

TIMES OF THE GENTILES

There is much confusion in Christian circles about the duration of the "times of the Gentiles" prophesied by Jesus in the Book of Luke. Luke 21:24

The exact usage can be found in the Book of Luke, chapter 21, verse 24, where Jesus prophesied as follows:

"And they [the Jewish people] 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." ~ Luke 21:24 KJV Note that the exact phrase "times of the Gentiles" occurs only that <u>one time</u> in the Bible (Old and New Testaments). It can be found nowhere else.

Jesus' First Criterion ...

The first criterion that Jesus gave to define the duration of the time period known as the "times of the Gentiles" in the Bible was the prophecy that the Jewish people would be <u>led away captive</u> to live among the nations.

Jesus' Second Criterion ...

The second criterion Jesus gave to define the duration of the "times of the Gentiles" was that Jerusalem would be <u>trodden down of the Gentiles</u>, which means that Jerusalem would be under the sovereignty of non-Jews during that time period.

First Jewish-Roman War begins...

Jesus spoke his prophecy about the "times of the Gentiles" in 30 A.D., the year of his crucifixion. Beginning in 66 A.D., the first

Jewish-Roman War began and the prophecy began to be fulfilled. The Jews were initially successful in the conflict, but the Romans soon began to gain the upper hand. Jews are led away captive...

By late 67 A.D., the Roman general Vespasian Augustus had captured the Galilee from the Jewish rebels, whereupon he started resettling Jews from that part of Israel to various parts of the Roman Empire. Eventually, under his son Titus, the entire land of Israel was subdued, and most of the population was exiled to live outside of Israel.

Second Jewish-Roman War ...

By 135 A.D., at the culmination of the Second Jewish-Roman War won by Emperor Hadrian and his Roman legions, almost all Jews had been removed from Jerusalem and Judea and resettled mostly as slaves throughout the Roman Empire.

The Jewish Diaspora begins ...

From then on, the Jewish people were forced to live "captive" among the provinces of the Roman Empire and, after the fall of Rome, among the nations of the world. That state of affairs persisted until the new sovereign and independent Jewish State of Israel was founded in 1948, and it culminated for good when the Israeli Knesset passed the <u>Law of Return</u> in 1950. The Law of Return ...

The Law of Return passed in 1950 essentially stated that any Jew living anywhere in the world could come live as a citizen in Israel. With the passage of that law, Jews were no longer "led away captive" and forced to live among the nations as had been the case for almost two-thousand years. They had their own nation where they could live free as Jews. The times among the nations for the Jewish people had ended.

Jerusalem no longer trodden down ...

Then, in 1967 during the Six-Day War, Israel gained possession of and sovereignty over Old Jerusalem. With the capture of the Old City and the Temple Mount, Jewish sovereignty was re-established once again over all of Jerusalem. The ancient Jewish capital was no longer trodden down by Gentiles. Both conditions were met ...

With the passage of the Law of Return in 1950, which essentially ended the involuntary exile of the Jews among the nations of the world, and with the restoration of the Old City of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount to Jewish sovereignty during the Six-Day War in 1967, both parts of Jesus' prophecy about the duration of the "times of the Gentiles" were fulfilled. Thus, the "times of the Gentiles" ended in 1967 ... that is, if you believe what Jesus said!

The phrase "times of the Gentiles" spoken by Jesus in Luke 21:24 should not be confused with the phrase "fulness of the Gentiles" written about by Paul in Romans 11:25. They were not talking about the same time period. By the way, if you are one of those folks who thought that the end of the "times of the Gentiles" would usher in the end of the world or something similar, it didn't. Since you are watching this video, you are still here on Earth!

What it did do is give one more clear confirmation that Jesus operated as a great prophet during his ministry to redeem the Jewish people and all peoples of the world.