

# IN THE TIME OF HARVEST

## The Everlasting Gospel in Prophecy

*Throughout the entire history of this old world since the fall of man, the Everlasting Gospel has been inseparably linked with Prophecy. Those who are trying to present a Gospel Message that is not woven through and through with the Golden Thread of Prophecy, will find their preaching degenerate into sentimental foolishness. God Himself states His claim to Godhood is based on the fact that He alone can tell the End from the Beginning. Here we wish to echo the very first words that Jesus preached when He began His ministry: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the Gospel!"*

**Luke 21 - Christ's Prophetic Timeline**  
**#08 in Time of Harvest Series**  
**Jamal Sankey**

Let us kneel in prayer:

Father in Heaven; it is a privilege to be able to come before you in prayer and to call you Father. You look upon us on earth, those who have surrendered, as Your sons and daughters and we are so grateful that You look upon us with that idea in mind. Father, we pray that indeed our hearts and minds will be riveted on Your Word, that our hearts will be uplifted to heaven; that we would recognize the shortness of the time and also that You have given us everything to prepare because You desire that no one be lost. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. Amen.

We are going to begin a series based on Luke 21. While we realize that the entire Bible is prophecy, there are certain portions that you can just see and tell are a delineation of events. Jesus is the One Who is the greatest teacher ever to live, and the way that Jesus taught is just so profound. In fact He teaches so profoundly that many of us just read over His lessons and we don't penetrate the things that He was really trying to say to us.

So I want to take a look at a very familiar chapter and we're going to see the things that Jesus was laying down and even though, by the grace of God I can preach it, it is really going to take brain power. So I want you to be diligent, write things down, listen close, read along with me, and take to heart the things that Jesus is saying.

### **PROPHECY POINTS TO THE END OF THE WORLD**

**"The prophecies present a succession of events leading down to the opening of the judgment.** This is especially true of the book of Daniel. But that part of his prophecy which related to the last days, Daniel was bidden to close up and seal "to the time of the end." Not till we reach this time could a message con-

cerning the judgment be proclaimed, based on the fulfillment of these prophecies. But at the time of the end, says the prophet, "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Daniel 12:4." {GC 355}

"There are those now living who, in studying the prophecies of Daniel and John, received great light from God as they passed over the ground where special prophecies were in process of fulfillment in their order. They bore the message of time to the people. The truth shone out clearly as the sun at noonday. Historical events, showing the direct fulfillment of prophecy, were set before the people, **and the prophecy was seen to be a figurative delineation of events leading down to the close of this earth's history.** The scenes connected with the working of the man of sin are the last features plainly revealed in this earth's history. The people now have a special message to give to the world, the third angel's message..." {2SM 102}

Prophecy is a figurative delineated of events: now what does that mean? Delineate: in the dictionary means to draw on a line. So Prophecy is historical events that come in order, and you can put them on a line. They are figurative; if you look in the prophecies the language there is in figures and symbols, but they take you from one point to another—that's to delineate. So;

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I want you to understand that prophecy takes us to the end—Amen? It takes us to the end of time, so whatever prophetic discourse we are looking at, there's a starting point but it ends, in the end. Let's turn in your Bibles to Luke 21:5 and most are familiar with this story from Matthew 24, it is the same line that Christ was teaching, but most are familiar with Matthew 24, wars, rumors of wars, famines—you remember these things? But what was Jesus teaching? Let's look at it a little closer:

- Luke 21:5-7 "And as some spake of the temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts, he said, As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?"

Two questions: "Lord, when will the destruction of the temple you've spoken of take place? When will these stones, these great massive marble walls, be thrown down, one upon another? When will it happen, Lord?"

And: "what 'sign' (singular) are we to look for when these things shall come to pass?"

Matthew puts it this way—the same question but a little different way:

- Matthew 24:1-3 “And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?”

So the two questions that the disciples asked were 1. When will the destruction of Jerusalem be? 2. What sign are we to look for that shows us that the Second Coming is near?

Is that simple enough? Notice what Jesus does:

“Jesus did not answer His disciples by taking up separately the destruction of Jerusalem and the great day of His coming. He mingled the description of these two events. Had He opened to His disciples future events as He beheld them, they would have been unable to endure the sight. In mercy to them He blended the description of the two great crises, leaving the disciples to study out the meaning for themselves. When He referred to the destruction of Jerusalem, His prophetic words reached beyond that event to the final conflagration in that day when the Lord shall rise out of His place to punish the world for their iniquity, when the earth shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain. This entire discourse was given, not for the disciples only, but for those who should live in the last scenes of this earth's history.” {DA 628}

When Jesus began teaching, He taught two things at once—Master teacher—He began to blend the events. Jesus blended the destruction of Jerusalem with the events that would usher in His return leaving them to “study it out for themselves.” One thing Jesus understood is that things repeat, so because He had the understanding that history repeats, He was able to lay down the events that would transpire before Jerusalem was destroyed, knowing that it would point again to our day and how the events would repeat.

Let's look at some of the events that would transpire under that time. Luke 21:8. and again I want you to remember the two questions: “When will these things be?” that is, when would Jerusalem be destroyed, and “what sign, (singular)—they didn't say ‘what signs are we to look for’—they said, “What sign will you show us that points to your coming?”

The Bible says:

### **HISTORICAL OVERVIEW**

- Luke 21:8-19 And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them. 9 But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by. 10 Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: 11 And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. 12 But before all these, 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. 13 And it shall turn to you for a testimony. 14 Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: 15 For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. 16 And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. 17 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake. 18 But there shall not an hair of your head perish. 19 In your patience possess ye your souls.

These events Jesus begins to rattle off; now to the close observer, when they read through these things—was Jesus just laying out random events? Or, was He laying down point by point? The way that we can show that it is point by point is from verse 8-11, He starts going through earthquakes and famines and pestilence, remember those. But then in verse 12 He says, “But Before all these”—so Jesus is giving the order Himself—He is laying down when these things shall happen. Now question: have these things happened in the past or are they happening now?

They happened in the past—in order, and they are happening now—in order. But the earthquakes, the pestilence, the famine, the commotions—this was before the destruction of Jerusalem. The kicking them out of the synagogues, the family turning upon them—this was before the destruction of Jerusalem.

Many read through these verses carelessly and think that these are disjointed events, but Jesus was covering the events that would happen in the life of His disciples before the destruction of Jerusalem. It is vital that we recognize Jesus is laying out a precise delineation of events.

“Turning to the disciples, Christ said, "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." Many false messiahs will appear, claiming to work miracles, and declaring that the time of the deliverance of the Jewish nation has come. These will mislead many. Christ's words were fulfilled. Between His death and the siege of Jerusalem many false messiahs appeared. But this warning was given also to those who live in this age of the world. The same deceptions practiced prior to the destruction of Jerusalem have been practiced through the ages, and will be practiced again.

"And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet." Prior to the destruction of Jerusalem, men wrestled for the supremacy. Emperors were murdered. Those supposed to be standing next the throne were slain. There were wars and rumors of wars. "All these things must come to pass," said Christ, "but the end [of the Jewish nation as a nation] is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows." Christ said, As the rabbis see these signs, they will declare them to be God's judgments upon the nations for holding in bondage His chosen people. They will declare that these signs are the token of the advent of the Messiah. Be not deceived; they are the beginning of His judgments. The people have looked to themselves. They have not

repented and been converted that I should heal them. The signs that they represent as tokens of their release from bondage are signs of their destruction.

"Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for My name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another." All this the Christians suffered. Fathers and mothers betrayed their children. Children betrayed their parents. Friends delivered their friends up to the Sanhedrin. The persecutors wrought out their purpose by killing Stephen, James, and other Christians." {DA 628-629}

So when Jesus was laying down those lines, these were things that happened in the past. And yes, they are taking place now—there are wars and rumors of wars, we see it happening. There are earthquakes in divers places—we see it happening—but watch what Jesus does: Jesus continues on, laying down a foundation, delineating events from the destruction of Jerusalem to the 'sign' of His coming.

Now wouldn't it be so great if you and I here tonight could know the 'sign' of Jesus Coming? Now, 'no man knoweth the day nor the hour'—or I should say—'no man maketh known the day nor the hour', that's what the text reads in the Greek. But what about the 'sign' that would point to His coming?—wouldn't you want to know what it was?

Notice what Jesus begins to do in Luke 21:20-32

### **A DELINEATION OF EVENTS**

- Luke 21:20-32 “And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. 21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. 22 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23 But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. 24 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.
- 25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; 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 then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

Now let's pause: “Jesus, when will the destruction of Jerusalem be, and what sign shall we look for, that points to your coming?” Now for many of us as we've read Luke 21, we look at verse 27 as the sign of His coming, don't we? When you shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven—doesn't that sound like the Second Coming? But let's see what Jesus does—this might shock you:

- 29 And he spake to them a parable; 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. 32 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.

Now let's go back over and take it section by section. Put on your thinking caps because from here on out it's going to be a lot of mental activity—we're going to be studying the Word. It's a close application of the Bible that grants us this triumphant experience and so we should enjoy it anyway. Start with Matthew 24:15-18. We're still telling the same story of Luke 21; Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21—they tell the same story.

### **1. THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM: 70 A.D.**

- Matthew 24:15-19; “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) 16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: 17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: 18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. 19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!”

Christ said, ‘when ye shall see’—“Lord, when will the destruction of Jerusalem be?”

“Disciples, when you ‘see’ the abomination of desolation standing in the Holy Place—standing where it ought not—let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains,”

Now what is this ‘Abomination of Desolation’? Notice what it says in Mark 13—the Bible says:

- Mark 13:14-16 “But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not,

Matthew said, ‘when you see it standing in the Holy Place’; Mark says, ‘where it ought not’; and Luke 21 says it in totally different language. In Luke 21, we read that when you see ‘armies compass Jerusalem’. Which armies compassed Jerusalem and caused its destruction? Rome—what phase of Rome? Pagan Rome.

Then why does Jesus say, ‘when ye shall see the Abomination of Desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet’? Let me show you what I mean, turn to Daniel 8. I might be speaking what seems as tongues for many, but in Daniel 8:11-13—it mentions this ‘little horn power’:

### **TWO DESOLATING POWERS:**

- Daniel 8:11-13 “Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily... was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. 12 And an host

was given him against the daily ... by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered. 13 Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily ..., and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?"

Now how many have heard of the 'Daily'? The 'Daily' is a controversy right now in our church and it has been a controversy since about 1901. The controversy is this: Our pioneers, and the Bible, and the Spirit of Prophecy, tell you clearly that the 'Daily' (noun) is Pagan Rome or paganism—but Rome specifically. Now today in the church, we are teaching that the 'Daily' is Christ's ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary! One is a Satanic power—one is a Godly power. There's no gray area—this is black and white. It's either Satan or God. Is it a distinct opposite? A distinct opposite! Which one is correct? Well, Jesus begins to let us understand these things. We'll come back to this 'Daily', but notice what it says in Daniel 11:31:

- Daniel 11:31 "And arms shall stand on his part, (the Papacy) and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily ..., and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate."

Jesus said, "when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet. Let him who readeth understand." We said it was the armies of Pagan Rome that compassed Jerusalem—correct? But Daniel teaches that the 'abomination of desolation' is the Papacy. So how do you ratify the two?

If it was Pagan Rome that was coming around Jerusalem—and history tells us it was, is Jesus contradicting Daniel? No, He's showing us a glorious truth—and the truth is that there are two desolating powers in Bible prophecy. One is called the 'Daily Desolation' and the other, 'the abomination or transgression of desolation'. One is Paganism and the other is the Papacy.

Jesus was letting us understand this truth because He understood that at the end of the world, this would be a problem. We'll come to that problem later in this series, but just for your edification.

The "abomination of desolation", "abomination that maketh desolate", and "transgression of desolation" are the papacy. Jesus was teaching a very important prophetic principle, namely, that there are two desolating powers in Bible prophecy. The "daily" desolation and the "abomination of desolation", or paganism and papalism.

And the Saviour warned His followers: "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains." Matthew 24:15, 16; Luke 21:20, 21. When the idolatrous standards of the Romans should be set up in the holy ground, which extended some furlongs outside the city walls, then the followers of Christ were to find safety in flight. When the warning sign should be seen, those who would escape must make no delay. Throughout the land of Judea, as well as in Jerusalem itself,

the signal for flight must be immediately obeyed. He who chanced to be upon the housetop must not go down into his house, even to save his most valued treasures. Those who were working in the fields or vineyards must not take time to return for the outer garment laid aside while they should be toiling in the heat of the day. They must not hesitate a moment, lest they be involved in the general destruction. {GC 25.}

The sign for His disciples that the destruction of Jerusalem would transpire, is when the armies of Pagan Rome compassed Jerusalem. Now, how would they get out? How would they get out if the armies of Pagan Rome surrounded the whole city? History tells us that first Cestius came with his armies and he besieged Jerusalem. It was at the point of giving up; their water was gone; their food was gone; they were gnawing on their sandals for nourishment, they're chewing on their belts for nourishment. Some would steal out in the middle of the night trying to grab some herbs and weeds just to try to eat, and they would be taken away and crucified. Crosses were so thick that you could barely walk through them. It was deep and then all of a sudden they backed off. They backed away from Jerusalem—that was the sign to the Christians to get out. The Christians saw that as being the sign that Jesus taught and they fled.

We know that in 70 AD they came back again and now Titus surrounds Jerusalem and no-one that was there escaped—we're told that millions perished in a day—so many bodies that they had to climb over the dead just to keep killing. Blood ran down the temple steps like water.

When you read the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of the Great Controversy, the Romans were in there looking at what was transpiring and begging them just to give in. It was such a gross scene that even the Romans were horrified! But the destruction of Jerusalem happened any how.

#### **WRATH UPON THIS PEOPLE:**

Jesus had answered their first question, 'when you see Rome come—get out!' That was the sign—but then Jesus doesn't stop there—notice what He begins to do—turn to Luke 21 again:

- Luke 21:22 "For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23 But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. 24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations:"

Where was this written? Because Jesus said 'all things that are written' may be fulfilled. Where was this written in the Bible? Let's turn to the book of Deuteronomy 28:45-58—the teachings of Moses. Did you know that Moses prophesied of the destruction of Jerusalem? Did you know that he told them that the Romans would come? That he told them that Rome was represented by Iron in Bible prophecy? These are Moses' words!

- Deuteronomy 28:45 to 59. "Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto

the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee:"

Moses is here talking about what would happen if they broke the covenant. If they broke the covenant that God had established with them—these are the results.

- 46 "And they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed for ever. 47 Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things; 48 Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee. 49 The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand; 50 A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young:"

And when you continue to read down, it tells about how they would besiege the city and mothers would cook their children for dinner. Mothers would sodden their children's flesh and young people would go and snatch food from the very mouths of their elderly. All these things would transpire and when you read in Great Controversy chapter 1, these are the verses she uses to describe the destruction of Jerusalem.

Who was the nation whose tongue they could not understand? It was Rome—they spoke Latin, which was a dark language to them, they didn't understand it. They understood Chaldean, they were around the Babylonians, they understood different languages—but Latin was new to them.

What was the 'nation from afar'? It was Rome. Look on a map and see that all the other nations were around them but Rome came from further than any other nation. Who is the kingdom of Iron in Bible Prophecy? Rome. And God said through Moses that a yoke of Iron would be upon their neck.

So when Jesus was telling them that this was a fulfillment of that which was written, He was taking them back to the understanding of the breaking of the covenant. We're just taking you through this; we'll bring applications in later. Notice what it says in Leviticus 26:14-45, dealing with this breaking of the covenant. Remember the cursings and the blessings—Moses said blessings would be upon you if you follow the commandments and this and this would happen, God would magnify you and bring you into your own land and He would increase your corn and your oil and your wine and he began to lay out all the blessings. But then if you broke the covenant, he began going through the cursings:

- Leviticus 26:14-45 "But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments; 15 And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant: 16 I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. 17 And I will set my face against you, and ye shall

be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you. 18 And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. 19 And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass: 20 And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits.”

Now notice Verse 21:

- 21 “And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins. 22 I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, and destroy your cattle, and make you few in number; and your high ways shall be desolate.
- 23 And if ye will not be reformed by me by these things, but will walk contrary unto me; 24 Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins. 25 And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall avenge the quarrel of my covenant: and when ye are gathered together within your cities, I will send the pestilence among you; and ye shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.

He keeps going on and on—if you don't listen, if you break the covenant, I will punish you 'seven times' for your sins.

- 27 And if ye will not for all this hearken unto me, but walk contrary unto me; 28 Then I will walk contrary unto you also in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins.

Now what is a 'Time' in Bible Prophecy? A year. What is a year in Bible Prophecy—how many days? 360. So 'Seven Times' would be 7 X 360 = 2520. That's where that comes from. Many people hear of the 2520 and have no idea where it's from—it's about breaking the covenant, and we'll come back later to that as well. We're going to use the template that Jesus is laying down. The 2520 comes into play in Jesus' teaching. Now we will go back to Luke 21:24 and I just want to introduce some themes and see what Jesus is teaching here.

- 24 “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.”

### **THE DARK AGES & DEADLY WOUND: 538 - 1798 A.D.**

24: The 'times of the Gentiles'; what does that refer to? Let's go to Matthew

- Matthew 24:21, 22 “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.”

Many apply this to the end of the world; But what was Jesus talking about. Let's look in Mark 13, and you'll see that Mark shows you that this is something that from our day is in the past. Jesus has taken us from Jerusalem and He is beginning to take us from there point by point—a figurative delineation of events.

- Mark 13:19, 20 “For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. 20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.”

This was future from the disciple's time, but past from our time. Mark is telling us, ‘Listen, God shortened it in righteousness’, He already had shortened the time—so when the time came, it was cut short. But for our day, He's letting us look back into the past and said that He has shortened the time.

What were the days? What were the times of the gentiles? Notice what it says in Desire of Ages, 630:

“From the destruction of Jerusalem, Christ passed on rapidly to the greater event, the last link in the chain of this earth's history,—the coming of the Son of God in majesty and glory. Between these two events, there lay open to Christ's view long centuries of darkness, centuries for His church marked with blood and tears and agony. Upon these scenes His disciples could not then endure to look, and Jesus passed them by with a brief mention. "Then shall be great tribulation," He said, "such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." For more than a thousand years such persecution as the world had never before known was to come upon Christ's followers. Millions upon millions of His faithful witnesses were to be slain. Had not God's hand been stretched out to preserve His people, all would have perished. "But for the elect's sake," He said, "those days shall be shortened." {DA 630}

What years were these? The Dark Ages! It was the 1260 years of Papal persecution. Jesus jumps from Pagan Rome into Papal Rome—two desolating powers and He lays it down with clarity, from the destruction of Jerusalem into this thousand year period of persecution, and it was cut short.

It was cut short in righteousness but the Bible tells us in Luke 21 that it was the times of the Gentiles. How do you ratify the two? Notice Revelation 11:2 and the Bible gives us clarification that the times of the Gentiles are a specific point in time. For our discourse tonight the times of the gentiles will be found in verse 2:

- Revelation 11:2. “But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.”

How many days in a month in Bible prophecy? There are 360 days in a prophetic year, 30 days in a prophetic month. So 42 months is 1,260 days and a day in Bible prophecy is a year. So the times of the gentiles were given us—1,260 years. Jesus again is taking us step by precious step through history.

### **3. THE SUN, MOON, AND STARS: 1780 - 1833 A.D.**

Possibly some may never have gone through prophecy in such a way and so these things might be a bit strange, but none the less, they're Biblical. Can we imagine that Jesus was teaching the same thing as John and Daniel? Who would think that Jesus would teach the same as John? The Bible says that the book of Revelation is the revelation of Jesus Christ which He gave unto John. So John and Daniel are just teaching the same things Christ taught.

Turn to Luke 21: 25:

- Luke 21:25 “And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars;”

Let's pause: from the destruction of Jerusalem, 70 AD. If you were to draw on a paper and the first point would be 70 AD. Then Jesus jumped from the destruction of Jerusalem into the time of the Dark Ages, from 538-1798, but remember, the days were shortened. Persecution ceased about 1774-1780. From 70 AD to 538 AD to 1780 AD—Jesus is going in order and I will show you why I say that. Jesus then said there will be signs in the sun and in the moon and in the stars—when did these things take place?

The Bible says in Matthew 24:29, just to give a second witness here:

- Matthew 24:29 “Immediately after the tribulation of those days (the days of persecution) shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:”

When was the sun darkened in history? 1780 AD. Jesus is just taking you on a timeline. Let me read from Great Controversy pg. 306:

“Twenty-five years later appeared the next sign mentioned in the prophecy--the darkening of the sun and moon. What rendered this more striking was the fact that the time of its fulfillment had been definitely pointed out. In the Saviour's conversation with His disciples upon Olivet, after describing the long period of trial for the church,--the 1260 years of papal persecution, concerning which He had promised that the tribulation should be shortened,--He thus mentioned certain events to precede His coming, and fixed the time when the first of these should be witnessed: "In those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light." Mark 13:24. The 1260 days, or years, terminated in 1798. A quarter of a century earlier, persecution had almost wholly ceased. Following this persecution, according to the words of Christ, the sun was to be darkened. On the 19th of May, 1780, this prophecy was fulfilled.” {GC 306}

The darkening of the sun and the moon turning to blood was on that same day, 1780. 70 AD – 538 – 1780 – Jesus is progressing through time. Notice this statement:

The signs in the sun, moon, and stars have been fulfilled. {RH, November 22, 1906}

Now the sun and the moon, 1780—but when did the stars fall? 1833. In 1833, the great meteor shower that could be seen across all the heavens. The meteors were coming so fast and so long that you could sit there and read the paper! It was dark as midnight when that light started shining through the sky. Astronomers today still can't account for it. They still cannot account for why there was a darkening of the sun because there was no eclipse on that day. These are things that God said would happen and none the less, they are in the past.

1833 is the next date to write on your paper: 70 AD – 538 – 1780 – 1833. Jesus keeps stepping through time. 1833 comes the time period when a man named William Miller received his credentials and began proclaiming this Advent Message.

So Jesus took us from the destruction of Jerusalem, to the time of the Papal persecution, to the time period of the Millerites, and He begins to walk through prophecy. Notice the time period of the Millerites in verse 25 & 26 of Luke 21:

- Luke 21:25 “And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; (past) and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; 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.”

#### **THE DISTRESS OF NATIONS: Aug. 11, 1840 A.D.**

Now Jesus took us to the Millerite time period; what was the perplexing situation during the Millerite time period? What was perplexing the nations during that time? I'll give you a hint—it's the same thing perplexing the nations today. It was Islam. There was a religious crisis with Islam. This was the time period of the 2<sup>nd</sup> woe. It was a religious crisis that was transpiring. I want to read a statement in Early Writings pg. 41 referring to the verses we just read.

“I saw that the powers of earth are now being shaken and that events come in order. War, and rumors of war, sword, famine, and pestilence are first to shake the powers of earth, then the voice of God will shake the sun, moon, and stars, and this earth also. I saw that the shaking of the powers in Europe is not, as some teach, the shaking of the powers of heaven, but it is the shaking of the angry nations.” {EW 41}

The angering and distress of the nations is what transpired in Europe and that was the Islamic crisis. Islam: It was a common prophetic understanding of

the Millerites that the distress of nations at their time was the Islamic crisis. There are some long quotations by Miller and from Uriah Smith to substantiate this. Islam was a problem, and these are the Millerite time periods.

Turn with me to Revelation, the Millerites understood this to be Islam. It was a clear understanding to them and they taught these truths. Revelation 9:13, 14:

- Revelation 9:13-16 “And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, 14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. 15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. 16 And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.”

Islam here introduced comes with a time period; 391 years and 15 days. I am not going to go deep into this, just a few dates: July 27, 1449 is the date when our pioneers understood that this began. In 1449 you begin the 391 years and 15 days. When you count 391 years and 15 days—where did the 15 days come from? How do you determine that in Bible prophecy? We know days, we know months, we know years but where does this 15 days come from? Notice what it says; prepared for an hour, and a day, (1 year) and a month, (30 years) and a year, (360 years); so if we add 360 + 30 + 1 it gives us 391. The 15 days, how did they get that from an hour? An hour is 1/24th of a day. What is 1/24th of 360? It is 15 days. The pioneers began to understand these things and from July 27, 1449 it took us to August 11, 1840.

On August 11, 1840 Jesus descended with the little book open in His hand. We'll come back to this in later studies. August 11, 1840 Jesus comes down and a book is opened. The 'distress of nations' in Luke 21, was Islam.

70 AD – 538 – 1780 – 1833 – 1840 and Jesus is walking us through. Notice what He says in the next verse: Luke 21: 27. After describing this Islamic crisis, after taking us to the 1830s, specifically to the Millerite time period, 1840-1844. Notice what the Bible says:

- Luke 21:27 “And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”

### **THE OPENING OF THE JUDGMENT: OCT. 22, 1844**

Let me ask a question: Is that past or future? Past. It is PAST! When did Jesus come with clouds with power and great glory? Notice what the Bible says in Daniel 7:9:

- Daniel 7:9 “I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. 10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

When did the judgment begin? October 22, 1844. But this doesn't account for the clouds. Notice what is says in verse 13.

- Daniel 7:13 "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

When did this transpire? October 22, 1844. Jesus came in the clouds of heaven. This is continuing His delineation. 1833 – 1844. Now the Millerite time period is past and He comes into Adventism. Jesus takes us further and walks us further. I want to read a statement, Great Controversy 479:

"And, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away." Daniel 7:13, 14. The coming of Christ here described is not His second coming to the earth. He comes to the Ancient of Days in heaven to receive dominion and glory and a kingdom, which will be given Him at the close of His work as a mediator. It is this coming, and not His second advent to the earth, that was foretold in prophecy to take place at the termination of the 2300 days in 1844. Attended by heavenly angels, our great High Priest enters the holy of holies and there appears in the presence of God to engage in the last acts of His ministration in behalf of man--to perform the work of investigative judgment and to make an atonement for all who are shown to be entitled to its benefits." {GC 479}

Christ's Timeline brings us to October 22, 1844. Then notice the next verse in Luke 21: 28.

- Luke 21:28 "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

You see, if verse 27 was the 2nd Coming, there would be no reason for Him to say in verse 28 that when these things begin to come to pass, you then lift up your heads because your redemption draweth nigh—He already would have come! So it is past! So what He says here, when these things come to pass we can lift up our heads because our redemption draweth nigh. What does that mean for us? Jesus has laid out things that are based on a time frame. He went to 70 AD. – 538 time period and the 1,260 year time period based on time prophecy – 1844 based on time prophecy – but now He comes to a point where He can say, "Brethren, now you can lift up your heads and look up because your redemption draweth nigh". What He's trying to get you to understand is that time is no longer hindering His coming.

In Revelation Chapter 10 the Angel comes down and says 'Time shall be no longer'. Prophetic time ceased October 22, 1844. Then why hasn't He come? Why isn't Jesus here? What's hindering His coming? It's not the Sunday Law; because that could have come years ago! What's hindering His coming? Notice Revelation 7:1-4 and from this point we will continue in our next lecture and go deeper and bring out some themes in Jesus' teaching that are so serious for us here at the end of the world.

- Revelation 7:1-4 "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, 3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

### **THE DELAY**

Why hasn't Jesus come? Because His people aren't ready! His people aren't ready! Prophecy is not hinged on time any more. It's hinged on whether His people are ready or not. Christ's Object Lessons pg 69 says:

"When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come." Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.

The reason He hasn't come is because you and I and the church around the world looks nothing like Jesus.

"It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, (2 Peter 3:12, margin). Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain." {COL 69}

The only reason that Jesus had to say, "You can lift up your heads because your redemption draweth nigh", instead of saying that He'd be here, is because you and I are keeping Him away. You and I by our life style, by our daily choices are saying, "No Jesus, not yet, I'm not ready!"

Many of us have been like King Agrippa and Felix, we say to Paul, "When it's a more convenient season I'll call for you."

Almost persuaded Brethren, many of us are on the brink. We're almost persuaded. But almost, as the old song says, is but to fail—almost but LOST!

We need to make a decision. If we wanted Jesus to come—we'd be like Jesus. If we wanted Jesus to come—we'd get things ready. If we wanted Jesus to come—we'd put our house in order. If we wanted Jesus to come—we'd give Him our heart. That's what He's waiting for.

Let's kneel and pray:

Lord, we thank you for Jesus and His teachings. We thank you dear God that you have laid out for us in clear lines the delineation of events that would lead to the end of the world. But now that we've seen the events, we need to see the 'sign' of Your Coming. You've told us, dear Lord that it is when we behold the 'budding trees of spring'. Father, even now they are budding, and many of us won't discern it nor receive it. Father, as we continue to study Bible Prophecy, as we continue to delve into Luke 21, as we continue to expand our mind on the themes of Bible prophecy, we pray, dear Lord, that we would appreciate, put to practice and live the Present Truth. Help us to realize that that which is holding Your Second Coming back, is not that things need to happen; these things are hinged on us being prepared for them, but how long will You wait? Not too much longer—You're looking for a number, and that number is small. Only 144,000 out of 16 million Adventists. You are looking for a small few, and dear Lord, who knows if today—the last one is decided? Who knows whether tonight, the last has made their decision? Father we pray that we strive with all the power that You've give us to be among the 144,000 that we might hasten the day of Your coming; that we might give this gospel to those that are perishing, thirsting and dying for and without it. Please be with us Lord, and take us home soon. In Jesus name we pray; Amen!