



END TIMES SIGNS

LUKE 21 & THE
TIMES OF THE GENTILES

OUTREACH RESTORATION BRANCH

Elder Benjamin Pedersen

In the generation in which the times of the Gentiles shall be fulfilled, there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations with perplexity, like the sea and the waves roaring. The earth also shall be troubled, and the waters of the great deep;

Men's hearts failing them **for fear**, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth. For the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up and lift up your heads, for the day of your redemption draweth nigh. And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud, with power and great glory.

Luke 21:25-28


...And the Scriptures shall be given even as they are in mine own bosom, to the salvation of mine own elect; for they will hear my voice, and shall see me, and shall not be asleep, and shall abide the day of my coming, for they shall be purified even as I am pure.

Keep all the commandments and covenants by which ye are bound, and I will cause the heavens to shake for your good, and Satan shall tremble, and Zion shall rejoice upon the hills, and flourish; and Israel shall be saved in mine own due time. And by the keys which I have given shall they be led, and no more be confounded at all. Lift up your hearts and be glad; your redemption draweth nigh. **Fear not**, little flock, the kingdom is yours until I come. Behold, I come quickly. Even so. Amen.

D&C 34:5a-b, 6

Outline of Class

1. Importance of Signs
2. Brief History of Israel & Definitions
3. Luke 21
4. Times of the Gentiles
5. Gathering of the House of Israel

A photograph of a sunset over a field of tall grass. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright yellow glow that fills the sky and the field. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a pale yellow near the horizon. A single, long, thin cloud stretches across the upper part of the sky. The grass in the foreground is tall and golden-yellow, with a path leading towards the horizon. The text "Why Know the Signs of the End Times?" is overlaid in the center of the image in a green, serif font with a black outline.

Why Know the Signs of the End Times?

Importance of the Signs

The Pharisees also, with the Sadducees, came, and tempting Jesus, desired him that he would show them a sign from heaven.

And he answered and said unto them, When it is evening ye say, The weather is fair, for the sky is red; and in the morning ye say, The weather is foul today; for the sky is red and lowering.

O hypocrites! ye can discern the face of the sky; but ye cannot tell the signs of the times.

A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the Prophet Jonas.

Matthew 16:1-4



Importance of the Signs

Surely the Lord God will do nothing, until he revealeth the secret unto his servants the prophets.

Amos 3:7

Ye hear of wars in far countries,
and you say that there will soon be
great wars in far countries, but ye
know not the hearts of men in your
own land.

I tell you these things because of
your prayers; wherefore, treasure
up wisdom in your bosoms...

D&C 38:6c-d



Importance of the Signs

Go ye into all the world; preach the gospel to every creature, acting in the authority which I have given you, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost;

And he that believeth, and is baptized, shall be saved, and he that believeth not shall be damned; and he that believeth shall be blessed with signs following, even as it is written;

And unto you it shall be given to know the signs of the times, and the signs of the coming of the Son of man; and of as many as the Father shall bear record, to you shall be given power to seal them up unto eternal life. Amen.

D&C 68:1f-h (also D&C 39:5b-6)



Importance of the Signs

For, for this intent have we written these things, that they may know that we knew of Christ, and we had a hope of his glory, many hundred years before his coming, and not only we, ourselves, had a hope of his glory, but also all the holy prophets which were before us.

Jacob 3:4

And it shall come to pass that he that feareth me shall be looking forth for the great day of the Lord to come, even for the signs of the coming of the Son of man;

and they shall see signs and wonders, for they shall be shown forth in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath;

D&C 45:6a-b

Importance of the Signs

And whoso treasureth up my words, shall not be deceived.

For the Son of Man shall come, and he shall send his angels before him with the great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together the remainder of his elect from the four winds; from one end of heaven to the other.

Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When its branches are yet tender, and it begins to put forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh at hand.

So likewise mine elect, when they shall see all these things, they shall know that he is near, even at the doors.

Matthew 24:39-43 (Cont.)→

Importance of the Signs

←(Cont.) But of that day and hour no one knoweth; no, not the angels of God in heaven, but my Father only.

And what I say unto one, I say unto all men; Watch, therefore, for ye know not at what hour Lord doth come.

But know this, if the good man of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to have been broken up; but would have been ready.

Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of Man cometh.

Matthew 24:49-51



Importance of the Signs Summary

1. O hypocrites! ye can discern the face of the sky; but ye cannot tell the signs of the times
2. He revealeth the secret unto his servants
3. I tell you these things because of your prayers; wherefore, treasure up wisdom in your bosoms
4. Unto you it shall be given to know the signs of the times
5. To have a hope of his glory
6. He that feareth God shall be looking forth for the great day of the Lord to come, even for the signs, and ye shall see signs and wonders
7. Treasureth up my words so you shall not be deceived
8. When they shall see all these signs given in the scriptures, you shall know that he is near
9. Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not

A landscape photograph of a field at sunset. A path leads from the bottom center towards the horizon. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright yellow glow. The sky is blue with some wispy clouds. The text "A Brief History of Israel & Definitions" is overlaid in the center in a green, serif font.

A Brief History of Israel & Definitions

A Brief History of Israel

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob renamed Israel



Leah

- Rueben
- Simeon
- Levi *
- Judah
- Dan
- Nephtali
- Gad
- Asher
- Issachar
- Zebulun

Rachel

- Joseph *
- Benjamin
- Manasseh
- Ephraim



* Levi was disbursed to all tribes and Joseph's blessing was given to his two sons

A Brief History of Israel

- The Northern Kingdom of Israel was destroyed and the people scattered (the 10 lost tribes of Israel)
 - There were people of these tribes in the Southern Kingdom
- The Southern Kingdom of Israel remained until around 720 B.C. (tribes of Judah and Benjamin) when it was destroyed
- Jerusalem was later rebuilt and was occupied by the Jews (Judah, Benjamin, half of Manasseh, Levi, and remnants of other tribes) until its destruction in 70 A.D.
- The people of Israel were scattered into all nations of the earth
- There was not a Nation of Israel in the modern era until 1948

A Brief History of Israel

After World War I, the League of Nations approved the British Mandate of Palestine with the intent of creating a "national home for the Jewish people." In 1947, the United Nations approved the partition of the Mandate of Palestine into two states, one Jewish and one Arab. The Arab League rejected the plan, but on May 14, 1948, Israel declared its independence. The new country's victory in the subsequent Arab-Israeli War expanded the borders of the Jewish state beyond those in the UN Partition Plan.

Since then, Israel has been in conflict with many of the neighboring Arab countries, resulting in several major wars and decades of violence until this day. Since its foundation, Israel's boundaries and even the State's very right to exist have been subject to dispute, although Israel has signed peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan, and efforts are being made to reach a permanent accord with the Palestinians.

Definitions

- **Jews** – Judah, Benjamin, Levi, some of Manasseh, other remnants
- **Israel** – All the children of Israel
 - Also anyone who is baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ
- **Gentiles** – Believe it is lost tribes of Israel
 - Could mean anyone not a Jew or Israel

House of Israel

And come unto me, and be baptized in my name, that ye may receive a remission of your sins, and be filled with the Holy Ghost, that ye may be numbered with my people, who are of the house of Israel.

3 Nephi 14:3

Luke 21



Luke 21

Questions the disciples asked Jesus:

1. What shall be the signs of the destruction of Jerusalem? (**SCATTERING**)
2. What shall be the signs of your (Christ's) second coming? (**GATHERING**)
3. What shall be the signs of the destruction of the wicked? (See class on the "Destruction of the Wicked")

Note: we're using the Inspired Version

Luke 21

Summary:

- Discusses destruction of Jerusalem and how it will be trodden down
- Prophecies signs around Christ's return
- Discusses "times of the Gentiles"
- Places MONUMENTAL significance on the fulfillment of the "times of the Gentiles"

Luke 21

5 And as some spake of the temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones, and gifts, he said,

6 These things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be lift one stone upon another, which shall not be thrown down.

7 And the disciples asked him, saying, Master, when shall these things be? And what sign wilt thou show, when these things shall come to pass?

8 And he said, The time draweth near, and therefore take heed that ye be not deceived; for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; go ye not therefore after them.

9 And when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified; for these things must first come to pass; but this is not the end.

Luke 21

10 Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights, and great signs shall there be from heaven.

11 But before all these things shall come, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you; delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons; being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake.

12 Settle this therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer;

13 For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

14 And it shall turn to you for a testimony.

Luke 21

15 And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolk, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death.

16 And ye shall be hated of all the world for my name's sake.

17 But there shall not a hair of your head perish.

18 In your patience possess ye your souls.

19 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh (**DANIEL 9**).

20 Then let them who are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let them who are in the midst of it, depart out; and let not them who are in the countries, return to enter into the city.

21 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written maybe fulfilled.

Luke 21

22 But woe unto them who are with child, and to them who give suck, in those days! For there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people.

23 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations; and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

24 Now these things he spake unto them, concerning the destruction of Jerusalem. And then his disciples asked him, saying,

Master, tell us concerning thy coming?

25 And he answered them, and said, In the generation in which the times of the Gentiles shall be fulfilled, there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations with perplexity, like the sea and the waves roaring. The earth also shall be troubled, and the waters of the great deep;

Luke 21

26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth. For the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

27 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up and lift up your heads, for the day of your redemption draweth nigh.

28 And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud, with power and great glory.

29 And he spake to them a parable, saying, Behold the fig tree, and all the trees.

30 When they now shoot forth, ye see, and know of your own selves, that summer is now nigh at hand.

31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

Luke 21

32 Verily I say unto you, this generation, the generation when the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled, shall not pass away till all be fulfilled.

33 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

34 Let my disciples therefore take heed to themselves, lest at any time their hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that day come upon them unawares.

35 For as a snare it shall come on all them who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 And what I say unto one, I say unto all, Watch ye therefore, and pray always, and keep my commandments, that ye may be counted worthy to escape all these things which shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man when he shall come clothed in the glory of his Father.

(END of selected PASSAGE)

Luke 21

Summary:

- Discusses destruction of Jerusalem and how it will be trodden down
- Prophecies signs around Christ's return
- Discusses "times of the Gentiles"
- Places MONUMENTAL significance on the fulfillment of the "times of the Gentiles"

A landscape photograph of a field at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a bright yellow glow across the sky and the field. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a pale yellow near the horizon. A single, thin, white contrail streaks across the upper portion of the sky. The foreground is filled with tall, golden-brown grasses, some of which are in sharp focus while others are blurred by a shallow depth of field. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Scattering of the Jews

Luke 21

- Questions the disciples asked Jesus:
 1. When shall be the signs of the destruction of Jerusalem? (**SCATTERING**)

19 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh (**DANIEL 9**).

20 Then let them who are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let them who are in the midst of it, depart out; and let not them who are in the countries, return to enter into the city.

21 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written maybe fulfilled.

22 But woe unto them who are with child, and to them who give suck, in those days! For there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people.

23 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations; and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

24 Now these things he spake unto them, concerning the destruction of Jerusalem.

Luke 21:19-24

Prophetic History of Jerusalem

DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM AGAIN & OCCUPATION BY OTHERS

Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles,
until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

Luke 21:23

CHRIST'S PROPHECY IS HERE

JERUSALEM HISTORY

Destruction
of Jerusalem
600B.C.



Rebuild
Jerusalem



Jerusalem
as a
carcass



Brief History of Jerusalem

Before Israel Period

- 3500 B.C. - First Settlement of Jerusalem
- 2500 B.C. - First Houses Built in Area
- 1800 B.C. - Construction of First City Wall
- 1400 B.C. - First Mention of Jerusalem in Cuneiform Amarna Letters
- 1200 B.C. - Jerusalem is conquered by Canaanites (Jebusites)

Israel's First Occupation

- 1000 B.C. - King David Conquers Jerusalem; Declares City Capital of Jewish Kingdom
- 960 B.C. - David's Son, King Solomon, Builds First Jewish Temple

Brief History of Jerusalem

First Destruction of Jerusalem

- 701 B.C. - Assyrian Ruler Sennacherib Lays Seige to Jerusalem
- 600 B.C. - Lehi and his family leave Jerusalem for the Americas
- 586 B.C. - Babylonian Forces Destroy Jerusalem and Demolish First Temple
 - The young of Israel taken captive, which includes Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-nego, and Daniel

Daniel's Vision Concerning Jerusalem (Daniel 9)

Note: red text indicates that it is not on the website noted below
(added by Benjamin)

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/vitaltoc.html>

Daniel's Vision (Desolation)

(Daniel 9:16-27)

- Prophecy over Jerusalem (490 years)
- To rebuild
- How much time until Messiah
- Prophecies what the Messiah will do
- Desolation to come upon Jerusalem (Jews) because of their abominations

See "7 Years Tribulation" class

Brief History of Jerusalem

Persian Period

- 539 B.C. - Persian Ruler Cyrus the Great Conquers Babylonian Empire, Including Jerusalem
- 516 B.C. - Cyrus Permits Jews in Babylonian Exile to Return to Jerusalem; Second Temple Built
- 445-425 B.C. - Nehemiah the Prophet Rebuilds the Walls of Jerusalem; City Confined to Eastern Hill

Hellenistic Periods

- 332 B.C. - Greek Leader Alexander the Great Conquers Judea and Jerusalem
- 332-141 B.C. - Ptolemaic and Seleucid Rule in Jerusalem
- 141 B.C. - Hasmonean Dynasty Begins; Jerusalem Again Expands Limits to Western Hill

Daniel's Vision (Desolation)

(Daniel 9:16-27)

~ 33 A.D. - Jews killed their king – crucified Jesus Christ

For the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate. And the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determinable.

Daniel 9:26-27

**Destruction was to be poured
out upon Jerusalem and the Jews**

DESOLATIONS ARE DETERMINED

Brief History of Jerusalem

Roman Period

- 63 B.C. - Roman General Pompey captures Jerusalem
- 37 B.C. - King Herod Restructures Second Temple, Adds Retaining Walls
- 30 A.D. - Jesus Crucified by Romans in Jerusalem
- 70 A.D. - Roman Forces Destroy Jerusalem and Demolish Second Temple

Prophetic History of Jerusalem

DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM AGAIN & OCCUPATION BY OTHERS

Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles,
until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

Luke 21:23

CHRIST'S PROPHECY IS HERE

JERUSALEM HISTORY

Destruction
of Jerusalem
600B.C.



Rebuild
Jerusalem



Jerusalem
as a
carcass



Daniel's Vision (Desolation)

(Daniel 9:16-27)

What happened to the Jews & the city?

In A.D.66 when Cestius came against the city, but unaccountably withdrew, [**THE WARNING**] the Christians discerned in this the sign foretold by Christ, and fled while 1,100,000 Jews are said to have been killed in the terrible siege in A.D. 70.

The slaughter within was even more dreadful than the spectacle from without. Men and women, old and young, insurgents and priests, those who fought and those who entreated mercy, were hewn down in indiscriminate carnage. The number of the slain exceeded that of the slayers. The legionaries had to clamber over heaps of dead to carry on the work of extermination.

Eusebius, Church History, book 3, chap. 5



Jerusalem became like a **CARCASS**

Scattering of the House of Israel

- 722 B.C. - Assyrians conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel and scattered the people throughout their empire
 - These 10 tribes of Israel lost their national and individual identity
 - Rueben, Nephtali, Gad, Dan, Ephraim, Manassah, Simeon, Issachar, Zebulun, Asher (Levites too)
- 586 B.C. - First scattering of the Jews
 - Babylonians conquered Jerusalem and shipped the Jews around their empire
- 70 A.D. - Second scattering of the Jews
 - Romans were tired of the revolting Jews
 - Many Jews were killed, many fled throughout the world
 - Result was a complete loss of national identity, but they kept their religious teachings and individual identity as a Jewish people

Daniel's Vision (Desolation)

How long is this desolation to last?

All things which have befallen them, are only the beginning of the sorrows which shall come upon them [the Jews]...

Matthew 24:19

The Jews have seen many sorrows since the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70:

- Holocaust
- Persecution in Spain
- Other examples?

When will this desolation be lifted?
(we will discuss this more later)

In the generation in which the times of the Gentiles shall be fulfilled, there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations with perplexity, like the sea and the waves roaring. The earth also shall be troubled, and the waters of the great deep;

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Keep all the commandments and covenants by which ye are bound, and I will cause the heavens to shake for your good, and Satan shall tremble, and Zion shall rejoice upon the hills, and flourish; and Israel shall be saved in mine own due time. And by the keys which I have given shall they be led, and no more be confounded at all. Lift up your hearts and be glad; your redemption draweth nigh. **Fear not**, little flock, the kingdom is yours until I come. Behold, I come quickly. Even so. Amen.

D&C 34:5a-b, 6

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What is “The Times
of the Gentiles”?