

Rediscovering Jesus in the Jewish Gospels

Prophecy Come Alive part 2 of 4

Thy Kingdom Postponed

Lesson 45 Matthew 23:34 – 24:2

(23:37 - 24:2) serves as a prelude to The Olivet Discourse, the title given to the last sermon of Jesus, which was delivered on the Mount of Olives just two days before His crucifixion. An understanding of what prompted the disciple's questions begins with their expectations of the fulfillment of the kingdom prophecies in the Tanakh - Old Testament. This same kingdom message of John the Baptist was continued by Jesus for the first two years of His ministry. Matthew contains 37 mentions of the kingdom. Mark, Luke, and John contain 49 mentions of the promised Kingdom of which approximately half are duplicates of Matthew's account. As the disciples left Jericho they had talked of who would have the top positions in the Kingdom (20:21-24). Jesus rebuked them for their ambition and emphasized the greatness of humility and service. They saw His great reception on Palm Sunday and heard the chants of "Hallelujah to the Son of David". They had witnessed the mass healing of the blind and the lame the day before (21:14). They had just walked through the vast 37-acre complex which was nearing the final phases of four decades of reconstruction by King Herod (26:61). They were awestruck at the marvelous buildings in which they presumptuously craved office space in His Kingdom. They came "to show Him the buildings of the Temple" (Matthew 24:1) "some spake of the temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts" (Luke 21:5). His answer shocked them. "See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." His previous statements gave a forewarning.

"Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the Lord" (Matthew 23:35-39).

This built upon what He had said just before His Triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

"when He came near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, 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... because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation." (Luke 19:41-44)

The Apostles who were still oblivious to the possibility of His crucifixion, were beginning to understand that this literal Kingdom was not ready to happen yet. He had rescinded the offer of the literal kingdom to "this generation" and promised it would be given to "another nation" of Israel in the end times (Matthew 21:23) who were repentant and in faith would proclaim Him Messiah and LORD. It was taboo to say anything against the Temple inside of the Temple. It was even more daring to suggest that the Temple would be destroyed. Therefore, they waited until they crossed the Kidron Valley and ascended the Mount of Olives before daring to ask. They were in shock that everything they had expected to culminate with His entry into Jerusalem was not going to happen. Like us, they were thinking only about how it affected them and were oblivious to Jesus' frame of mind. He had just been officially rejected and His death was being plotted as He spoke. With this concise statement, He snapped them back to the sad spiritual reality. As we expound this chapter, "all these things" will become a key to interpreting this passage (24:2,3,5,33).

What in the end of the world could He be talking about?

Definitions "Your house is left unto you desolate" (23:38) This is terminology of the...

1. Davidic Covenant

- A literal Temple would be built – “house for my name.”
- A literal Kingdom “thy kingdom”
- A literal family dynasty and national dynasty “thy house and thy kingdom” “his kingdom”

“ I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I put away before thee. And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established forever. According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.”

2. Destruction of the worship house – the Temple – “not one stone left standing” Matthew 24:2
3. The desolation of “house...kingdom...and throne” could not be permanent (2 Samuel 7:12-17).
“For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and *without* teraphim”
“Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.” (Hosea 3:4,5)
4. Loss of independent self-governing body – The Sanhedrin - “Moses’ seat” Matthew 23:2 Loss of the stewardship of the nation -“vineyard”- parable (Matthew 21:41-45)

Jesus taught that the Kingdom would not be established until He returned and that the future leaders of Israel would recognize and receive Him as the King Messiah, just as the multitudes did on Palm Sunday. Chapter 24 answers their questions regarding the things that are going to happen before His return to earth as Messiah King to establish Israel’s promised Kingdom. (24:3)

Definitions “the end of the world?” ((Greek αἰὼν αἰὼν -properly an *age*), end of the age

End of what age? the “times of the Gentiles” dominating Israel (Luke 22:24).

“Jerusalem will be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.” The Times of the Gentiles started with Israel’s Babylonian Captivity in 586 BC and lasts until Jesus returns. **Times of the Gentiles** is detailed in Prophecy of Daniel about four consecutive Gentile world powers.

Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar’s grandiose dream of Humanism, portrayed in a giant statue with a Head of Gold, as the deification of man by global empires that began with Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon followed by Media Persia, Greece, then by the Roman Empire. Although the prophecy was beginning to be fleshed out in Daniel’s time, the conclusion of the fourth Gentile Roman empire in a hybrid final form would be destroyed supernaturally and be replaced by the Kingdom of God in the latter days.

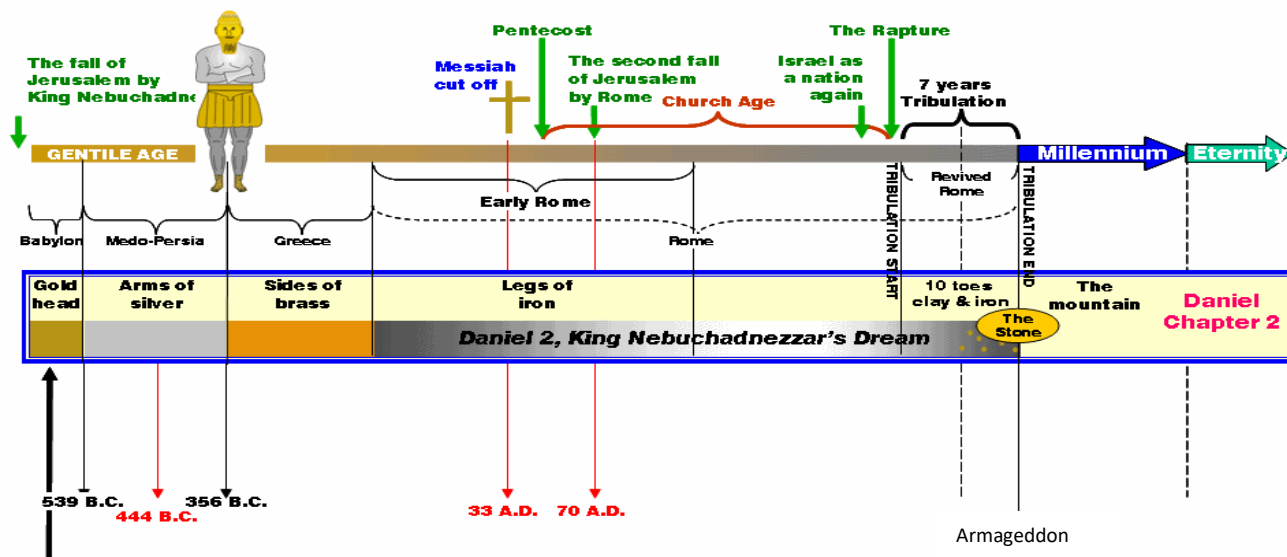
Daniel 2:28 “But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar **what shall be in the latter days.**”

Daniel 2:40-45 And **the fourth kingdom** shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all *things*: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, **the kingdom shall be divided**; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And *as* the toes of the feet *were* part of iron, and part of clay, **so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.** And

whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. 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. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the **stone was cut out of the mountain without hands**, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure. “

The Times of the Gentile World Domination of Israel is illustrated in this chart.¹

Daniel 2 Timeline – Age of the Gentiles



Daniel was given a dream in chapter 7 presenting God’s view of the four global Gentile Kingdoms as ravaging beasts the fourth of which has 10 horns (corresponding to the “then toes” in the first dream). A “little horn” arises and dominates the rest and makes “war with the saints and prevails” for three and a half years (as Jesus will detail in (Matthew 24:6-15;21-26) who will be destroyed by the “Son of Man” (corresponding to the stone cut out without hands) in the power of the “Ancient of Days” and delivering the saints who will then rule in His everlasting kingdom.

(Daniel 7:1-7,13,14,18-27) “In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, *and* told the sum of the matters. Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night,After this I saw in the night visions, and **behold a fourth beast**, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it *was* diverse from all the beasts that *were* before it; and it had ten horns. I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed. These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth. But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever. Then I would know the truth of the **fourth beast**, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth *were* of iron, and his nails *of* brass; *which* devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; And of the ten horns that *were* in his head, and *of* the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look *was* more stout than his fellows. I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the

Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. Thus he said, **The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth,** which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy *it* unto the end. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.”

Definitions “thy coming”

This is referred to as “the Second Coming” of “2nd Advent” referring to prophecies of the Messiah of Israel coming literally to the earth, Jerusalem and His feet touching down on the Mt. of Olives to be enthroned as King and rule the earth for 1000 years. Matthew 24,25 in no way fits the description of the Rapture of the Church, where saints are caught up in the air to meet the Lord in the clouds, as detailed in (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17). This will become evident as we expound (24:36-41).

The disciples were only told that Jesus would come for them (John 14:23). The concept of the rapture as detailed in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 had not been written about yet. “I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.” this does not describe Jesus coming in power to defeat Israel’s enemies and set up an eternal Kingdom. They would have only known scriptures such as Daniel and Zechariah 14:4.

“his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which *is* before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, *and there shall be* a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.”

“Tribulation” and “Great Tribulation” (24: 21,29)

Definitions - Tribulation Matt. 24 is the first mention of the term “tribulation” but not the first mention of the end of days, time-period. In Matt. 24:15 Jesus gives a footnote credit to the Jewish Prophet Daniel (Dan. 9:24-27) for the basis of His teaching on the Tribulation times.

- A. Connection to Prophecy - The connecting terminology Jesus links the Tribulation period to Daniel with the phrase “the abomination of desolation” Matthew 24:15, Daniel 9:27
- B. Object of Tribulation – God’s judgment of those nations who come “against thy people and upon thy holy city”. Daniel 9:24-27
- C. How long is this period?

In Daniel, we discover the length - a seven-year period. This week or “seven” Heb. – “shabua” is the last 7 years of 70 sevens of years. It is clear that “seventy weeks” is literally 70 -7s and the context of the chapter is years, (9:1) totaling 490 years. The six things described in 9:24 did not take place within 70 weeks or 490 days. Earlier in Daniel chapter 7 we see that the final 7 year period will have an intense time tribulation that will continue until the “consummation” or completion of the seven years. . “for a time , and times and the dividing of time” (7:24) or 3 & ½ years. The Apostle John describes the same event enduring for “42 months”. Rev. 11:2 - The period that Jesus coined as “Tribulation” will last 7 years and the last 3 & ½ years (42 months) will be a time of “Great Tribulation.”

We covered Daniel's prophetic timeline in Lesson 39 in Matthew chapter 21. Here's a brief summary:

THE SEVENTY WEEKS OF DANIEL AS UNDERSTOOD BY SIR ROBERT ANDERSON IN THE COMING PRINCE

"Daniel 9:24-25 says that from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem to the coming of the Messiah there will be 483 years. Daniel was told there would be 70 (שִׁבְעִים shib'îym) sevens (שָׁבוּעַ' shâbûa'). The context of Daniel 9 who was reading the prophecy of Jeremiah 25:11,12;29:10 about Israel's 70-year captivity in Babylon warrants that 70 sevens of years rather than 70 sevens of days was understood. In Daniel 9:25-27 the 70 was broken down into 7 + 62+1 Thus three groups of seven years. $7 \times 7 = 49$; $62 \times 7 = 434$ years; $1 \times 7 = 7$. $49+434 = 483$ years The one leftover seven mentioned in Daniel 9:27 was referred to by Jesus as 7 years of Tribulation and in the midst of that at the 3.5-year mark a future false Messiah will defile the end times Temple. Jesus interpretation of the 70 sevens "weeks" as years verifies Daniels's understanding of "weeks" meaning a seven of years. So we are left with the 483 years that must pass before Messiah the prince was "cut off."

Anderson used the Jewish lunar year calculation of 360 days. This is based both on ancient history and on Rev. 11:2; Rev. 13:5; Rev. 11:3; Rev. 12:6 which indicate that 42 months 3 ½ years are equal to 1,260 days. Thus, 483 years x 360 days = 173,880 days. The start of the prophetic clock according to Daniel 9:25 would be a "commandment to restore and build Jerusalem." Artaxerxes of Persia started his reign in 465 B.C. He decreed to rebuild Jerusalem on the first day of Nisan, in his 20th. In our Julian calendar system that date is March 14, 445 B.C. (Neh. 2:1) Jesus started His ministry in the 15th year of Tiberius (Luke 3:1). Tiberius started his reign in 14 A.D., so Jesus' ministry started in 29 A.D. Anderson believes that Jesus celebrated four Passovers during His ministry, one each in 29, 30, 31 and His final Passover in 32. With modern technology, Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem has been calculated in April 32 A.D. Even with different methods of calculating, Daniel gave one historic endpoint. Messiah would die before the Temple was destroyed (Daniel 9:26).

The number of days from March 14, 445 B.C. to April 6, 32 A.D. $173,740 + 24 + 116 = 173,880$. Daniel told us there would be 173,880 days between the decree and the arrival of Messiah the Prince. Jesus was correct in rebuking the elders that they should have been expecting Messiah, but they knew not "in this thy day" "the time of thy visitation."

Geopolitical Conditions – According to Daniel 7:21-25 a future prince will arise. He will be from the revived fourth Gentile world empire (Daniel 2 & 7), which we know historically to be Rome. He will establish a peace treaty with Israel and many (nations) for seven years. In the "midst" of the seven years Israel will be betrayed by this world guarantor of peace who will desecrate the newly rebuilt Jewish Temple. This "desolation" begins the last half of Daniels's 70th week an intense time known as the "Day of the Lord" (Joel 2:1-3). It is also called "Jacob's time of Trouble" (Jer. 30:6,7)(Matt. 24:15-21).

God's purpose of the Tribulation before Jesus returns to rule.

"And **I will bring you out** from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out. And **I will bring you into** the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face. Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so **will I plead with you**, saith the Lord GOD. And **I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant:** And **I will purge out from among you** the rebels, and them that transgress against me: ... and **ye shall know that I am the LORD.**" Ezekiel 20:34-38

ⁱ TSCOC-The Second Coming of Christ