

**Lesson 11 -
Jerusalem to
Rapture**

We go from the Book of Acts through the Age of the Gentiles to the Signs of the Endtimes. (There is a lot of history in this lesson, a lot of details, you may go long on this one, and I often teach this with the outline handy to keep the details straight.)

(Note: I do these pages in a different order than EGW)

***Destruction of
Jerusalem***

Luke 19:41-44

Luke 21:5-6

Isaiah 7:10-14

Luke 21:20-28

Luke 21:31-32

Luke 21:5-6

- In Luke 19 and Luke 21 (and Matthew 24 and Mark 13), Jesus prophesizes about Jerusalem.
- Need to understand the dual-nature of some prophecies. Read Isaiah 7:10-14. This was a sign for King Ahaz and also points to the Messiah.
- The Olivet discourses are covered in Matt 24:1-20; Luke 21:5-24 and Mark 13:1-18. Each account adds a few details. Mark has the fewest details.
- Luke 21 illustrates the dual-nature of the prophecy. After the time of the Gentiles (v24), the Son of Man will appear. v31-32 give the context: once you see these signs, then the end will come in that generation.
- Titus Flavius (9 years before becoming emperor) was commander of the 15th Legion and led the 47 day siege of Jerusalem along with the 5th and 10th Legions. 40,000 were killed and many of the rest committed suicide. It was a brutal and horrific Roman victory.
- Note Luke 21:5-6. The gold plating upon the stones was so valuable that the soldiers dug through the rubble to find the melted gold, fulfilling v5-6.

***Times of the
Gentiles***

Daniel 2:1-6,27-28

Daniel 2:31-35

Daniel 2:36-45

Daniel 9:21-26

Nehemiah 2:5

- There will be gentile kingdoms from the Babylonian Captivity to the book of Revelation. In Daniel 2, the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar is given a vision of these kingdoms in which God gives Daniel the interpretation where each part of the statue represents a world empire (If you have time, read Dan 2:36-45).
- The angel Gabriel gives us the outline as 70 Weeks where each week equals 7 years. (The Hebrew word for 'week' is 'shabuwa', meaning a set of seven.)
- 69 weeks = 483 years from the command to rebuild Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2:5 ~ 444 B.C.) until Messiah is cut off. 483 Hebrew years equals 476 solar years. 444 B.C. + 476 years = 33 A.D.

Optional Lesson

1st Timothy 4:1-3

2nd Thes 2:1-3

Amos 8:11-12

Rev 2:4 & 3:15-16

- Within a few hundred years, the church went from a holy-ghost-filled body of evangelistic believers to the official religion of the Roman empire, driven by politics, greed, ego and sin.

- This fulfilled NT prophecies, and we see the same pattern over and over again. If people won't stay hungry for the things of God, they will turn carnal and even God's church will fall into false doctrine and sin.

A timeline of the decline of the church:

150-200 A.D. Justin Martyr

First to split the Son from the Father.
Said the Son is Another God.

213 A.D. Tertullian (one of the first Trinitarians) Declares the Son is merely "a portion of the Godhead".

323 A.D. Christianity becomes official religion of the Roman Empire when Emperor Constantine converts to Christianity. Constantine takes over the church while continuing a life of sin.

366-384 A.D. Damasus I becomes Pope of the Church. Accusations of adultery, infidelity and murder tarnish his reign. Encouraged the veneration (worship) of martyrs.

381 A.D. Council of Constantinople I
Divided God by declaring God to be three persons in one substance.

431 A.D. Council of Ephesus I
Mary declared the Mother of God.

5th Century First Feast Celebrating the Immaculate Conception of Mary

517 A.D. Council of Epaon
Payment of fixed sums of money to reduce penalty for specific sins.

526 A.D. The priest could perform Extreme Unction to declare sins remitted prior to death.

593 A.D. Introduces Purgatory

7th Century Mary Worship and Doctrine of Her Immaculate Conception are widespread.

709 A.D. Pope Constantine Introduces Concept of Kissing the Pope's feet

787 A.D. Council of Nicea II
Veneration of Icons (Worship of Saints) adopted as official doctrine.

800s Sprinkling Replaces Immersion Baptism

850 A.D. The Doctrine of Holy Water

1079 A.D. Pope Gregory VII Promotes the Celibacy of the Priesthood

1095 A.D. Council of Clermont
Pope Urban II declared Holy Land Crusaders forgiven of all past and future sins (include rape and pillaging) if they confessed the Sacrament of Penance.

1100s The doctrine of Purgatory Grew Prominent in the Church. (place where Christians are purified and temporarily punished to prepare them for Heaven.)

1184 A.D. First Inquisition in Southern France commences. First sanctioned use of torture and execution by the church.

1200-1600 A.D. Medieval Inquisitions

1200-1500 A.D. Abuse of Indulgences
Professional-Pardoners traveled and raised money for church projects (and themselves) by selling indulgences.

1215 A.D. Fourth Lateran Council
Limiting indulgences to 1 year or 40 day period for acts of piety or monetary gifts. Also makes official the doctrine of Transubstantiation and annual confessions mandatory.

1220 A.D. Adoration (worship) of the Communion Wafer

1229 A.D. Start of the Papal Inquisitions. Bible declared forbidden to the Laity.

1384 A.D. John Wycliffe translates the Bible from Latin into Common English. Church fails to stop him. 1415, declared a heretic. Digs up his body & burns it.

1414 A.D. Communion Cup forbidden to the Laity

1471 A.D. Pope Sixtus IV allowed brothels to operate under church license, instituted a tax on priests with a mistress.

1478-1834 A.D. Spanish Inquisitions

1492-1503 A.D. Pope Alexander VI Most immoral of the popes. First recorded crime family in history. Gross immoral behavior (within the Vatican walls). Numerous illegitimate children.

1517 A.D. Luther publishes his 95 Theses on the Corruption of the Catholic Church, begins the Protestant Reformation

Protestants and Catholics have been attempting to reform and return to the Bible ever since.

The Apostolic church is unique in that we are not using the teachings and decrees through church history as a starting point in our doctrine and beliefs. We're not cleaning up church history. We're thankful for the contributions of many, such as Martin Luther or William Tyndale, but we look directly to the New Testament teachings of the 1st century church for our doctrine. We're not Reformation Christians, we are Apostolics.

Jewish Return to Palestine

Deut 28:1,15
Deut 28:36-37

Isaiah 11:12
Isaiah 43:5-6
Jeremiah 29:13-14

- One of the greatest fulfillments of Bible prophecy. God promised to scatter the people (Deuteronomy) if they weren't faithful and He promised to gather them again (Isaiah & Jeremiah).
- Remember this principle in scripture: God's love is unconditional. His acceptance of behavior is conditional. Don't confuse His love and acceptance.

Signs of the End Time

Matthew 24:1-3

Matthew 24:33-42

- Disciples asked several overlapping and powerful questions. Matt 24 is packed with teaching and signs as Jesus answered their questions.
- Summary of the whole chapter. There will be obvious signs that the end is approaching, but many ignore them. We will know we are in the season (like the fig leaves in v32-33), but the return of Christ will catch many unprepared, so watch and be ready!

Jesus Comes for His Church

1st Thes 4:13-17
1st Cor 15:51-55

- Saved the best for last. Jesus is coming for His church!
- Oh death, where is your sting? Grave, where is your victory? Praise God!