.”

“And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”

When the Lord Jesus Christ uttered this most significant statement Israel had been under Gentile domination for more than six hundred years.

In Daniel 2:31 to 45 we are told of the beginning, the course and the culmination of “the times of the Gentiles,” politically. According to Daniel 2:43 to 45, “the times of the Gentiles” will be terminated by the coming of the King from heaven to destroy all that is left of the four great Gentile kingdoms, whether gold, silver, brass, iron, or clay. This certainly is in agreement with the termination described in Luke 21:27 to 33, the coming of the Son of man from heaven for Israel’s redemption.

We quote II Kings 25:8, 9 and 21:

“And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month, which is the nineteenth year of king Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, came Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, unto Jerusalem.”

“And he burnt the house of the Lord and the king’s house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great man’s house burnt he with fire.”

“And the king of Babylon smote them, and slew them at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was carried out of their land.”

Daniel 2:44: “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.”

In Daniel 2:42 to 44 we learn that “the times of the Gentiles” will be fulfilled when the King comes from heaven. In Acts 13:23 we learn that Jesus Christ was born in the house of David, to be Israel’s Saviour. Now let us read Luke 1:68 and 74: “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He hath visited and redeemed His people.” “That He would grant unto us that we, being delivered out of the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear.”

Luke 19:42 and 44: “Saying, if thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.”

“And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.”

Luke 13:35: “Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see Me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.”

In the last chapter of II Kings and the last chapter of Jeremiah we learn when and how “the times of the Gentiles,” politically, began, with Nebuchadnezzar’s conquest of Jerusalem and the captivity of the Jews. When Jesus Christ came to Israel the first time as their Messiah and Deliverer they rejected Him. But when He comes the second time they will receive Him. “The times of the Gentiles” will end with the coming of the Son of man to be Israel’s Redeemer. Then

in Amos 9:14 and 15 and in Ezekiel 37:25 we learn of Israel's earthly glory after the times of the Gentiles will be brought to an end.

“And I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God.” Amos 9:14 and 15.

“For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.”

“And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave your fathers and ye shall be My people, and I will be your God.” Ezekiel 36:24 and 28

“And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob My servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children and their children's children for ever: and My servant David shall be their prince for ever.” Ezekiel 37:25.

Now study carefully Luke 1:67 to 72 and Luke 19:43 to 45 and Luke 13:35, which we have quoted above.

Jesus Christ was born to redeem Israel from the hands of her enemies, the Gentiles. Israel knew not the things that belonged to her peace. Israel knew not the time of her visitation. They would not have Christ to reign over them. Luke 19:14 and 15. Therefore, the words of Christ in Matthew 21:43:

Therefore say I unto you, the kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

In 1944 A. D. we are still living in “the times of the Gentiles,” politically, and the kingdom has not yet been restored to Israel. Acts 1:6. God has not yet sent Christ back from heaven to bring about the restitution of all things. Acts 3:21 and Luke 1:70.

THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES—SPIRITUALLY

After the Gentiles conquered the Jews and ruled over them God still blessed the Gentiles, spiritually, through the Jews.

And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day, And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.” Esther 8:17

Ye worship ye know not what; we know what we worship for salvation is of the Jews.” John 4:22.

“And He answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

“But He answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.” Matthew 15:24 and 26.

“He came unto His own (Israel) and His own received Him not.” John 1:11.

“Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phoenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the Word to none but unto the Jews only.” Acts 11:19.

“Unto you (Jews) first God, having raised up His Son Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.” Acts 3:26.

“Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the Word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.” Acts 13:46.

“For as ye (Gentiles) in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their (the Jews’) unbelief.” Romans 11:30.

“For if the casting away of them (Israel) be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?” Romans 11:15.

From these verses and from many other Scriptures we learn that the beginning of “the times of the Gentiles,” politically, did not mark the beginning of “the times of the Gentiles,” spiritually. Read the place of Israel in God’s religious and spiritual program in Romans 9:4 to 6.

In Esther 8:17 we learn that the Persian Gentiles became Jews, religiously. Jesus Christ said that salvation was of the Jews; that He was sent to Israel only; that it was not right to take the bread of Israel, the children, and give it unto Gentiles, the dogs. The dogs received the crumbs from the children’s table. The children were under the dogs (the Gentiles), politically, but the dogs had to receive their spiritual blessings from Israel. Note the proselytes in Acts 2:10. Note Romans 15:27:

“It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.”

Jesus Christ came unto His own (Israel). Seven or eight years after the rejection and resurrection of Christ the disciples and apostles of Christ were all Jews and went to Jews only. Acts 11:19. It was not yet lawful for them to do otherwise. Acts 10:28. It then became lawful. Hence the words of Peter to Cornelius:

“Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him.” Acts 10:34 and 35.

Up to this time God’s order was, “to the Jews first and only.” Acts 3:25 and 26. Then, several years later, Paul said, “to you Jews first and then to the Gentiles,” because the Jews refused the Word of God. Acts 13:46. Romans 1:16. The Gentiles obtained mercy because of Israel’s unbelief. Romans 11:30. Israel was cast away and reconciliation was then sent to Gentiles, to provoke Israel to jealousy. Romans 11:11.

Then the message of Romans 10:12 and Ephesians 2:19: “For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him.” Romans 10:12.

“Now therefore ye (Gentiles) are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God.” Ephesians 2:19.

When God set aside His religious “kingdom” nation by sending blindness upon all but the remnant, according to the election of grace (Romans 11:6 to 10), “the times of the Gentiles,” spiritually, began. Paul is called “the apostle of the Gentiles.” Romans 11:13. After reading Romans 11:6 to 15 and Acts 28:25 to 28 we surely will not believe that God’s order is “to the Jews first” now.

Note the course and culmination of the times of the Gentiles, spiritually:

“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: as it is written, there shall come out of Zion the Deliverer and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.” Romans 11:25 and 26.

“For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation He made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ).” Ephesians 3:1 to 4.

“Notwithstanding, the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.” II Timothy 4:17.

Having abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in Himself of twain One New Man, so making peace.” Ephesians 2:15.

“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a Perfect Man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:13.

“And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the Head over all things to the Church, Which is His body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all.” Ephesians 1:22 and 23.

“That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word. That He might present it to Himself a glorious Church not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” Ephesians 5:26 and 27.

Blind Israel is now the outcast nation. The fulness of the Gentiles will come in. In the meantime we are living under “the dispensation of the grace of God,” revealed as God’s mystery to the apostle Paul. Ephesians 3:1 to 4. The Church in the age of grace is “the Body of Christ.” This Body of Christ is to be the fulness of Christ; the filling-up of Christ: “For as the body is one and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.” I Corinthians 12:12.

God will complete the One New Man. Ephesians 2:15. Christ is going to present the Church unto Himself as a glorious, spotless Church. Note again the climax of this “grace” Church age:

“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a Perfect Man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:13.”

This is one of the most wonderful verses in all the Bible. It is concerning the one Body of Ephesians 4:4 and 12. That Body is growing up into the Head, fitly joined together. Ephesians 4:15 and 16. When complete, or full, the Head and Body together will be the Perfect Man, the stature of the fulness of Christ. When Christ appears for His Church He will not come to earth as the Son of man.

The Son of man will come to earth, during the great tribulation, to end “the times of the Gentiles,” politically. Before that, Christ will come in the air as the Head of the Church, to call the living members of His Body, together with those who have departed to be with Him, to meet Him in glorified bodies. This will be the end of “the times of the Gentiles,” spiritually. Then the kingdom of heaven will be established on earth and there will be the fulfillment of such prophecies as Zechariah 14:4 to 9 and Isaiah 9:6 and 7 and Isaiah 2