

# What are the TIMES of the GENTILES?

**Here is an amazing prophecy, which few understand, yet which explains the real meaning behind Russia's struggle for world dominion. It explains what's going to happen to our nation IN THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS!**

**by Herman L. Hoeh**

**O**NE THIRD of the world is in slavery under Communist tyranny. Abject poverty engulfs a large portion of the rest of the world. There is something terribly wrong with the Gentile nations!

Why?

The answer to this terrible condition is revealed in an amazing prophecy for our times. It is the "Times of the Gentiles."

## Jesus' Amazing Prophecy

Let's notice Jesus' prophecy in Luke 21:24.

When speaking of the Jews, Jesus told his disciples that "they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations, and Jerusalem shall be trodden down by the Gentiles until the *Times of the Gentiles* be fulfilled."

Notice that this prophecy is *not* speaking of a period of peace, but of *war*. It is a time when the Gentiles are conquering and destroying, when they are ruling themselves contrary to the way of God who is Creator and RULER.

Remember that one of the keys to understanding this prophecy and all prophecy is DUALITY. There is always a fore-runner which is a type of ANOTHER FINAL GREAT FULFILLMENT. Jesus was speaking of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. by the Roman legions as a type of *another terrible world war* soon to surge through our United States. Even Palestine and Jerusalem will again be trodden down by Gentile armies until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Exactly what did Jesus mean by the times of the Gentiles?

When did they begin? How long will they last? When do they end?

## Common Teachings in Error

It is the common assumption that the times of the Gentiles are a period of blessing on the nations. It is argued that since God took away *the blessing* of being great and dominant nations

from Israel and Judah and since the Gentiles for centuries have been dominant nations, that human rule is a *blessing* bestowed upon the Gentiles.

Nothing could be further from the truth!

Then again, many claim that the times of the Gentiles are synonymous with the times of Judah's punishment, that the Gentile times have already ended—some say in 1914, others say in 1917 or 1936. Some even think that it might end this year. But all these *supposed* dates for the ending of the times of the Gentiles are mere guesses!

The truth is that almost no one really knows what the times of the Gentiles are. And yet without an understanding of the meaning of this prophetic period, you can *not* grasp the real significance of present day world-shaking events or understand what's going to happen in the next twenty-five years. Let's not assume, let's *study the Bible itself* to see what these times really are.

## Times of Israel's Punishment a Key to Understanding

Israel was promised great national blessings, including national greatness *if* they would obey God. But God also promised that if they obstinately refused to obey Him, if they refused to follow His laws and let Him rule their lives, then He would punish them for a period called *seven times*. (Lev. 26).

The Bible itself defines this period of seven times for us. If you turn to Revelation the twelfth chapter, and compare verses 6 and 14 you will see that the word *time* in prophecy simply means a *year*; hence seven times would be seven years or 2520 days.

Now let's notice another key. In Numbers 14:34, God said Israel would bear their iniquities in the wilderness after the number of days they searched the land of Canaan, forty days, *each day for a year*.

Then seven times or 2520 prophetic days would equal 2520 literal years! This period of seven times or 2520

years punishment did come upon Israel because they went their own ways and would not submit to the *rule of God*. Israel went into captivity about 721 B.C. and did not become a great people again until their times of punishment ceased about 1800 A. D. At that time the descendants of the ancient House of Israel—America and Britain and the democratic peoples of the world—began to rise to such wealth and power as the world has never enjoyed before—all because of the promises made to Abraham.

Also Palestine, after a punishment against the House of Judah, that began about 604 B. C., was brought back from the Gentile Turks in 1917—exactly 2520 years later, when it came under the control of Great Britain, and finally the Jews.

The seven times of Israel's *punishment* was a period of great privation and suffering, of slavery and war because they would not submit their wills and their ways to God, because they would not allow Him to rule their lives by His perfect laws which could have brought them peace and prosperity and dominion.

## The Original Prophecy Found in Daniel

Now that we understand the seven times punishment on Israel, let's understand the meaning of the times of the Gentiles.

The original prophecy to which Jesus had reference is found in the fourth chapter of Daniel. Jesus understood that this prophetic vision of the great tree had reference to the times of the Gentiles as well as to Nebuchadnezzar's literal punishment.

Notice Daniel 4:17. This striking vision was not only to teach Nebuchadnezzar that God rules, but it is also "to the intent that THE LIVING may know that the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the basest of men."

So the Bible itself interprets this

prophecy to have reference not only to the king of Babylon in that day, but also to teach *the living—yes, all of the nations today—that God is Supreme Ruler.*

Now notice verses 20 and 22 of Daniel 4. The great tree represented the king. And what was to happen to him?

"Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given him; and let seven times pass over him" (verse 16).

The king was to lose his understanding—to be cursed with insanity—he was to act and think like a wild ravenous beast, *until* he learned that the Creator rules over the affairs of men, till he learned that the only way to peace and security is through *submission to the rule and laws* of God instead of yielding to lust and human pride.

But the world and its leaders have not yet learned this needed lesson. The nations today still devour one another in war like wild beasts as they struggle to gain world conquest.

#### The King Only a Type

Most of the misunderstanding about this important prophecy results from not realizing that the seven literal times or years that passed over King Nebuchadnezzar were *a type* of the seven prophetic times of punishment upon the Gentiles.

Now turn to Daniel 2, verses 38 and 39 where this is clearly explained. The king saw a great image composed of different metals and clay. The head of this image represented *the kingdom of Babylon.* Daniel tells king Nebuchadnezzar, "*Thou art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom.*"

The divisions of the great image represented various kingdoms of the Babylonish system. Yet Daniel designated the first *kingdom* by its supreme dictatorial *king* Nebuchadnezzar. The *king*, then, was a type of the kingdom of Babylon, because he had absolute power. Also by comparing Daniel 7:17, 23 you will see that *king and kingdom are used synonymously.*

Remember that one of the punishments on the king was that his heart should be changed "from man's, and let a beast's heart be given him."

Have you ever noticed that Babylon, after it ceased conquering and when God began to deal with its leaders, *was also given the heart of a man?*

Read Daniel 7:4. It stood "upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it."

Now let's notice what happened. King Nebuchadnezzar had the *heart of a man* but because of his sins he was afterward punished seven literal years. The ancient Chaldean kingdom had

*the heart of a man*—it ceased to attack, conquer and destroy other nations—but because Babylon continued to sin and live contrary to God's ways *it was punished for seven prophetic years or 2520 literal years.*

Notice how the type is being fulfilled in the antitype. King Nebuchadnezzar because of his stubborn refusal to submit to the rule of God—the only way that would have brought him peace of mind and satisfaction was punished seven years by having his mind changed to that of a beast—*until* he learned that God ruled. He was *dethroned* and lived among the wild beasts.

In like manner, the Chaldean Empire, of which he was a type, was defeated and *its dominion was taken from it.* But just as Nebuchadnezzar continued to live like a wild beast, so the *Babylonish system* has continued with leaders having the minds of wild beasts. The Persians, Greeks, Romans—Europeans even to the days of Hitler and Mussolini—have all been cursed with leaders who think and act like wild animals, *leaders who glory in war and conquest.*

Not one of the beasts, which followed

the Chaldean Empire as described in Daniel 7, was given a man's heart. They all were like ferocious wild animals—conquering, pillaging, destroying one another by intrigue, alliances and war.

Nebuchadnezzar was forced to live among the wild beasts *just as the successor nations of the Babylonish system have had to fight and struggle constantly against other Gentile nations* who are also cursed with the same mind—the same desires to conquer and rule the world. That is why the Babylonish system under Hitler and Mussolini struggled against Russia. And that is why Russia today is plotting to rule the world by intrigue and stealth and lying and deception. The leaders of Russia think and act like cunning wild beasts.

The ancient Chaldean Empire would not submit to God's rule and ways but wanted to rule its own way—the *greatest curse* that could happen to any nation. As a punishment God has allowed even to this very day the Gentile nations to *rule themselves* until they learn that only His ways are right and that He rules in the kingdoms of men. Just as Nebuchadnezzar finally regained his throne and acknowledged God's authority, so the Gentile nations when their punishment is over, will come up to the kingdom of God and ask to learn of his ways (Micah 4:1-3) so that they also may become begotten and finally born into His kingdom as members of the ruling family of God.

What GOOD NEWS there is ahead!

#### Amazing Prophecy for Today!

Notice how present day events are explained by this prophecy.

All nations have been made drunk with the false teachings of the Babylonish system that has gripped this world for thousands of years until this world has become *so confused and divided* that people don't know which way to turn (Rev. 18:3).

Russia is seeking to conquer and rule the world. Millions in Asia are turning to communism as their last desperate hope. In our own land more people than ever before are becoming interested in religion—but they don't know which is the true church in this Babylon of sects and divisions.

This terrible predicament that confronts the nations today, *as well as what is SOON going to happen*, is made clear in this prophecy of the times of the Gentiles.

#### When Did the Times of the Gentiles Begin?

The seven times of the Gentiles are a curse upon them just as the seven times  
(Please continue on page 13)

## Times of the Gentiles

(Continued from page 6)

of Israel's punishments were a curse. This curse upon the Gentiles did *not* begin with the fall of Judah but years later. It was *after* the fall of Judah that God *first* began to deal with the Chaldean Empire. He allowed them ample time to prove they would not submit to his will.

Ancient Babylon was weighed in the balances and found wanting. *The destruction of the Chaldean Empire began the 2520 years of terrible punishment that has continued to this very day.*

Since we can determine the time of the fall of Babylon, we can determine the beginning of the seven times of punishment upon the Gentiles.

According to the latest and most accurate knowledge, Babylon fell in the autumn of 539 B. C. In a book on archaeology by J. Finegan, entitled *Light from the Ancient Past*, pp. 190-191, you can read this: "On October 13, 539 B. C. Babylon fell to Cyrus the Persian. The date is given by the Nabunaid chronicle which also tells that . . . Cyrus first entered the city of Babylon in person on October 29. The fall of Babylon is narrated not only in the Nabunaid chronicle but also in the inscription on the famous cylinder of Cyrus."

So Babylon fell in October, 539 B. C., and 2520 years later is October 1982. That's when the seven times of punishment would be fulfilled!

*That is less than thirty years from now!*

Yes, these times are very close to completion, very close to the second coming of Jesus Christ to rule the nations and to teach them the ways of peace.

But what is going to happen between now and the time that this punishment upon the Gentiles is finished?

### What's Prophesied?

Here is a bird's-eye sketch of what will take place *in less than thirty years*—in your life time, this very last generation that is destined to live into two worlds!

Remember what Jesus said in Luke 21:24? That Jerusalem would be trodden down of the Gentiles until the very completion of the times of the Gentiles!

Since Zechariah 14:1-3 shows that Jesus Christ will return in order to deliver Jerusalem from the Gentiles, it is plain that **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST WILL OCCUR SHORTLY BEFORE THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES ARE FILLED!** (Isaiah 27:13; I Cor. 15:52.)

Before Jesus returns there is to occur a *great tribulation* not only upon the

church but upon Israel—America and Britain, the democratic peoples of the world. Jeremiah 30:4,7 speaks of it as the times of Jacob's troubles, a period such as there has *never* occurred in history, a time when our own people—possibly you, if you haven't turned to God and implored His guidance—will be taken captive and made slaves because *this nation has won its last great war!* Mark says, "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" (Mark 13:19).

The times of Jacob's troubles and the great tribulation *can't be two different periods* but one event when *both* Israel and part of the church are to be persecuted and enslaved.

The tribulation of the middle ages was only a type, a forerunner of the terrible end-time tribulation. This final tribulation and the time of war between Russia and Europe which follows will last approximately *seven long years* until the second coming of Christ. It includes not only the three and one-half years of tribulation, but the time of trumpets described in Revelation when the Communist hordes are locked in battle with the coming union of ten Fascist nations in Europe ruled by a great church. This united Europe will be a final restoration of the Roman Empire and will attack America and the democracies of Northwestern Europe.

Yes, these events are **DESTINED** to come to pass despite the scoffers. They are sure because God Almighty says that he will bring them about to teach us how wrong our ways have been—unless we as individuals first repent and turn to Him, in which case he has promised that we may escape.

### FAMINES to Precede War

The prophet Joel, in the first chapter of his prophecy, verses 2-7, describes something else that will occur in these United States and Canada, upon God's people Israel everywhere—a great drought and famine such as you have never seen before. This terrible famine will last possibly *three long years* (Joel 2:25).

When we shall be so weakened by this terrible drought and starvation at home, our nation will be destroyed and conquered by a revival of Fascism in the coming great war.

Now if you will add these years of famine, tribulation and captivity, they will amount to at least *ten years* just prior to the ending of the times of the Gentiles. That would mean that these events would probably begin about 1972, after which preaching the true gospel will no longer be possible.

*This is a very significant date—1972.*

It is only 19 years from 1953, the year that the "World Tomorrow" broadcast first reached Europe! If you read the February issue of the "Good News" you will recall that Mr. Armstrong wrote that January of this year, 1953, marked the completion of the first 19 year cycle which began in January 1934 when the "World Tomorrow" broadcast first went on the air carrying the gospel of the Kingdom to North America.

And Mark wrote that this gospel must first be preached and published in all the world **AND THEN SHALL THE END COME!** (Mark 13:10). This final work of carrying the true gospel of the kingdom of God to the world is a fulfillment of prophecy!

Yes, it seems that God is allowing us another 19-year cycle to **COMPLETE THE CARRYING OF HIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM TO THIS SICK AND DYING WORLD.** Since the beginning of January, nearly *six months of these 19 years have already passed.* There is a tremendous job to be done in the very short period that lies ahead of us.

This gospel must go to the **WHOLE WORLD!**

Are you doing your part?

Have you completely surrendered your will to Him? Are you praying and studying daily as you should?

Are you honestly paying your tithes to God for the furtherance of His work?

We **ALL** have a tremendous task to do in these few final short years of this present world. If each of us does his part, with God's guidance and strength we **SHALL** carry this gospel of the Kingdom to *all the world* in time!