

THE BEAST STRUCTURE
THE MAN OF SIN OF 2 THESSALONIANS
PART 2
LUKE 21 - ANOTHER ANSWER TO PRAYER

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As you recall, in the previous article I explained about the answer I received when I asked God in 1979 'what was going on in the church'. The answer was: "There is a Man of Sin sitting in the temple of God, and WE are the temple of God." After this I then asked, "Lord, what should I do?" The answer I received was,

"WHEN YOU SHALL SEE JERUSALEM COMPASSED WITH ARMIES, LET THOSE IN THE MIDST OF IT DEPART OUT."

This was when I departed out of the Worldwide Church of God.

The above quote is from Luke 21:20 and 21

I was surprised at this answer because I had always thought that Matthew 24:15-22, Mark 13:14-20 and Luke 21:20-24 all describe the same event, the end time destruction of physical Jerusalem, and the placing of the Abomination of Desolation that initiates the great tribulation.

These are the three sets of scriptures that apply here:

Mat 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Mat 24:16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains...

Mat 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation...

Mar 13:14 But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:

Mar 13:19 For in those days shall be affliction...

Luk 21:20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.

Luk 21:21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.

Luk 21:22 For these be the days of vengeance...

I read an article by Keith Hunt addressed to rcg forum in 2000 who came to a different conclusion. He saw Luke 21:20-24 as interpreting the scriptures in Matthew and Mark. In other words, the Abomination of Desolation in Matthew and Mark is interpreted as the armies

surrounding Jerusalem in Luke.

But this answer to prayer that I received told me that neither my interpretation nor Keith Hunt's interpretation of these scriptures was correct. But the scriptures in Luke have an entirely different fulfillment from the scriptures in Matthew and Mark.

Matthew and Mark describe the Abomination of Desolation to occur when the Fourth Beast appears. This Abomination will be a miraculously talking image of the Beast (Rev 13:14-15) set up in physical Jerusalem that commands everyone on earth to worship it or be put to death. This Abomination will usher in the Great Tribulation. The Greek word for tribulation in Matthew and affliction in Mark is *thlipsis* (G2347)

Luke describes the armies surrounding spiritual Jerusalem when the Little Horn of the Third Beast (the Man of Sin) appears. Notice that the words 'Days (hemera G2250) of Vengeance (ekdikesis G1557)' in Luke are different from the words Great Tribulation and affliction (*thlipsis*) in Matthew and Mark.

Another interpretation of Luke 21:20-22 that I have heard is that this foretells the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. However, as you read the scriptures surrounding which speak about the heavenly signs and the coming of the Lord, it is evident that this destruction of Jerusalem is an end-time event.

It was easy to reach the wrong conclusions we did because the events in Matthew/Mark and Luke both occur in the end time. But this answer to prayer shows that the Luke scriptures refer to the armies surrounding spiritual Jerusalem, the Worldwide Church of God. Matthew and Mark refer to the abomination of desolation that the Fourth Beast places in physical Jerusalem that will usher in the Great Tribulation.

11.

Luk 21:20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.

This verse contains half of the quote that was the answer to my prayer. For years I thought that the armies meant "spiritual armies" as in 2 Kings 6:17.

2Ki 6:17 And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

But then in 1994 I read a book called, *The Truth Shall Make You Free* by John Tuit, which reconstructed the events of the State-enforced receivership of 1979, stating on Page. 231-32:

"By Wednesday morning, January 24, the situation had all the potential of a Kent State disaster. ... Uniformed deputies escorted Sheridan Atkinson to the administration building... Later that afternoon, Stanley Rader (second in command under Herbert Armstrong) said to the assembled group of church members, 'There is no peace, there is still a war! Not until we get the Attorney General punched out and the receiver punched

out will there be peace! We're still in a state of all out war! We've been invaded by an ARMY of the State of California! There were two hundred fifty armed members of the sheriff's force ready to break down the doors."

When I saw this I realized that there had been a very REAL ARMY, howbeit small, that had descended upon The Worldwide Church of God. And this was the prophesied sign for the faithful to depart out because the destruction of spiritual Jerusalem was imminent. And thousands did depart out, some sooner, some later.

In January 1986 Mr. Armstrong died and the church was taken over by Joseph Tkach who continued to change the true doctrines until no remnant of the church Herbert Armstrong had originally founded remained. Mr. Tkach brought the church into accord with mainstream Christianity. The Sabbath and Holy Days were gone. Even the name of the church was changed in 2009 to Grace Community International. In the end, all those who wanted to preserve the truths such as the Sabbath and Holy Days found it necessary to leave Worldwide. Thus spiritual Jerusalem was destroyed.

12.

Luk 21:21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.

This verse contains the other half of the quote that was the answer to my prayer.

Geographically, the land of Judaea or Judah was Southern Israel of which Jerusalem was the capital. If the church headquarters is spiritual Jerusalem, then spiritual Judaea would be all the Worldwide Church of God congregations that look to spiritual Jerusalem for leadership.

Because of the great corruption now in the church, the mountains to which the faithful should flee are spiritual mountains of the righteousness of the Lord.

Psa 36:6 Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep: O Lord, thou preservest man and beast.

This scripture is a warning to those in the church to depart out and to those in the countries not to enter the church at this time.

13.

Luk 21:22 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

The Greek word for vengeance is ekdikesis (G1557) and means punishment. These are the days of punishment for God's people before the punishment of the world comes about because we have not kept his spiritual temple holy as we should have, but it has been defiled with false deeds and doctrines.

1Pe 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it

first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

And what does the punishment consist of? There is a spiritual famine of the word of God and God hides his commandments from us.

**Amo 8:11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord:
Amo 8:12 And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it.*

**Psa 51:11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.*

**Psa 119:19 I am a stranger in the earth: hide not thy commandments from me.*

**Psa 119:43 And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments.*

14.

Luk 21:23 But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people.

Who are most affected by the Man of Sin? Is it mothers with their babies? No. This is a spiritual message of woes to the ministry, those who give suck to or feed the newly converted 'baby Christians', who have not yet been able to discern good from evil. The ministers have the hardest time in these days for they find themselves in the position of having to choose whether to remain faithful to God and teach the baby Christians what God says - or be loyal to a man and an organization and a paycheck and teach the baby Christians what a man says.

These scriptures show how this is so:

**1Cor 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.*

1Cor 3:2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

**1Pe 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*

**Heb 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.*

Heb 5:13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

Heb 5:14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

15.

Luk 21:24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations:

Many members of Worldwide have fallen by the edge of the sword which spiritually is the word of God.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

And they have been led away into 'all nations' of scattered groups that still teach to one extent or another errors and false doctrines that Mr. Armstrong taught because they do not study what they are being taught enough to be able to see the errors. So God has sent them strong delusion to believe lies. He has divided them up according to the thoughts and intents of their heart and the leadership they will accept.

16.

Luk 21:24 and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

This tells us that the Worldwide Church of God, spiritual Jerusalem, just as physical Jerusalem was, has been given over to and trodden down by the unconverted Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. When Worldwide was taken over by Mr. Tkach, he did away with all of the truths Mr. Armstrong had taught and finished the work of turning spiritual Jerusalem into a Protestant evangelical church.

Since the next verse, Luke 21:25, has to do with the signs in the sun, moon and stars and the great distress of nations, this period of time, the times of the Gentiles during which spiritual Jerusalem is taken over by Gentiles, must last until the return of Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION

As we saw in the previous article, The Little Horn of the Third Beast, the Little Horn of Daniel 8 was identified as Herbert Armstrong who took away the Daily Sacrifice in 1979. The Feast of Tabernacles of that same year was when he was also revealed to be the Man of Sin of 2 Thessalonians.

We need to remember that when we were baptized, it was not into Herbert Armstrong, but into Jesus Christ. He is our LORD, our EXAAMPLE, the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE. The truths that Herbert Armstrong taught us are owned by God the Father and Jesus Christ, not by Herbert Armstrong. The Church is owned by God the Father and Jesus Christ, not by Herbert Armstrong.

The important thing about these scriptures in 2Thessalonians is what this Man of Sin is able to do to you and me. He initiated a great apostasy away from the truth especially in his doctrines about the government of God and divorce and remarriage. And many followed him to believe lies because they received not the LOVE OF THE TRUTH. THE TRUTH, then, is what we, God's people, need to focus on wherever we may be on earth today. We must study and prove that what we have been taught is the TRUTH. We should be able to discern by now the difference between the doctrines Mr. Armstrong taught us that are true and those he taught that are not true because the holy spirit in us is our teacher and will guide us into all truth if we show

ourselves willing to grow in grace and knowledge.

1Jo 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

We must examine ourselves to see if we LOVE the truth and will abide by it regardless of teachings or oppressions to the contrary. In the final analysis, it is only those who really LOVE THE TRUTH who will escape from the influence of the Man of Sin.

I know of one church leader who said, "we should hold fast only to the truths Mr. Armstrong taught in his early years and reject what he taught later." This is why this man teaches today that Pentecost is on Monday because that is what Mr. Armstrong taught in his early years and so it is assumed this must be the correct teaching. We must understand that the truth is not the truth because Mr. Armstrong says so, but because God says so in his word and the truth which is his will can be proven.

Do you really love Jesus Christ, the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE? Do you know and love the truth as a system of beliefs? Do you love and practice the truth as the guiding principles in living your life? This is what God really wants to know about each of us. This is why he has allowed the Man of Sin to enter the spiritual temple and preside over his people, to test their love of the truth. Are we being led by God's holy spirit (the true government of God) or by the demands of a man or an organization?

2Peter 2:1-3 tells us how the apostasy works:

2Pe 2:1 there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2Pe 2:2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

2Pe 2:3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

Pernicious means ways that have a harmful effect especially in a gradual or subtle way. In Worldwide sins were not dealt with the way they should have been. Brethren were mistreated. And many in Worldwide were so offended when they saw that they had been made merchandise of, that they left. They left not only the false doctrines, but left the truth as well, spoke evil of the truth, called the church a cult and went back into the world.

If you are among those who have left the truth because you were offended, then return to the truth, because it does not belong to Herbert Armstrong. It belongs to God and he called you to obtain the awesome glory of his son Jesus Christ if you stand fast in his true faith until the end.

Now that the apostasy has taken place, we know that the next thing to happen before the return of Jesus Christ is that the fourth Beast will rise to take over the world. And all who refuse to worship him will be put to death. Keep the faith to the end Brethren wherever you are and God

bles and keep you through the times to come.

Finally, let us examine ourselves and pray especially that there be no Man of Sin who in any way leads others astray from God and his will and his truth WITHIN US!