

God's Plan for the Ages - Part 3

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I. Introduction.

- A. Even in the Old Testament there are things written for our learning and spirituality.
- B. Repeated exposure is the key to mastering the contents of the Scriptures.
- C. Review.

- 1. The Jews.

- 2. Four empires of the Gentiles. A great ruler would come out of the last empire and claim that he was God.

II. The purpose of the Jews.

- A. Abraham was the father of the Jews.
- B. Their purpose was to be a blessing to the whole world through the provision of Jesus Christ. (Galatians 3:16)
- C. Their other purpose was to be a testimony so that all the world would know about the one true and living God. (Deuteronomy 2:25, Joshua 4:24, 1 Samuel 17:46, 1 Kings 9:43, 2 Kings 19:19)

III. The history of the Jews.

- A. Chronology: patriarchs, kings, kingdom divided, prophets.
- B. Instead of continuing as a testimony, the Jews were taken into captivity and absorbed into the nations. (Deuteronomy 28:37, 23:9)
- C. Is God through with the Jews? No. Israel will be saved after the time of the Gentiles. There are hundreds of promises that God will restore Israel. (Romans 11; Ezekiel 34:13; 36:24, 28)
- D. Daniel calculated that the captivity was nearly over, but God sent him a message telling him that there were seventy times seventy years remaining. (Daniel 9)
 - 1. When Daniel is talking about weeks he is really talking about years.
 - 2. 490 years of captivity were to remain for the Jews.
 - 3. The years have been calculated to the year that Jesus came for the first time.
 - 4. However, the seventieth week of Daniel is in the future, because there is a pause in the prophetic time clock. It will resume before Christ's second return.

5. Also in the seventieth week is the Roman prince - the ruler of the Gentile empire - who will make a covenant with the Jews in the middle of the seventieth "week." At this point he will desecrate the re-established temple.

6. Before Christ returns the Jews, then, must be worshipping in the temple in the same manner they were before Titus destroyed the temple in 70 AD.

E. In 1948 the Jews were reinstated as a nation in the land and much discussion has been had about reinstating the temple.

IV. The future of the Jews.

A. The kind of Messiah that the Jews are looking for is a political Messiah, not a spiritual one.

B. When this Jewish Messiah - the Anti-Christ - takes the throne, Christ will return soon.

C. The Jews are God's clock.

D. Although Jerusalem could change hands and the temple be built somewhere else, it is likely that it will not work out this way. (Luke 21:24)

V. Conclusion.

A. If it has pleased God to reveal His plans for us, it must be important to know.

B. The future suffering seems beyond description. (Revelation 6-19)

C. We can be a source of comfort to others in knowing God's future plan.

Application questions.

1. Why is the future of the Jews both promising and bleak?

2. How do the Gentile and Jewish timelines intersect at the end?

3. What is the value in knowing about the end times? What have you learned from this study?
