

Series: ISRAEL'S IMPENDING INDIGNATION

Understanding the Prophecies of Daniel

The Times of The Gentiles

Daniel chapters 2 and 7

In part 1 of this 7-part series in Daniel, we see the prophetic succession of Gentile dominance of Israel. Jesus coined two key phrases in the Olivet Discourse,

(1) **"Times of the Gentiles"** (Luke 21) (2) **"Tribulation"** (Matthew 24)

Jesus identified the context of these phrases by referencing Daniel chapter 8:11,12; 9:24-27; "spoken of by Daniel the prophet... whoso readeth, let him understand." Jesus said that after the worldwide dispersion of Jews, Jerusalem would continue to be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." (Luke 21:24) Daniel predicted:

- (1) The Times of the Gentiles would culminate during the "end of the indignation,"
- (2) The coming of the Messiah/Christ to rescue and redeem Israel would be at the end of **"the Indignation/Tribulation"**
- (3) The Destruction of the godless Gentile powers by the Messiah
- (4) The establishment of the kingdom promised to Israel on Earth.

How do we determine that "Indignation" and "Tribulation" describe the same time period? Jewish scholars in the Septuagint used the phrase "tribulation" from the Greek θλίψις - thlipsis meaning persecution, tribulation, trouble for the Hebrew word *za'am*, meaning [*froth* at the mouth, (figuratively), *fury* (especially of God's displeasure with sin): - angry, wrath, indignation, rage.] Jeremiah calls this end time "the time of Jacob's *tsarah* - trouble" (Jer. 30:7).

It is necessary to understand both of the keywords in our title. Impending and Indignation are best illustrated by the current Gaza Hostage release/ceasefire scenario in which President Trump set a deadline for all hostages in Gaza to be released by noon Saturday, February 15th, 2025, or "All bets are off," among other phraseology. Iran's proxies Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis have acted with Indignation against "thy people" Israel for the last 16 months. Now after a brief cease-fire Israel, backed by the US is ready to unleash tactical military INDIGNATION on Hamas.

Isn't it interesting that in recent weeks President Trump has used the phrases the US "will take Gaza," "own Gaza." He further espoused relocating all Gazans and leading neighboring nations and our allies to rebuild Gaza. He has since qualified his initiative to say the US will not "buy" or own it but rather control it until the rebuilding is complete. He has further declared that the "Palestinians" will not be allowed back into Gaza. These statements have caused the Arab League of Nations to bristle with anger. Israeli liberals and liberals in the West are apoplectic with outrage as well.

Last week, we studied the relationship between God and Gaza in detail. We determined that Gaza was included in the territory deeded to Abram by God and was also specified as land belonging to the tribe of Judah by Joshua. In a recent rabbinic panel, the point was made that since Orthodox Jews reject the two-state solution with Palestinians, how is it justifiable to accept a two-state solution with America? In our last study, we dealt with the danger and yes even curse for "parting" or "dividing" God's land. **The Anti-Christ will do that during the time of Indignation = Tribulation.** "Thus shall he do in the most strong holds **with a strange god**, whom he shall acknowledge *and* increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and **shall divide the land for gain**" (Dan. 11:39). "I will plead with them there for my people and *for* my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and **parted my land.**" Joel 3:2 Gentile America has trodden Jerusalem under foot for years by using our aid as strings to restrain them. Prayerfully the Trump administration who is fully supportive of Israel will not "step on" Israel as he seeks a broader peace with the Arabs in the Abraham accords. If he forces Israel to agree to a two-state solution thereby conceding parts of Judea and Samaria for a Palestinian state, then America will experience God's indignation.

The Indignation

Contextual usage –anger of man against man, specifically Jews/Israel, or for God’s anger against Israel’s enemies. “But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he **was wroth**, and took great, **indignation** and mocked the Jews” (Nehemiah 4:1 Esther 5:9; Psalm 69:24).

The Target of Indignation – Israel “against the God of gods” “against the holy Covenant” (11:30, “destroy the mighty and the holy people.” (8:24) “what shall befall thy people” (10:14)

The Timing of the Indignation – a specific period of wrath near the end of the Times of the Gentiles. “a time appointed” “last end” “the end,” “till the indignation be accomplished,” “in the latter days” (10:14) “Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the **last end of the indignation**: for at the time appointed **the end shall be**” (Daniel 8:19).

The final Gentile ruler during the time of the indignation will arise and claim to be deity.

“And the king shall do according to his will, and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till **the indignation** be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.” (Daniel 11:36).

A definite time of wrath from God is coming at the peak of Gentile rage against His people Israel.

Psalm 2 “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying*, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou *art* my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give *thee* the heathen *for* thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth *for* thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish *from* the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all they that put their trust in him.”

Portions of Daniel’s prophecy would remain sealed until “the time of the end” (Daniel 12:9). The majority of the sealed prophecies were unveiled in the Epistle of 2 Thessalonians and the Revelation of Jesus Christ through the Apostle John. Some mystery remains concealed when it can only be understood in “real-time” by the two witnesses and by the 144,000 witnesses in the Great Tribulation period (Rev. 7,11). Before that time NO ONE can know all the sealed mysteries of Daniel and Revelation. If they say they can, DO NOT BUY THEIR BOOK.

“In God’s dealings with the nations, the importance of Israel is paramount. Therefore, it seems paradoxical that a major portion of Israel’s history is eclipsed by what is referred to as ‘the times of the Gentiles.’ What does this time period mean, and what are its implications for Israel? The phrase initially appears in Luke 21:24 and-describes a prophetic timeline given centuries earlier by the Jewish prophet Daniel.

In Daniel chapters two and seven Israel is portrayed as being trodden down under the heel of the gentile nations. Each chapter visualizes Israel’s suppression from a different viewpoint.

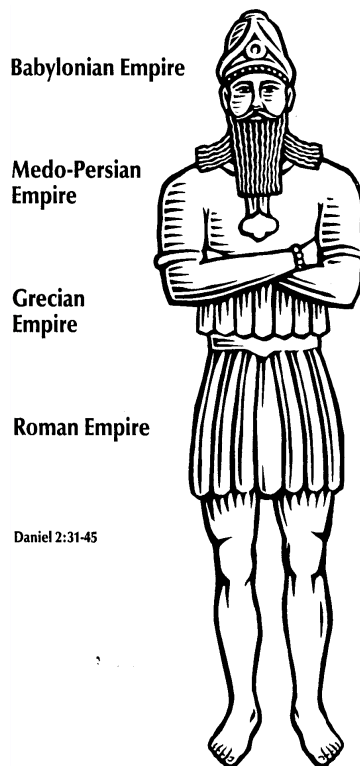
In chapter two, the vision of Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon, represents man’s egotistical perspective of world dominion. He dreamed of a giant statue that resembled a man. The statue’s head was of gold, its breast and arms of

silver, its belly and thighs of brass, its legs of iron, and its feet were made of clay and iron mixture. In the dream, the statue was pulverized by a flying “stone cut out of a mountain without hands.” This stone then grew to fill the earth like a mountain (Daniel 2:31, 25).

The vision of Daniel in chapter 7 reveals God’s sovereign assessment of the political system. In this dream, four beasts represent the nations, rising from the “great sea.” These beasts include a lion, a bear, a leopard, and a fourth beast that is terrible in appearance and ferocity. This fourth hideous beast had ten horns and teeth of iron. From the ten horns, another horn emerges, uprooting three horns and boasting incredible things. This “little horn” was judged and slain by fire from the “Ancient of Days.” After this judgment, World dominion was then given to the “Son of man” and his saints for all eternity (Daniel 7:4-14).

The two dreams explain in detail the “times of the gentiles.” During this time Israel is to be trodden underfoot until her eventual deliverance spiritual redemption and restoration to national glory by the Messiah.

One may ask, has not Israel always suffered at the hands of other nations? The answer is no, not always. There was an era from the Exodus through the reign of David and climaxing under Solomon’s rule when gentile kingdoms trembled at the mention of Israel. What happened? For thousands of years, the only peace Israel has known is a piece of hope. Can Israel have any expectations of peace in the future? Yes, a look at the meanings of the two dreams in Daniel will reveal that a large percentage of Israel’s suppression is now history.”ⁱ A parallel of the two dreams is illustrated by the following chart.



Man’s View		God’s View		Interpretation		Historical
Daniel 2	Verse	Daniel 7	Verse	4 Kingdoms	Verse	Dates
Golden Head	32	Lion	4	Babylon	2:38	600-550 BC
Silver Chest	32	Bear	5	Media Persia	5:31	550-338 BC
Brass Midriff	32	Leopard	6	Greece	8:31	338-63 BC
Iron Legs	33	Beast	7	Rome		63 BC – 476
Feet (clay, iron)	41-43		8	Roman dissolution	2:44	AD 477 – 1956 AD
Saints persecuted		10 horns		10 Kings	7:11	
	34, 35	Little horn	8	The Beast (Antichrist)	7:14	7 yr. Tribulation
Flying stone	44	Son of Man	13	Messiah		Glorious Appearing
Global Mountain		Saints Ruling	27	Israel redeemed restored		1000 year Millennium
Rebellion		Rod of Iron		Kingdom		
				Great White Throne		Earth & Heavens dissolved by fire
				Judgment		
New Earth		New Heaven		Eternal Kingdom		Eternity

“History validates the reality of Daniel’s prophetic dreams. The four gentile world empires arose and fell in succession, just as God foretold they would. However, a deeper examination raises several questions. If Rome fell, why is the Messiah not ruling on earth now through the saints of Israel? Could it be that the Roman Empire still exists today?

In our next study, we will discover how the last phase of the 4th part of each dream represented by ten toes and ten horns are ten kings or kingdoms. Since the fourth Gentile empire was Rome then the title “Revived Roman Empire” was coined to describe this final phase of the fourth empire. The history of the decline of the Roman Empire will provide clues. In what manner did this final form of the Roman Empire fall? It is clear from Daniel 2:44, that the ten-toed form of this fourth kingdom would be shattered by a supernatural blow from God. That was not the case with the destruction of Rome nor of Constantinople. Rather than instantaneous cessation by a cataclysmic cosmic event, the gradual disintegration of the empire spanned a millennium. If Rome ceased in the manner Daniel described, then the Mediterranean world should now be under the eternal rule of God’s saints. Covenant Reformed theology wrongly explains that the Church replaced Israel, and the Church is the spiritual Kingdom that ruled the ancient regions of the empire. But the state-run Churches of Europe were entirely Gentile and anti-Semitic, persecuting the “holy people.” The times of the Gentile domination of Israel and Jews should have ended, putting Israel at the head of all nations (7:27). The opposite happened. Gentile state churches and their crusades continually trod Jerusalem down.

Jews and Gentiles alike need not fear this coming apocalypse if their faith is in the Savior, Jesus the Messiah. God has promised to rapture all believers in Christ from the earth, just prior to the Beast’s peace covenant which begins the Tribulation/Indignation. We must avoid eisegesis: reading into the text of prophetic scripture from the latest headlines. We should weigh today’s headlines by the contextual study/exegesis, of Bible prophecies. When we have done that then we should ask, How should we then live? We must heed the exhortation of Paul, “knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light” (Rom. 13:11,12). The coming of Jesus to catch away believers to heaven is imminent. Israel’s Indignation is approaching. If the Rapture happens today, will we be taken to heaven with him or will we be massacred or killed in the catastrophic cataclysmic events of the horrible seven-year tribulation? The only guarantee of salvation from the penalty of our sin and from the worst period in history is to repent and believe on Jesus the Lord as our atoning Savior/Messiah. He alone can be our *Czar Shalom* - Prince of Peace. If he has given us peace with God, then we must take advantage of the little time we may have left to share this peace, especially with the Jewish people around us. It is heartbreaking to see the burgeoning antisemitism around us. The difficulties that Jews are beginning to encounter now pale in comparison to the coming double holocaust described in Zechariah 13:8,9 and Revelation 12:1-6.

Jesus warned the Jews of that final period of indignation “Jerusalem will be trodden under foot until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.” The sad thing is when Christians are apathetic, arrogant, or worse antisemitic against the Jews who gave us the Bible, the Savior, and the Church. The gentile church has trodden the Jews under foot. Paul warns us:

“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.” Rom 11:25 “In part” indicates that not all Jews are not blind. “to Israel until” indicates that national blindness is temporary. “fulness of the gentiles be come in” does not mean that no Jews can be saved until the “fulness” or last Gentile is saved. “Fullness” is not the term used for accounting in Greek. The word used here is Πλήρωμα plērōma has the idea of completing full circle. In other words when the Gospel of the Jew-Jesus through the Jewish Apostles to the Jew First and to every creature comes full circle from Gentile believers back to the Jewish people. Actually their salvation is prevented more by our blindness than theirs and by our conceitedness, than their condition. After the Church is raptured, saved Jews (144,000) will reach a greater percentage of the earth's population in three and a half years than the church has reached in the last 2000 years. (Revelation 7,11,14). Should we be sowing the seed of the Gospel among the ones who can produce that final harvest?

ⁱ The Impending Day of The Lord, Stanley Rosenthal, Messianic Ministry To Israel, V121A, Chattanooga , TN, 1983, pp 6-9