

Your Kingdom Come! - 20

We heard last time how Jesus foretold the termination of the Jewish state which occurred less than 40 years later, in AD 70, when the Roman armies brutally crushed the Jewish rebellion -

“...there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. 24 And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles UNTIL the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled” - Luke 21:23.

By saying “until” he clearly shows here that the times of the Gentiles, or the age of Gentile domination of Jerusalem would surely come to an end. In speaking of this trampling, Jesus is alluding to the same figure which is used in the prophecy of Isaiah -

◆ “...I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard...it shall be trodden down...7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel” - Isaiah 5:5.

◆ “...our adversaries have trodden down Your sanctuary” - Isaiah 63:18.

The overthrow of the Jewish state is clearly referred to in Daniel’s prophecy of the Seventy Weeks. That overthrow would occur after the rejection of Jesus by the nation - “...after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off” - the crucifixion, after which the Roman armies “shall destroy the city and the sanctuary” and by the destruction of the Temple “He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering” - Daniel 9:26-28.

After that time the Jewish remnant have mourned the loss of the Temple in their annual fast of Tish’a B’Av - “How shall we sing the Lord’s song In a foreign land? 5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem, Let my right hand forget her skill! 6 If I do not remember you, Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth - If I do not exalt Jerusalem Above my chief joy” - Psalms 137:4.

Meanwhile, the testimony of Zechariah’s prophecy has all this time been declaring,

“I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on ME WHOM THEY HAVE PIERCED; they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn” - Zechariah 12:10.

It will be after this event that the fortunes of Jerusalem will blossom -

◆ “...‘Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst,’ says the Lord....And the Lord will take possession of Judah as His inheritance in the Holy Land, and will again choose Jerusalem” - Zechariah 2:10.

◆ “The Lord will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; JOY and GLADNESS will be found in it, THANKSGIVING and the VOICE OF MELODY” - Isaiah 51:3.

The city, as it were, shall be subjected to a resurrection -

“Awake, awake! Put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city! For the uncircumcised and the unclean shall no longer come to you... 9 Break forth into joy, sing together, you waste places of Jerusalem! For the Lord has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem” - Isaiah 52:1.