



A.D. 70 and Luke chapter 21

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Last May I was struck by a request from Brother Leonard concerning the prophecies of the Lord Jesus Christ found in the gospel of Luke chapter 21 verses 25 -27. Brother Leonard was particularly interested in the meaning of the language used in Luke's record, of the words used by the Lord Jesus and asked when, or what period of time they actually apply.

For clarity the verses under consideration are provided in the NET version of the Bible

⁵ Now while some were speaking **about the temple**, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and offerings, Jesus said, "As for these things that you are gazing at, **the days will come when not one stone will be left on another**. All will be torn down!"

So they asked him, "Teacher, **when will these things happen?** And what will be the sign that these things are about to take place?"

⁸ He said, "**Watch out that you are not misled**. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them! And when you hear of wars and rebellions, do not be afraid. For these things must happen first, but the **end will not come at once**." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise up in arms against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be **great earthquakes**, and **famines and plagues** in various places, and there will be terrifying sights and great signs from heaven. But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you, handing you over to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will be a time for you to serve as witnesses. Therefore be resolved not to rehearse ahead of time how to make your defence. For I will give you the words along with the wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict.

You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will have some of you put to death. You will be hated by everyone because of my name. Yet not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives.

"But **when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies**, then know that **its desolation has come near**.

Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. Those who are inside the city must depart. Those who are out in the country must not enter it, because these are days of vengeance, to fulfil all that is written. Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing their babies in those days! For there will be **great distress on the earth and wrath against this people. They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led away as captives among all nations. Jerusalem will be trampled down by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled**.

²⁵ "And there will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and on the earth nations will be in distress, anxious over the roaring of the sea and the surging waves. People will be fainting from fear and from the expectation of what is coming on the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man arriving in a cloud with power and great glory.

But when these things begin to happen, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the other trees. When they sprout leaves, you see for yourselves and know that summer is now near. So also you, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. I tell you the truth, **this generation** will not pass away until all these things take place.³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴ "But be on your guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with degeneracy and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day close down upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will overtake all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ But stay alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that must happen, and to stand before the Son of Man." (Luke 21:5-36 NET)

Much to my surprise, it would seem that Brother Leonard's request appeared to have been overlooked, since no response seems to have listed on AE News and Views. Particularly, Brother Leonard asked for elaboration on Luke 21:25 concerning signs in the sun, moon and stars and on earth distress of nations with perplexity the Sea and the Waves roaring. Also the "powers of

heaven being shaken” Bro. Leonard asks, ‘which heavens’. When the son of man comes in a cloud with power and great glory Bro. Leonard asked, ‘What kind of Cloud that the son of man will be coming in?’ Were there any replies? Or did I miss something?

This passage in Luke’s Gospel took place at the end of Jesus’ public ministry. It had begun in the synagogue at Nazareth and Luke records the incident, “Now Jesus came to Nazareth, and in three and a half years Jesus and his twelve disciples proclaimed the Gospel of the Kingdom of God throughout Judaea, Galilee and east of the Jordan River from Caesarea Philippi, the Decapolis and Perea and Jerusalem. His fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with various diseases and torments, and those which were suffering with mental diseases and he healed them all. Jesus became very popular with the ordinary people who followed him in great multitudes from Galilee, and *from* Decapolis, and *from* Jerusalem, and Judaea, and *from* beyond Jordan. (Mat 4:23-25)

Jesus was very popular with the ordinary folk, and Luke informs us that the people were amazed at his abilities to heal even mental issues which then were described as ‘evil spirits’. The people were impressed with the power of his word, for they witnessed how with authority and power he commanded unclean spirits and they were expelled from their victims. His popularity can be measured by the number of persons who gathered to hear him, five thousand beside women and children on one occasion and on another four thousand beside women and children. With gatherings such as these it was bound to attract the attention of the Jewish authorities. Though under Roman rule, Judaea was actually controlled by two religious parties known as the Sadducees and the Pharisees. The Sadducees controlled the activities in the Temple in Jerusalem, while the Pharisees were a religious party that believed in resurrection and followed the legal traditions based upon “the traditions of the fathers” rather than the word of God. Faced with Jesus charging them with hypocrisy before all the people congregating in the Temple, the chief priests (Sadducees) and the Pharisees took council together against Jesus because they feared that if they let him continue, everyone would believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. However Caiaphas, the high priest told them that it was expedient for them, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. (Joh 11:47-50) Then from that day forward they took counsel together for to put him to death. (Joh 11:47-53)

While the priests were scheming, the Feast of unleavened bread known as the Passover was soon to be celebrated and Jesus continued in the Temple, and while he was there, the incident described in Luke 21 took place. The temple had been rebuilt by King Herod, the main part of his rebuilding was completed before his death in 4 BC, but the work went on for another 60 years. When Jesus visited the Temple at the first Passover of his ministry it was said that the building had by then been under construction for 46 years. (John 2:20) The work was not entirely finished until 63 AD, only 7 years before the destruction of the entire Temple in 70 AD. But when some were admiring the construction of the Temple the Lord Jesus stated, "*As for these things which you behold, the days will come, when there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.*" (Luke 21:6) His disciples asked him, "Master when shall these things be?" They did not know but we do know, because the things that Jesus described have taken place one thousand, nine hundred and fifty two years ago, that is in AD70. It is a historical event that was recorded at the time by a man who had a significant role in it. Born in Jerusalem his name was Flavius Josephus, a military leader, best known for his book entitled **The Jewish War.** Today it is possible to go to Jerusalem and to see the archaeological evidence of the destruction of Jerusalem, in which remains of the huge broken stones of the Temple can be seen.

The destruction of the Temple and eventually of Jerusalem itself was a consequence of a Jewish revolt against the Roman occupation of Judaea, but Jesus also answered the question of his apostles "Teacher, **when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that these things are about to take place?**"

But first he gave a word of warning, which is still relevant today, **"Watch out that you are not misled.** For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them!"

Who were these deceivers Jesus warned his apostles to avoid? When the apostle Peter addressed the multitude of Jews gathered together by the manifestation of the gift of tongues on the day of Pentecost, his powerful address concerning the resurrection and ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ resulted in the conversion of three thousand people. These continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship in breaking of bread and in prayers. Such was their conviction that Jesus of Nazareth was indeed the Son of God and the son of David and thereafter there were added to the Jerusalem ecclesia more Jews who desired salvation.

However when through the Apostle Peter's experience it became evident that God also granted repentance unto life to the Gentiles. (Act 11:18) some of

the Pharisees who had been baptized on the day of Pentecost were offended saying, "It was needful to circumcise the gentiles, and command them to keep the Law of Moses". (Act 15:5). This was discussed by the Apostles and elders and the Apostle Peter stated that it was wrong to put a yoke upon the neck of the Gentile disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they. (Acts 15:10-11). However the heresy was not rooted out and the apostle Paul referred to them as:- "false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ"(2 Cor,11:13). Jesus instructed his listeners of the troubles they would face as we can see from the parable of the evil servant who decided, "My lord delays his coming; And shall begin to smite *his* fellow-servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looks not for *him*, and in an hour that he is not aware of, (Mat 24:48-50) But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you, handing you over to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and governors because of my name". (Often betrayed by supposed fellow servants). Gradually over a period of nearly 40 years Christianity, except for a faithful few, had reached the Laodicean state as described by the Lord Jesus Christ "Because you say, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and do not know that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: (Rev 3:17). Shortly before the apostle Peter died, he wrote the second letter addressed to believers in general, in which he writes, "Yes, I think it necessary, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting *you* in remembrance; Knowing that shortly I must put off *this* my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty." (2Pe 1:13-16) Peter continues to warn the believers of what is coming:- "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who stealthily, shall bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their licentious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be slandered. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment (sentence) from a long time is not idle, and their destruction is not slumbering." (2Pe 2:1-3)

Now when Jesus was asked by his disciples when these things should occur, he warned them not to be disturbed when they heard of wars and tumults because nation would rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom: And earthquakes, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and signs would occur. But before all these things the Apostles and faithful believers would experience severe persecution in the synagogues from the Jews, and being thrust into prison, and brought before kings and rulers for proclaiming the gospel of Christ. They would experience betrayal by their own families, relatives and friends, but they would have the opportunity of proclaiming the gospel and to testify of its truth.

These trials of their faith would continue, as Jesus made clear, until the time they would see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then they were to understand that the desolation of that city was near, bringing great distress and wrath to Judaea and its people. The Jews would 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.” (Luke 21:23-24)

Now when the Lord Jesus informed his disciples of the great destruction that was coming, it is important to realise that over 1500 years before Jesus was born, Moses was able to predict the judgments that God would bring upon Israel for their unfaithfulness. The details can be read in in the book of Deuteronomy 28:15 to the end. The punishments threatened were tremendous, and briefly described as follows:-

1. Agricultural, domestic and public calamities, while living in the Holy Land—verses 15–24.
2. THE REMOVAL, of the Ten Tribes from the Promised Land, into all the kingdoms of the earth, with all the resulting consequences—verses 25–35.
3. The BABYLONION CAPTIVITY in which the Kingdom of Judah would be overthrown and its king exiled. Verse 36.
4. Subjection to Gentiles by the Persians, the Greeks and a subsequent restoration from that captivity— verses 37–47.
5. Subjection to the Gentiles to continue *to the Age*; that is of Messiah’s Administration—verse 46.
6. CONQUEST by *the Greco-Roman Horn of the Goat*, commonly styled, THE ROMAN POWER—verses 48–52.
7. **The siege and DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM—vv. 53–57.**

8. Expulsion from the Holy Land after destruction of the Capital and the Temple—vv. 58 64.
9. General condition and distress of the nation while in dispersion in the lands of its enemies—vv. 28, 29, 64–68.
10. The reason of so terrible a judgment befalling the nation—vv. 15, 58, 62; 29, 25–28.
11. The condition of the land while the nation is in dispersion—vv. 22–23

Now in Luke 21, the Lord Jesus was foretelling what Moses had described in No7 above, the destruction of Jerusalem. It is important to recognise that Jesus, on previous occasions had been warning the people and particularly the chief priests and Pharisees, of the calamities that their misrule would bring upon the nation of the Jews. He did this in his parables, and it is important to remember that Jesus did not make up these stories as we might do, but all his teachings were divinely inspired. He states clearly in John 12:49 “For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak”. It was the Eternal Spirit in the Son that produced the parables as is evident in Matt.21:33. Jesus describes how a Householder planted a vineyard and let it out to husbandmen and retired to a far country. The husbandmen were the chief priests and Pharisees. The vineyard was Judaea the Priests and Pharisees were appointed as lease holders, but they behaved as though they were the owners, because when the householder sent servants to collect the fruits, these lease holders beat his servants, stoned others and killed some. The owner then sent his son thinking that the leaseholders would respect him! But they said, “This is the heir, let us kill him and the vineyard shall be ours.” When the Lord Jesus was relating this to those gathered around him, he paused and asked them what the Lord of the vineyard would do to those wicked husband men when he came, they replied **that he would destroy those wicked men** and let out the vineyard to others. In this they sentenced themselves and Jesus replied, “Therefore the Kingdom of God shall be taken from you (Chief priests and Pharisees) and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits of it. Did you never read in the scriptures, “The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, the kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder”. (Mat 21:42-44)

That the chief priests and Pharisees were guilty of planning to put Jesus to death is reported by John in his gospel (11:47-53) “Then gathered **the chief**

priests and the **Pharisees** a council, and said, "What are we to do? for this man does many miracles. If we let him thus alone, all *men* will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation". And one of them, *named* Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, "Ye know nothing at all, nor consider that it is expedient for us, **that one man should die for the people**, and that the whole nation perish not". And this he spoke not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death. (Joh 11:47-53 KJV)

But having grabbed the kingdom, how was it to be taken from the people of Judaea? This is revealed in the parable in Matthew 22:4-10.

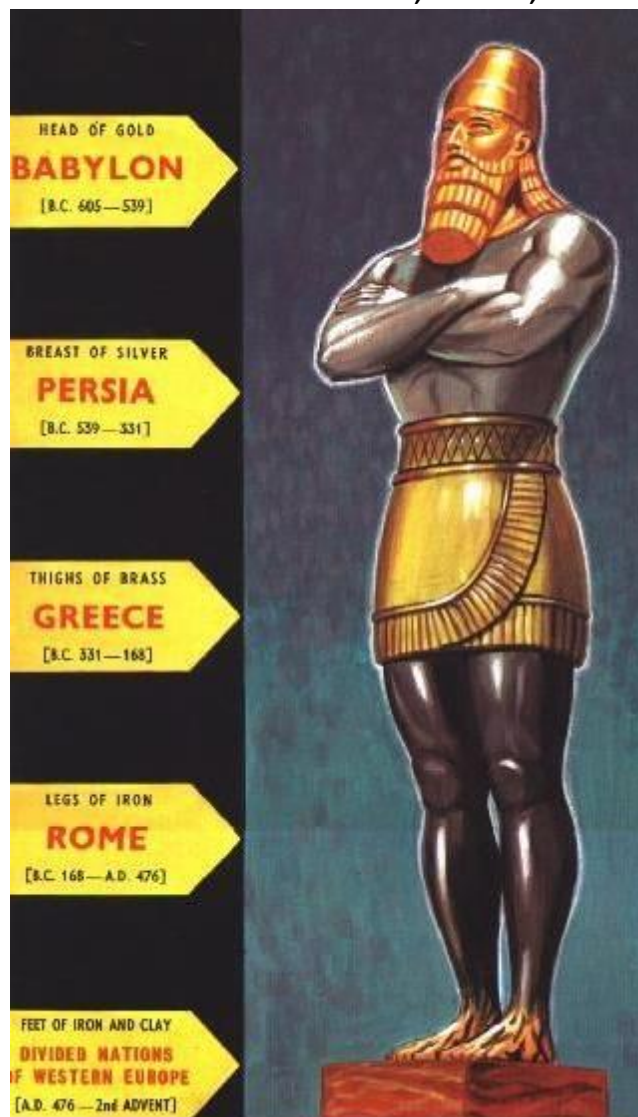
Now notice that the kingdom was not to be taken from the Chief Priests and Pharisees **as soon as they had killed the heir**, for this Parable teaches that there was to be 1) A slaying of oxen, (signifying the slaying of Jesus whom the oxen typified). 2) A sending out of servants (the Apostles) to invite guests to come to the feast. 3) The oppression of those servants (the Apostles and helpers) to death. Then came 4) the destruction of those murderers and their city.

So when Jesus was crucified and then raised from the dead, "he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God": (Act 1:3) He assured his disciples that, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth". (Mat 28:18) Then he ascended to the right hand of the Father and as Peter testifies "He has gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him. (1Pe 3:22 KJV) It had taken 40 years for the Israelites to be established in the land promised to Abraham, and it took forty years from the crucifixion of Christ, for the Jewish nation to be dis-established with the destruction of the Temple, the abolition of the priesthood and the destruction of Jerusalem.

Now notice, in the Parable (22:6-7) how the remnant took his servants, and entreated *them* spitefully, and slew *them*. But when the King heard about it, he was wroth: and he sent **forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. The Lord Jesus having been exalted to his Father's right hand was enabled to overrule the 'powers that be' and direct them according to his intentions, consequently the Roman armies were the military embodiment of the power of Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews who did and does according to his eternal will.**

The conquest and expulsion of the Jews from the Promised Land was foreseen by Moses in Deuteronomy 28:48 -50 "Therefore shalt thou serve your enemies which the Yahweh shall send against you, in hunger, in thirst and in nakedness, and in want of everything: and he shall put **a yoke of iron upon thy neck**, until he have destroyed you. The LORD shall bring a nation against you from far, from the end of the earth, **as swift as the eagle flies**; a nation whose tongue you shalt not understand; A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young".

Daniel's image depicted the successive powers that were to arise, by different metals: - Gold, Silver, Bronze and Iron and clay. The fourth empire



signified by the iron was Roman. So it is fitting that the Roman occupation of Judaea should be described as an iron yoke. The Roman military was divided into legions, each legion had from 4000 to 6000 soldiers, and each legion had an ensign in the form of an eagle. Swiftmess was a characteristic of Roman military. When the Romans descended on Judaea the Jews were subject to an iron grip but even so could be exceedingly troublesome. At the time of Jesus's birth, the Holy Land was beset with Jewish militants disrupting the Roman army. These Jewish Zealots were active before the birth of Christ and continued being active decades after his death until a full scale Jewish revolt in A.D. 68 when militants took control of the temple area by driving out the Roman troops and executing the high priests. Six Roman legions were required to put the revolt

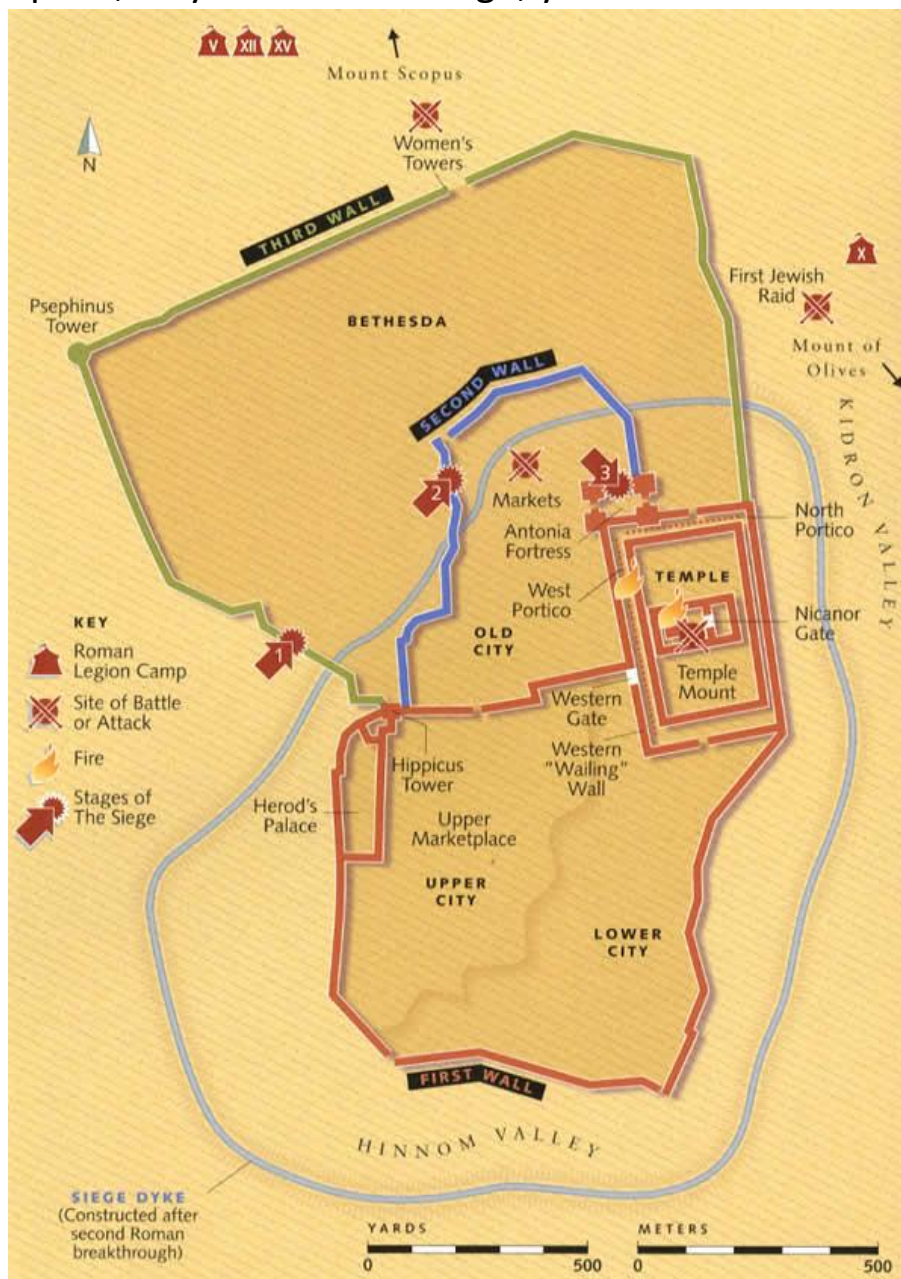
down. Josephus the historian chronicled five major Jewish military messiahs, not including Jesus or John the Baptist, between 40 B.C. and A.D. 73. The Romans referred to the Jewish insurgents as bandits even though most of their targets were absentee landlords and tax collectors. They were also sometimes called "zealots"

The Romans conquered Jerusalem in 63 B.C. This brought Judaea under Roman control, though they used local leaders to govern. The most famous and ruthless

of these was undoubtedly Herod the Great whose father Antipater had a close relationship with Julius Caesar, was granted control of Judea and the Roman's accepted that Herod the Great should become king over Judaea at the time shortly before Jesus's birth. Herod transformed the country. He built the port of Caesarea on the coast and rebuilt the Temple in Jerusalem, as well as building the Roman Fortress of Antonia. The Romans used local agents to collect taxes. The agents made a profit by adding their own fees, which made most people resentful. This situation continued during the life time of the Lord Jesus and when reading the gospels we have ample evidence of the way the Chief Priests and the largest religious organization known as the Pharisees tried to comply with Roman requirements to their own advantage. It is especially so in the trial of Jesus of Nazareth for Pontius Pilate the Roman Governor found Jesus not guilty, his words were, "I find in him **no fault at all**". (Joh 18:38) The Jews replied, "If you let this man go, you are not Caesar's friend: whosoever makes

himself a king speaks against Caesar". (Joh 19:12) The Priests and Pharisees prevailed and Jesus was crucified by the Romans. But the very powers these evil men manipulated against the Lord Jesus would be used by the glorified Saviour to bring about the destruction of the Jewish nation for corrupting the very laws they had received from the Almighty. **Rome became the Weapon of Judaea's destruction Used by God.**

Forty years after the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus, widespread revolt against Roman rule erupted in Judaea in AD 66, Cestius Gallus,



the legate of Syria, brought in the Syrian army, based on the 12th Legion and reinforced by auxiliary troops, attempting to restore order and quell the revolt. Despite initial advances and the conquest of Jaffa, the Syrian Legion was ambushed and defeated by Jewish rebels at the Battle of Beth Horon with **6,000 Romans massacred**. This resulted in the Romans bringing in four legions of



**The ROMAN GENERAL
Titus Caesar Vespasianus
Roman Emperor from 79 - 81.**

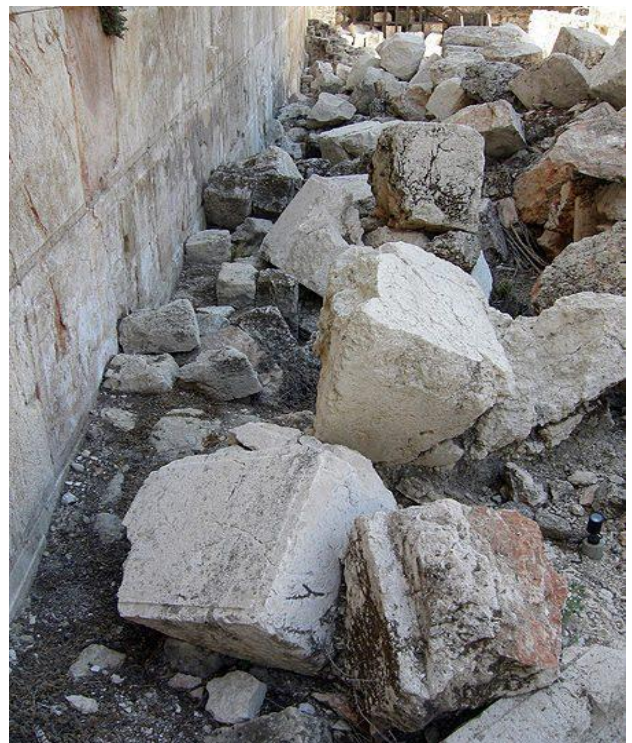
about 60,000 soldiers about 10,000 auxiliaries about 70,000 in all, while another Roman General was placed in charge of the war, namely Titus the son of the Emperor Vespasian. Jerusalem was defended by forces loyal to Simon bar Giora with about 10,000 armed men and fighters from Idumea and John of Giscala had 6000armed men supported by 2,400 Zealots led by Eliazar Ben Simon.

In April 70 CE, three days before Passover, the Roman army began the siege of Jerusalem. The city had been seized by several rebel factions following a time of massive unrest and the collapse of government. Titus

tightened the siege around the city, putting the population under extreme stress.. Within three weeks, the Roman army broke the first two walls of the city, but rebels prevented them breaking the third wall. According to Josephus, (an eye witness historian and main source on the war), the city was ravaged by its inhabitants with murder, famine and human cannibalism. Just how terrible this would have been is described by Moses who predicted how the nation would be overthrown, "The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, *as swift* as the eagle flies; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand; A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young: And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the LORD thy God hath given thee, in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee: *So that* the man *that is* tender among you, and very delicate, his eye shall be evil toward his brother, and toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the remnant of his children which he shall leave: So that he will not give to any of them of the flesh of his children whom he shall eat: because he hath nothing left him in the siege, and in the straightness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee in all thy gates.⁶ The tender and

delicate woman among you, which would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness, her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter, And toward her young one that cometh out from between her feet, and toward her children which she shall bear: for she shall eat them for want of all *things* secretly in the siege and straightness, wherewith thine enemy shall distress thee in thy gates. If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and fearful name, YAHWEH ELOHIM, THE LORD THY GOD; Then the LORD will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed, *even* great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance. These predictions were fulfilled in AD70. Moreover that Christ Jesus was overseeing this wholesale destruction of 'the sinful city' Jerusalem, is indicated in his warning concluding the Parable.

On a Jewish Day of Remembrance known as Tisha B'Av, 70 CE (August 30), Roman forces finally overwhelmed the defenders and set fire to the Temple. and the city was burned to the ground. Titus spared only the three towers of the Herodian citadel as a testimony to the city's former might. Josephus wrote that over a million people perished in the siege and the subsequent fighting. Roman forces finally overwhelmed the defenders and set fire to the Temple. Resistance continued for another month, but eventually the upper and lower parts of the city were taken as well, and the city was burned to the ground. The Jews suffered terribly as the Romans intended to slaughter all the inhabitants of the city. Josephus described the scene: "As the legions charged in, neither persuasion nor threat could check their impetuosity: passion alone was in command. Crowded together around the entrances many were trampled by their friends, many fell among the still hot and smoking ruins of the colonnades and died as miserably as the defeated. As they neared the Sanctuary they



BROKEN TEMPLE STONES
EXCAVATED BY ISRAELI
ARCHEAOLOGISTS

pretended not even to hear Caesar's commands and urged the men in front to throw in more firebrands. The partisans were no longer in a position to help; everywhere was slaughter and flight. Most of the victims were peaceful citizens,



FIGHTING AROUND THE ALTAR IN THE
COURT OF THE TEMPLE

weak and unarmed, butchered wherever they were caught. Round the Altar the heaps of corpses grew higher and higher, while down the Sanctuary steps poured a river of blood and the bodies of those killed at the top slithered to the bottom.”

So the warning given by the Lord Jesus forty years before hand came to pass and not one stone of the Temple was left upon another. (Luke 21:6)

At one point thousands of trees were cut down, to construct

crosses, each day **500 Jews were crucified**, no doubt it was divine retribution for the city which 40 years earlier had crucified Jesus of Nazareth, The Son of God and the heir to David’s throne and their rightful King.



RELIEF PANEL FROM THE ARCH OF TITUS SHOWING THE SPOILING OF
THE TEMPLE - INCLUDUNG SEVEN BRANCHED LIGHT STAND, THE TABLE
OF SHOWBREAD AND THE SILVER TRUMPETS

An interesting fact reported by the philosopher Philostratus, who records that Titus refused to accept a wreath of victory, stating that the victory did not come through his own efforts, but that he had merely served as **an instrument of divine wrath**.

Howbeit, Titus's Victory was celebrated in Rome, he was awarded a triumph, a ritual that celebrated a spectacular Roman victory. Awarded by a vote of the Senate to a general who had defeated an enemy army with an



THE ARCH OF TITUS STILL STANDS IN ROME TODAY BEARING WITNESS TO THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM IN AD70

exceptionally large count of enemies killed. The ritual of the triumph included sacrifices and prayers to the Roman gods and a procession. The Arch of Titus still stands in Rome today honouring this Roman triumph awarded to Emperor Vespasian and to Titus, his son and heir, for their victory in the

Jewish War (66-74 CE). This arch contains important bas reliefs of the triumphal procession through Rome. For a spectacular victory the Romans build a triumphal arch



The Romans issued coins to celebrate the victory of Titus. Coins like this were used for propaganda declaring the might and power of the Roman Legions.

The obverse depicts the Emperor Vespasian and the reverse shows a weeping woman representing Judea with a Roman soldier looking down on her.



The state of Israel produced a replica of the “Judea Capta” coin, to commemorate the establishment of the Jewish State of Israel in 1948. The reverse side (left) is based on Vespations coin, but the obverse (right) shows a Jewish family enjoying freedom in In ISRAEL LIBERATA (LIBERATED)

The prophet Daniel in chapter 8:9,12 was also enabled to see the destruction that would come upon Judaea through the little (ROMAN) horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the **pleasant land**.

¹⁰ And it grew great..... and he magnified *himself* even to the prince of the army, (Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews), and by him the Daily (Sacrifice) was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary (the Temple) was cast down. And an army was appointed against the Daily BECAUSE OF SIN, and it cast down the Truth (“the form of the knowledge and of the truth in the Law”) to the ground: and it practiced and prospered.”

This is what Matthew 24. Luke 21 and Mark 13 are about so coming to Brother Leonard’s questions concerning signs in the sun, moon and stars and on earth distress of nations with perplexity the Sea and the Waves roaring. Also the “powers of heaven being shaken” Bro. Leonard asks, ‘which heavens’. When the son of man comes in a cloud with power and great glory Bro. Leonard asked, ‘What kind of Cloud that the son of man will be coming in?’

So regarding the reference to the Sun, Moon and stars, many regard these as being literal, but in the language of prophesy these are used in a political sense, where the Sun represents the King, the Moon represents the priesthood and the stars either Princes or Ministers of government. The sea represents the general population, which can be contented, or angry, “the **wicked** are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. (Isa 57:20) The heavens and earth are the civil, ecclesiastical, and social order of things existing under the Mosaic or a pagan constitution. Similarly with the powers of heaven being shaken, is not referring to the literal sky not to the heaven where the planets and stars are, but to the authorities over nations in Judaea’s case there were kings and princes, priests and High priests ruling over the ordinary people. When faced with an overwhelming invasion, the king and his princes and advisors and the priests were afraid and would be thinking of their own preservation with no directions given to their people, so the heavens would be darkened, while the earth of ordinary people under their rule would be left to their own devices with no guidance. So the answer to the question “which heavens” is the then current political leadership.

So Bro Leonard quotes “When the son of man comes in a cloud with power and great glory” and asks “What kind of Cloud?” There are a number of references that refer to the Coming of Christ with his saints, those who have been sanctified, “I Thessalonians 3:13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our **Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints**”.

“Behold, the Lord cometh with **ten thousands of his saints**,” (Jud 1:14)

In the Letter to the Hebrews we find a whole chapter (11) devoted to those who manifested their faith in the promises of God, and they are described collectively as **a great a cloud of witnesses**, (Heb 12:1)

So the Book of Revelation witnesses “Behold, he comes with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. (Rev 1:7)

When the Lord Jesus was crucified, his disciples were stunned that their master had been murdered and they too were afraid that the Jews would be searching for them. Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, **but secretly for fear of the Jews**, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave *him* leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. (Joh 19:38) Similarly the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled **for fear of the Jews**, (Joh 20:19.) The two disciples on the road to Emmaus were similarly dismayed as

they explained to the stranger “how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.”²¹ But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, today is the third day since these things were done. (Luke 24:20-21). The stranger reminded them of the sacred scripture and asked them, “Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.” (Luke 24:26-27)

All the scriptures, would have included the testimony of Jeremiah (33:14-17) “*Behold, the days come, says the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name* wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness. For thus says the LORD; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel; (Jer. 33:14-17)

In the days of the apostles, this power of the “Iron Yoke” was employed by the Eternal Spirit to execute judgment upon Judah—to destroy the ruling of the Commonwealth of Israel, which had been condemned of heaven. “Thou shalt serve thine enemies,” says Moses, “*which Yahweh shall send against thee*; and He shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.” “Yahweh shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as the eagle flies; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand: a nation of fierce countenance, who shall not regard the person of the old, nor show favor to the young.” From this, it is evident, that when the BODY POLITIC OF ISRAEL should be destroyed, it would be the act and deed of the Eternal Spirit, self-styled YAHWEH or *Jehovah*.

Christ: The Commander of Rome’s Army Brother John Thomas.

Upon this principle, the “*host*” or army “*given*” to the little horn of the goat “*against the Daily Sacrifice*” is styled in Dan. 9:26, “*the people of the Prince.*” The words are, “the City and the Temple, *the people of the Prince that came shall destroy.*” The *Nahghid*, or prince royal, in this place is the same as is styled in the twenty-fifth verse, *Masshiah ah Naghid*, the ANOINTED PRINCE ROYAL; or, in the English version, “Messiah the Prince,” who was to be “*cut off*,” or made a covenant of. From the text in verse 26, it is evident, that *Messiah was to appear before the destruction of Jerusalem by the Little Horn of the Goat*; for if

he had not come before that event, the Goat-people could not have been the people of the Prince Royal of Israel; for them to be *His* people destroying the city and temple, he must have preceded the destruction, and have sent them. This is a testimony for Jesus, the Jews cannot destroy.

DHH