

Times Of The Gentiles / Luke 21:20-36

What time is it on God's prophetic clock? This is an important question for the church. It is critical that we study the Bible to learn how prophecy relates to the time we live in.

Our text mentions the "days of vengeance". This covers two different time periods that refer to the siege of Jerusalem. This was a specific warning to the Jews living in Jerusalem. It foretold of a time when the governments of the world would be given the authority to oppress the nation of Israel. The Bible refers to this as the "times of the gentiles".

The first siege of Jerusalem occurred in AD 70. General Titus surrounded the city for many days. There were about two million Jews in the city. The people were in an extremely desperate situation. During the siege, they suffered starvation and sickness due to over crowding and contaminated water. The conditions were so bad that some even resorted to cannibalism. There was no escape from the brutality of the Roman soldiers as they invaded the city. They burned down the temple and slaughtered the people. Some of the Jews were captured and were taken away into slavery. Eventually, the Romans desecrated the city of Jerusalem by building a temple to their god, Jupiter. These were perilous times in the history of the nation of Israel. However, God allowed this to happen because of their grievous sins.

In our present day, prophecy is still unfolding concerning the Jews. The times of the gentiles is not over. There is still a spirit of anti-Semitism in our world. The Temple Mount has an Islamic mosque built on it. This holy place is once again desecrated by worship to a false god. There will be no end to the suffering of the Jews until they repent and accept Jesus as their Messiah.

The Jews missed their visitation and they missed the signs of coming judgement. As Christians, we must not fail to discern the signs of the times in this day of grace. We are admonished by God to know them and to heed their warnings. The church age is coming to a close and we must be focused on the soon return of our Lord. Now is the time to make our salvation sure and to prepare our homes as we urgently seek the face of God. The church has a great hope in the promise of the rapture! "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." (Titus 2:13) We will escape judgement if we are prepared and looking for the return of our Lord.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION

1. What are some of the signs of the end times? II Timothy 3:1-7
2. How can Christians escape the coming judgement? I Thessalonians 5:1-9
3. Discuss the importance of your salvation and your daily walk with God.