

## The Times of the Gentiles

**Luke 21:23—led away captive into all nations.**

According to the Jewish historian Josephus, the Romans took over 100,000 Jewish captives to Egypt and sold them as slaves to the merchants of the world (see the prediction in Duet. 28:68). The Jewish people will remain an oppressed, scattered people throughout the nations until “the times of the Gentiles” comes to its end. The times is likely a reference to the prophecy in Daniel 2 and 7 which teaches that history will be dominated by various Gentile powers until the coming of the Messiah’s Kingdom. Even though many Jews returned to their land, Scripture is clear that the times of the Gentiles will NOT come to an end UNTIL Messiah returns and begins His millennial reign.



Captives into all nations.



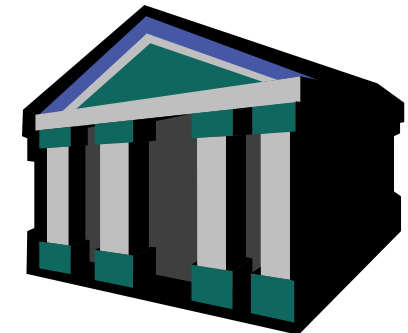
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## The Times of the Gentiles



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# The Times of the Gentiles

By David W. Breese

Knowing the teaching of the Holy Scripture makes life understandable; knowing the content of history can give us a growing appreciation of the Word of God. To aid our understanding, God divides history into different eras. One such era is “the **times of the Gentiles**” (Luke 21:24), a period of time in which the leadership of the nations is no longer in the hands of Israel but rather Gentile empires. This period began with the captivity of Judah by Babylon under King Nebuchadnezzar, 605 B.C. (2 Chr. 36:21; Jer. 25:11). Since that time, the world has been “trodden down of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:24) and will continue to be UNTIL Christ **returns** for the Church.

This Gentile era has been and will be characterized by many developments:

1. The emergence of Gentile world power and control (Lk. 21:24);
2. The disappearance of Israel as a world power (Matt. 21:18-20);
3. The emergence of the Church (Eph. 1:20-23);
4. The renewal of Israel (Matt. 24:39);
5. Pronouncement of the futility of temple worship (Matt. 24:2);
6. The Jews being called “lost sheep”

by Christ Himself (Matt. 15:24) and;

7. Attempted domination by Gentile power over the entire world under the leadership of the Antichrist.

The Bible then indicates that the massive force of Gentile world power will be destroyed. The commercial world center, centered in the city of Babylon, will be in control for a limited time. Then the Scriptures announce the devastation of the world’s commerce and currency (Rev. 18:2-3, 9).

When we consider the conditions that characterize the **times of the Gentiles**, we come to the conclusion that man without God, whatever his abilities may be, cannot succeed. The result of merely human activity, however impressive, will be failure, loss and final devastation.

The world has long boasted that it has no need of God. It has insisted on its own ability to govern by making mere human wisdom its guide. During the times of the Gentiles, the world will believe many religions, many philosophies, and set many goals. These may be temporarily impressive but, in the final analysis, they will amount to nothing. We do well, therefore, to conclude that the culture can be improved only by divine intervention. **ONLY CHRIST, RETURNING IN POWER AND GREAT GLORY, CAN BRING TO PASS A BENEFICIAL SOCIETY.** Such a society, as the scripture clearly teaches, can exist only by altering human nature itself. The world is sinful and during the times of the Gentiles, is controlled by a fallen human race, which, having steeped itself in sin, has lost its spiritual status. It has fallen “short of the Glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).

Man cannot, therefore, trust in “humanity”. He must build his life on the one foundation—faith in Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God.

The final condition of the wealth, the values of the world, is summed up in the Word of God (Rev. 18:14-15). In the revelation picture, the **times of the Gentiles** are temporarily magnificent but morally blind. What unbelievers can do in the world may be momentarily attractive but ultimately and totally consumed with devastating fire from heaven. We are to learn then that neither Jew nor Gentile, without God, can produce anything but devastation. We are invited to be aware of, but not in cooperation with, that world program the “times of the Gentiles.”

Even though many Jews have returned to their land, Scripture is clear that the **times of the Gentiles** will NOT come to an end UNTIL Messiah returns and begins His millennial reign. (See Daniel 2 and 7)

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