

<Introduction>

**“Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles” By Jeremiah**

Today, we are going to examine how “Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles”. The Lord talked about what will happen in End Times, and mentioned that Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles as described in scriptures below.

**Luke 21:24 They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**

I would like us to consider this today.

<Jerusalem- Special city>

Jerusalem is a special city for God’s people who believe the scriptures because Jerusalem is described several times as a city loved by God. The scripture below is a good example.

**Psalm 137:1 - By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.**

**137:2 - There on the poplars we hung our harps,**

**137:3 - for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy;  
they said, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”**

**137:4 - How can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a foreign land?**

**137:5 - If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill.**

**137:6 - May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not consider Jerusalem my highest joy.**

<The prophesy about the day of Jerusalem's destruction>

Although Jerusalem was specially loved by God, the Bible prophesied of the day when Jerusalem will be destroyed and trampled by the Gentiles as explained in scriptures below.

**Jeremiah 6:6 - This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Cut down the trees and build siege ramps against Jerusalem. This city must be punished; it is filled with oppression.**

**6:7 - As a well pours out its water, so she pours out her wickedness. Violence and destruction resound in her; her sickness and wounds are ever before me.**

**6:8 - Take warning, Jerusalem, or I will turn away from you and make your land desolate so no one can live in it."**

**6:9 - This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Let them glean the remnant of Israel as thoroughly as a vine; pass your hand over the branches again, like one gathering grapes."**

**6:10 - To whom can I speak and give warning? Who will listen to me? Their ears are closed so they cannot hear. The word of the Lord is offensive to them; they find no pleasure in it.**

**6:11 - But I am full of the wrath of the Lord, and I cannot hold it in. "Pour it out on the children in the street and on the young men gathered together; both husband and wife will be caught in it, and the old, those weighed down with years.**

**6:12 - Their houses will be turned over to others, together with their fields and their wives, when I stretch out my hand against those who live in the land," declares the Lord.**

**6:13 - "From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain; prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit.**

We can see here that the Lord ordered the enemy to build siege ramps to attack Jerusalem. Why was Jerusalem attacked by the enemy and siege ramps built, despite

the fact that the city was loved by God? The reason is written here, “This city must be punished; it is filled with oppression”. So, it is seen that although God-loved Jerusalem, they invited the wrath of God because of its apostasy, hence they were attacked by the enemy.

<The day when Jerusalem was trampled on by the Gentiles >

The day when Jerusalem is trampled on by the Gentiles has been accomplished in the history of the Old Testament.

Furthermore, all the leaders of the priests and the people became increasingly unfaithful, following all the detestable practices of the nations and defiling the temple of the Lord which he had consecrated.

**2 Chronicles 36:14 Furthermore, all the leaders of the priests and the people became more and more unfaithful, following all the detestable practices of the nations and defiling the temple of the Lord, which he had consecrated in Jerusalem.**

**36:15 The Lord, the God of their ancestors, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place.**

**36:16 But they mocked God’s messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the Lord was aroused against his people and there was no remedy.**

**36:17 He brought up against them the king of the Babylonians, who killed their young men with the sword in the sanctuary, and did not spare young men or young women, the elderly or the infirm. God gave them all into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar.**

**36:18 He carried to Babylon all the articles from the temple of God, both large and small, and the treasures of the Lord’s temple and the treasures of the king and his officials.**

**36:19 They set fire to God’s temple and broke down the wall of Jerusalem; they burned all the palaces and destroyed everything of value there.**

In this day, the last period of David's Dynasty, Jerusalem was dominated by the king of Babylon (Chaldea) and the city was trampled on by the Gentiles. The reason such sad incident happened to Jerusalem is explained in scriptures. Here is the reason, "they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the Lord was kindled against his people and there was no remedy".

So, the reason Jerusalem was trampled on by the Chaldeans (Babylonians) who are Gentiles was because God's people invited the wrath of God by disrespecting the word of God and God's prophets.

Therefore, based on these facts, we need to know the biblical meaning of "Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles" which can be summarized as below.

1. It was no coincidence that the city of Jerusalem was attacked by the Gentiles, but rather this was according to God's will.
2. Although Jerusalem was loved by God, when its apostasy became excessive and they started to disrespect the word of God and prophets sent by God, it invited the wrath of God and the city was destroyed by the enemy and trampled on by the Gentiles.

<The day when Jerusalem was trampled by Rome>

The Lord prophesied of a day that will come when Jerusalem would be attacked by the enemy and trampled on by the Gentiles again. It is written in scriptures below.

**Luke 19:41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it**

**19:42 and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.**

**19:43 The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side.**

**19:44 They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's**

**coming to you.”**

The Lord’s prophecy was fulfilled when Jerusalem was attacked by Rome in A.D. 70. Jerusalem was occupied and trampled on by the Roman soldiers who were Gentiles. Also, all the Jews who were God’s people were completely killed.

Why was such allowed to happen to Jerusalem, a city of God? I imagine that was because of the rebellion and apostasy of God’s people, just like when Jerusalem was attacked by Babylon. The Lord described this as see in scriptures below.

**Matthew 23:37 “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.**

**23:38 Look, your house is left to you desolate.**

Jerusalem “killed the prophets and stone those sent to them”. They also crucified Jesus Christ, the only Son of God. The city was so blasphemous that the punishment suitable for this city came upon them. That is how the city was trampled on by Gentiles and its residents were completely killed. It is true that God is love, but also God is just and judges accordingly. Therefore, we can understand that even the people of the Old Testament were judged righteously by God, and the city God loved was under the judgment when it fell into apostasy or unrighteousness.

<What does it imply to see Jerusalem trampled on by Gentiles in End Times? >

Now, the Lord also prophesied that Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles by the end of the church era. How should we understand this? To understand this biblically, it is essential to understand that this is not going to happen coincidentally but as a result of the wrath of God upon rebellious people of God.

First, we need to know that End Times means the end of the church era and God’s people in the New Testament era will be judged because of their apostasy, just like how Jerusalem was trampled on by Rome in the Old Testament days because of their apostasy.

In the same way, when the rebellion of God's people reached to the highest point, Jerusalem was trampled on by Gentiles. The same thing happens in both the Old Testament days and the New Testament days. It is very simple and straightforward.

<What Jerusalem means in the New Testament days>

By the way, Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, but what does this mean to God's people in the New Testament days? The Lord once said "Can't you understand this parable?" He explained the importance of understanding parables. Therefore, we need to understand the parable about Jerusalem in the Bible. This scripture may help us do so.

**Revelation 21:10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.**

**21:11 It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.**

**21:12 It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.**

**21:13 There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west.**

**21:14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.**

It is stated that "The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb." Therefore, we can understand that Jerusalem in the New Testament is not just the name of a city, but rather a parable of the church in the New Testament which is based on twelve disciples. You can see why this is true if you can remember what the Lord once said to Peter who is the principal disciple. It was like this.

**Matthew 16:18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.**

Here, the Lord made it clear to Peter that he will build His church on his foundation. This is in line with the names of the twelve disciples which are written on the twelve foundations. Therefore, what the book of Revelation describes as Jerusalem which is built upon twelve foundations is a parable of the church in the New Testament. Also, the Bible prophesied that Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles in the end of the church era as below.

**Luke 21:24 They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**

**Revelation 11:2 But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.**

So, if we can understand from the point of view of the New Testament, Jerusalem doesn't simply mean the name of a city, but the church which has twelve foundations including Peter. From this point of view, we need to understand that the prophecy that "Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles" means something very serious.

Having Jerusalem trampled by Gentiles means that the city of God would be destroyed by foreigners in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, it was prophesied that the church of God will be trampled by non-believers. This means that the wrath of God will rise against apostasy in End Times and God will abandon the church which will be dominated by the Gentiles and non-believers. It also prophesied that as a result, the day will come when the most important parts in the church such as appointing a pastor, deciding the doctrine, direction, and beliefs of the church will be established by non-believers. This day is like a nightmare and Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles on that day.

So, people who say that salvation is not found in Christ but only in Islam and Buddhism could become a pastor, and the doctrine of the church will be twisted to allow non-Biblical teachings such as homosexuality or having an affair outside marriage. This is not simple imagination but a day when the church would fall into apostasy and becomes sinful is prophesied in Thessalonians as seen below.

**2 Thessalonians 2:3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.**

Here, it is prophesized that there will be apostasy in the church, and as a result, sinners will be found in churches and the church will become full of sin. This matches the description that the church will be trampled on by Gentiles. Also, the scripture below from Revelation uses parables to explain the day when non-believers and gentiles will dominate the church.

**Revelation 13:11 Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon.**

**13:12 It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.**

**13:13 And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people.**

**13:14 Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.**

**13:15 The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.**

As you can see, many parts of the Bible talks about the end of the church era, and when the church becomes full of apostasy it will be trampled by Gentiles and non-believers. So, we should make all preparation which is necessary for the End of Days.

<What the Lord says about Great Tribulation>

In March last year, I shared my testimony about what I thought the Lord was speaking to me about the Great Tribulation. My goal then was to "be victorious over self-control to have the eternal life". This time, I would like to talk about what I learned at a



meeting for disciple training recently. It is “how Christians will be treated, arrested, questioned, jailed, or killed during Great Tribulation”. Let’s take a look at the scriptures regarding this.

**Matthew 27:37** Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is Jesus, the king of the Jews.

**Luke 22:37** It is written: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors’; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment.”

**Isaiah 53:12** Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

In the scripture above, from the book of Matthew, it says “**the written charge**”. It was also placed “**Above his (Jesus) head**” which shows that Jesus was treated as a “transgressor” and lost His life on the cross. This is very important so I will repeat again. Jesus the Son of God who committed no sin was referred to as a “transgressor” and was killed.

The scripture of Luke shows what Jesus said to the disciples about the things which were going to happen to Him. It reads **It is written: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors’; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled (KJV: accomplished) in me.**

“**It is written: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors’**” means this was prophesized in advance in Isaiah, where it says “he was numbered with the transgressors”. The word “transgressor” is used as “sinner” in Luke and this is how Jesus indeed became to be numbered as “Transgressor”.

Now, let’s look back in the Old Testament era. As you know, it wasn’t until Jesus turned 30 that He started preaching the Gospel. It is the so called “30 years of public life”. This period was the end of the Old Testament era when Pharisees, rabbis, chief priests, and many others who had believed in God were hopelessly backsliding. This is the era when “evil” was called as “good” and “good” as “evil”. This is why Jesus was crucified

despite being righteous about everything. Therefore, we can say this period was the Great Tribulation in the Old Testament era.

Also, as I have always pointed out, what happened in Jesus' time will happen again at the end of this New Testament era that we are living in. You may be thinking, "What makes you say so?" but let me show you some examples.

At the beginning of Matthew 24, the disciples asked Jesus what will happen before the return of Jesus or in the end of the world. Jesus replied that **"there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again"**.

He was talking about "3 and half years of Tribulation" which happens in the end of the world. So you can see here how the doctrine which teaches that Christians will not go through Tribulation because they are going to be raised beforehand is completely wrong.

The main topic here is what happens during the 3 and half years of Tribulation and how it turns out, and as I said before, the Bible says "you will be handed over to the local councils" and "Brother will betray brother to death" so we can see that Tribulation is the time when right Christians will be handed over, jailed, or sentenced to death. The reason why this will happen will be found in the scripture. It is the fact Jesus was treated as a "transgressor". Although I can't say for sure, just like how people treated Jesus as a cult leader and not as the savior, I suppose that something similar will happen in the New Testament era. People may start referring Christians as "cults" or "heretic".

It may look like that there is almost no trend like that in Japan at the moment, but during Tribulation, I wonder if people may start to say "Jesus was not real" or "Jesus Christ is not the only way to salvation", and whoever doesn't agree with the movement will be arrested as a criminal or worse still, sentenced to death. This could mean that anyone speaking out that the salvation is found only in Jesus Christ or Jesus is the truth will be seen as a "transgressor" or "criminal" just like how Jesus was seen. However, I can't confirm this for sure as I haven't seen anything taking place, so I am only presuming it here.

I hear that in the U.S, Christians who stick to the scripture are already persecuted,

arrested, or jailed. For example, a pastor who was preaching on the street was arrested, and Christians who were against homosexuality were jailed and fined as well. These things are actually allowed by the law. I would like to say that we are going to be OK because we live in Japan, but Revelation says **“the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world”** so this will happen in Japan sooner or later and the rest of the world as well.

So, I think that we should start preparing now, because although I don't mean to scare you, no matter what the law says, we will go through the similar experience as Jesus if we stay faithful to the scripture and keep believing that salvation is only found in Jesus.

In fact, Peter and John also got jailed or martyred. Paul said **“For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near.”** in 2 Timothy before he left this world. By the way, **“a drink offering”** means “martyrdom”, so I suppose that we may have to think that this could happen to us just in case. If we are ready for this, when it actually happens, we will be able to deal with it calmly.

Of course, just because we are in the time of Tribulation doesn't mean we are losing the protection and help of Jesus. Revelation says, **“Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth”**, and because it seems that the protection and help of Jesus will be given to Christians who follow the scripture even during the trials and Tribulation, I don't think we need to worry about it. Even if you still get arrested or martyred, Jesus will protect those Christians who keep following the scripture so they make it to the kingdom of heaven. On the other hand, anyone who persecutes right Christians, hands them over to the government, sue them, or sentences them to death may not inherit the kingdom of God, so we have to be careful.

You may think “There is still a long way to go” or “It has got nothing to do with me”, but I personally think that it is safer for us to think “we may go through this”. So, if you somehow agree with me on this, I encourage you to be prepared. Let's get eternal life by following the word of Jesus until the very end.

May glory and honor be given to God who always teaches us the important lessons.

Amen.