

1 THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

Luke 21:20-24

2 INTRODUCTION

- ⊙ Review
- ⊙ Timetable
 - Example of the Christ event, Galatians 4:4
 - How do we know the time and date on God's clock & calendar?
 - We can't know
 - God expects us to know the general time on His calendar
 - Most Important Sign of all – Israel
- ⊙

3 GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ISRAEL

- ⊙ Genesis 12:1-3: "Now the LORD had said to Abram: 'Get out of your country, From your family and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. ² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you and I will curse him who curse you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'
 - Provide the Messiah
 - Provide the revelation of His Word
 - Provide a witness
- ⊙

4 The Covenant

- ⊙ Genesis 15:18-21: On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates-- ¹⁹ the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰ the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹ the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.

5 Genesis 17:3-8

Then Abram fell on his face and God talked with him, saying: 4 "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. 5 "No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. 6 "I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 7 "And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. 8 "Also I give you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

6 THE CONTROVERSY

- ⊙ One View: God is through with the Jews
- ⊙ Problem: Prophecies in the O.T. which speak about Israel's future restoration
 - Fulfilled in return from the Babylonian captivity
 - Others would spiritualize these prophecies
- ⊙ The Preterist View:

7 Answer: Prophecies of the return

- ⊙ Isaiah 11:11-12: "It shall come to pass in that day that the LORD shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left. . . and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."

8 Prophecies of the return

- ⊙ Amos 9:14-15: "I will bring back the captives of My people Israel;. . . I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them."
- ⊙ About spiritualizing prophecies -- "If the obvious sense makes sense seek no other sense unless the context demands another interpretation.

9 The Historical Reality

- ⊙ May 14, 1948
- ⊙ Jews from all over the world have returned to their homeland
- ⊙ Report: World Jewish population - 13,428,000

- 5,700,000 are in Israel
- 5,275.000 in U. S. A.
- 82 percent are in Israel and the United States
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10 **THE MIRACLE OF THE RETURN**

- ⊙ Jesus prophesies destruction of Jerusalem
 - Fulfilled in 70 A.D.
 - Population of Jerusalem
 - Josephus report
 - Jews not permitted to set foot in the city
 - Scattered to the four corners
 - Jews were without a homeland for 1900 years

11 ***God, Jews, and History*** **by Max Dimont**

- 1 - The challenge of the pagan world
- 2 - The challenge of the Greco-Roman period
- 3 - The challenge of the *Diaspora*
- 4 - The challenge of Islam
- 5 - The fifth challenge was the Middle Ages
- 6 - The sixth challenge is the Modern Age

12 **The Time of the Return**

- ⊙ Luke 21:24b: "And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."
 - (The time on God's calendar)
 - A day of opportunity for the Gentiles
 - Church age when the gospel is preached to all the world
 - An end to this period

13 **Romans 11: Illustration of Olive Tree**

Romans 11:24-26: For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree, how much more will these, who are the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? ²⁵ For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that hardening in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved."

14 **When Fulfilled?**

- ⊙ Not into date setting!
- ⊙ One opinion: When Jerusalem no longer occupied by Gentiles
 - May 14, 1948
 - 1967 Six Day War
 - Jewish Temple Mount controlled by Islam
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15 **Illustration of the Fig Tree**

Luke 21:28-32: "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near. ²⁹ Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰ "When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. ³¹ "So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near." ³² "Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place."