



Grace Fellowship Church
Pastor/Teacher, Jim Rickard
Thursday, June 23, 2022

Luke Chapter 21

V. The Condemnation of the Son of Man for Men, Luke 19:28-24:49.

B. Monday/Tuesday; Luke 19:45-21:38.

6. The apocalyptic discourse, Luke 21:5-38.

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e. Jesus' 2nd prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., vs. 20-24. Cf. Luke 19:41-44.

Vs. 24

Luke 21:24, “And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”

The Times of the Gentiles

Technically, the “**Times of the Gentiles**,” KAIROS ETHNOS, “**are fulfilled**,” PLEROO, **Luke 21:24**, should be distinguished from the, “**fulness of the Gentiles**,” HO PLEROMA HO ETHNOS, **Rom 11:25**. The “Times of the Gentiles” was ushered in with the overthrow of the southern kingdom by Babylon in 606-5 B.C. and the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by Nebuchadnezzar, around 586 B.C., at which time Jerusalem was under the control of Gentile people, which will continue through the Great Tribulation until the return of Christ to establish His kingdom on earth. As Paul uses the phrase, “**The fulness of the Gentiles**,” it began with the calling out of the Church on the Day of Pentecost, and will continue until the Rapture of the Church. The “**Fulness of the Gentiles**” speaks to the insertion of the Church Age into the Age of Israel, the intercalation of the Dispensation of the Church. The “Times of the Gentiles,” speaks to the authority the Gentiles had over Jerusalem that will occur until the Second Advent of Jesus Christ. The two periods are overlapping, yet the “Times of Gentiles” began more than 600 years before the Church Age.

A. The “Times of the Gentiles” and Client Nations.

1. Jesus Christ uses this term in **Luke 21:24**, as a warning for the Jews of the removal of Judea as a client nation. Everyone fully understood that Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. Therefore, this phrase would remind them of that historical fact and act as a warning for the current generation. Mature believers, Jew and Gentile, are to know from the intake of Bible doctrine that Judea will be destroyed. By practical application of this passage, the pivot, (positive believers within a client nation), was delivered. Someone always gets hurt in historical disaster: 1,100,000 were killed, 97,000 taken captive.
2. The “Times of the Gentiles” refers to the fact that from 70 A.D. until the Rapture, Tribulation, and Second Advent of our Lord, only Gentile nations will be client nations to God. In the Tribulation, only individual Jews, (144,000), will be evangelists, **Rev 7:1-8**. Yet, there will be no Jewish client nation.
3. When the 5th Cycle of Discipline, **Lev 26**, came once again in 70 A.D., it ended the function of any Jewish nation as a priest nation until the Second Advent of Christ. This was explained by both the church council in Jerusalem by James in **Acts 15:13-18**, and by the Apostle Paul in **Romans, Chapters 9-11, cf. 11:25-27**, as a delay in Israel’s program. We also note that there will be no Gentile client nation during the Tribulation, since all believers are taken to heaven before this period of great historical disaster.
4. Gentile client nations should have a maximum number of mature believers for a pivot, evangelism within their own nation, missionary activity to other nations, and provide a haven for the Jews.

5. The client nation is characterized by being pro-Semitic. No Gentile nation can be a client nation to God without providing a haven for the Jews during the “Times of the Gentiles.” Anti-Semitism automatically eliminates any nation from being a client nation to God. **Gen 12:3, “I will bless those who bless you; but the one who curses, (*despises*), you, I will curse. And through you, all the nations of the earth will be blessed.”**

6. During the Tribulation, there will be a Jewish nation, but it will not be a client nation. There will be a great evangelistic thrust by 144,000 Jews and the return of the two great witness, probably Moses and Elijah. But Israel is not restored as a client nation until the Second Advent.

7. When the Rapture occurs, there is no pivot, no believers, and no client nation. That is why angels, Moses, and Elijah, in addition to the 144,000 Jews are used during the Tribulation for the evangelization of the world. In the meantime, we have the “Times of the Gentiles,” which began in 70 A.D. and continues until the Second Advent.

B. The “Fullness of the Gentiles,” Rom 11:25.

Rom 11:25, “For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed, (*AGNOEO*, “ignorant”), of this mystery (*Church Age doctrine*)—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.”

“**Gentile nations**” is the Greek word ETHNOS, as noted above. This word means Gentiles and Gentile nations. The full measure of the Gentile nations is all the Gentile client nations from the fall of Israel in 70 A.D. until the end of the Church Age. The full measure of the Gentiles has to do with the fact that there will always be Gentile client nations until the resurrection of the Church. Then during the Tribulation, there is no Gentile client nation and Israel is not yet restored as a client nation. At that time, there will be only evangelism, including that of the 144,000 Jews, the two witnesses, and other believers both Jew and Gentile. Therefore, the Dispensation of the Church and the completion of the Jewish Age, (i.e., the 7-year Tribulation), both occur while Israel is out under the Fifth Cycle of Discipline.

C. The Times of the Gentiles.

1. During these times of the Gentiles, no Jewish nation can be a client nation to God, not until the Second Advent of Jesus Christ and the fulfillment of the four unconditional covenants to Israel, (Abrahamic, Palestinian, Davidic, and New Covenant - a people, land, king/throne, and kingdom). Yet, there could be no Gentile client nations until the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, so that any born again Jew could be part of a client nation that is not Israel. The full measure of the Gentiles does not exclude the Jew at all.

2. This first Gentile pivot was headquartered in Ephesus. It can be called the Aegean pivot as it spread to Greece, Cyprus, Crete, Northern Africa, and Rome.

3. Next was the S.P.Q.R., i.e., the senate and the people of Rome, which we call the Roman Empire. This was in many ways the greatest gentile client nation to God. This second pivot was the pivot around the Roman sea, under the one hundred year reign of the Antoine Caesars. The Mediterranean Sea became a Roman lake. When the Roman Empire reached its peak with a large pivot, there was the golden age of the Antoine Caesars, 96 - 192 A.D. The historian Gibbon called this period the “golden age of humanity.” The period of the Antoine Caesars was a time of dictatorship, and yet a time of the most fantastic blessing. This proves that the issue is not the type of government, but the pivot of believers.

4. Other great gentile client nations of the past include the Goths, the Franks, the Swiss under Calvin and Zwingli, Scotland under Patrick, Sweden under Gustavus Adolphus, parts of Germany under Luther, France under the Huguenots, Great Britain, and Brandenburg Prussia under Frederick the great.

It began with the Roman Empire as they converted to Christianity. When the Roman Empire fell in 476 A.D.,

God had already used the Goths as His client nation during the 4th century. Scotland and Ireland were client nations during the 5th and 6th centuries. The Franks were a client nation during the 8th and 9th centuries; the Vikings were during the 10th century. Germany under Luther, and Switzerland under Calvin were client nations during the 16th century. Sweden under Gustavus Adolphus, and the Huguenots during the 17th century were client nations. Brandenburg-Prussia under the Hohenzollerns were a client nation during the 18th century. England was the same during the reign of Victoria in the 19th century. And the United States of America has been a client nation from 1776 until the present. These are just a few examples. (See the Doctrine of the Pivot by R.B. Thieme Jr., for the geopolitical advance of the pivot in the Church Age.)

D. The Millennial Reference to Israel as a Priest Nation.

Isa 61:5-8a, “You will be called priests of Jehovah.”

1. Israel will be restored as the client nation to God at the Second Advent and throughout the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ here on earth. Then it will function as His representative nation on the earth for the entire Millennium. There will not be a Jewish client nation to God until Jesus Christ provides for it at His Second Advent.