

The book of Daniel, the prophecy of the time of the Gentiles, when dominion would be viciously taken and given to a nation of wickedness. As our old friend Paul was an apostle to the Gentiles, so Daniel is the prophet to the Gentiles. The words of Peter, concerning the writings of Paul, also ring true to his Old Testament counterpart...
“Things hard to be understood.”

Within the exposition of this prophecy there are many labyrinths to be traversed...many doors to be unlocked, but the keys to the kingdom are at hand.

Daniel Series, One: Watch The Trees



We begin our assent in Mark 13, the words of the Master:

“And Jesus answering them began to say, take heed lest any man deceive you: For many shall come in my name, saying I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And when ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet.” -Mark 13:5-7

Our Lord is giving a discourse of the end of days, and one might say, “but there has always been conflict.” Man has been a man of war from his youth; thus there have been perpetual rumors of wars. War itself is a point of evil. A testimony of a World War II veteran states that he stood beside a comrade as an incoming bullet pierced his helmet and blew off a portion of his skull. He yelled and cried, “Help me,” until his breath left him. This was done, one human to another. On purpose. As heinous as this crime is, it is only a byproduct of the arch enemy. The evil one is the deceiver of the nations, international politics, the heads of state. He is after czars, kings, and presidents. He whispers and tempts, enticing them to do evil. In our own American states, our countrymen, our own statesmen, legislate statutes of sodomy and the murder of infants in the womb.

Why does he do this? What does the wicked one get out of this? He was created the most beautiful, the strongest, the ranking angel, the anointed cherub. The most subtle beast of the field was overcome with pride.

One of God’s titles is The Most High, He is The Sovereign Lord. The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof. Satan is the usurper. What we have is the ancient coup d’état. To usurp the creation, he commands at his will, the heads of state, as pawns of chaos. He is the prince and power of the air. Jesus said at the end, there will be wars and rumors of war. The Olivet discourse, along with the book of Revelation is as the conquests of Joshua, taking the Promise Land. The Lord is the heir, the title holder, the undisputed, heavyweight champion of the world.

The Master is teaching details of how we will take it back. Notice He recognizes Daniel has explicit details:

“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.”

As was His custom, for He is a God that “hides Himself,” He gives very little details. Rather, He directs to the labyrinth for us to read and understand Daniel the prophet. Be advised, difficulty is expected...let him read and understand. Often times it is the merchant man that labors and toils, that finds the pearl of great price. A rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

The beloved physician records of the Olivet discourse:

“For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 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. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.” -Luke 21:22-24

Jesus is referring to events that are written in the book of the Revelation, the time of the end. He introduces some to what is known as, “The times of the Gentiles.” A specific time period, or time line. He says that Jerusalem will be wasted and trodden down by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. Daniel, the prophet of the Gentiles, writes of this time period, a time when there is no king in Israel, the Gentile has command... has dominion. The prophet will chronicle, in advance, the events of this timeline in minutiae down to the very day.

A historic event took place during the presidency of Donald J. Trump to establish the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem. Many administrations in the past have expressed commitment to doing so and have failed. The failure of the past administrations, the previous presidents, has been a spiritual failure. To elevate any prominence to Jerusalem, the eventual capitol city of the world, is in direct opposition to the prince and power of the air...the deceiver. (See Revelation 20:8.)

“And He spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees.” -Luke 21:29

The Master commences in the art of storytelling, of which there is none better. Look at one particular tree... and look at all the trees. In so doing, He is hiding from the “wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.” The listeners are unlearned men. The arsenal goes not to those of soft raiment, but to the iron worker, the men of the shipyard.

“When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.” -Luke 21:30-31

The Lord brings no novel concept but rather the Shepherd leads to old pastures. As Cristo Columbus was no mere sailor, but schooled in mathematics, astronomy, and cartography so the student of the Bible must seek the old paths, for the prophets are subject to the prophets.

The words of Ezekiel, son of Buzi,

“And the word of the LORD come unto me, saying,

Son of man put forth a riddle, and speak a parable unto the house of Israel; And say, Thus saith the LORD GOD; A great eagle with great wings, long-winged, full of feathers, which had divers colours, came unto Lebanon, and took the highest branch of the cedar.” -Ezekiel 17:1-3

The Master Storyteller is painting a picture. It needs to be visualized by the hearer. As the question was asked of angels of old...what seest thou? A massive eagle with an enormous wingspan, and the most vivid detail of feathers. A vicious predator of dominance.

Lebanon was world renown for the export of trees. The monarchy of Solomon had a constant schedule of ships importing Lebanese lumber. The shipping industry equipped the largest ocean liners with masts, straight, strong, and tall from the trees of Lebanon.

This great eagle is unleashed to a high tree of Lebanon, and the top of the tree is cropped off within his talons. And not just a single branch, but the tender branches.

“He cropped off the top of his young twigs, and carried it into a land of traffick; he set it in a city of merchants.” -Ezekiel 17:4

The land of traffic, that wicked city known as Shinar within the empire of Babylon.

He took also of the seed of the land, and planted it in a fruitful field; he placed it by great waters, and set it as a willow tree.

The seed of the land, the most precious, the most valuable, of the most potential...are the children. So by nature becomes another tree. Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego, plus Belteshazzar, our beloved Daniel.

“Say now to the rebellious house, Know ye not what these things mean? tell them, Behold, the king of Babylon is come to Jerusalem, and hath taken the king thereof, and the princes thereof, and led them with him to Babylon.” -Ezekiel 17:12

The Lord interacts with rhetoric, perhaps even sarcasm to the rebellious countrymen. There is an expectation to know the Word of God. The simple lack understanding.

The great eagle is the king of Babylon. The nation of Israel is the great cedar tree. The great tree of Lebanon. The twigs, the finest of the top of the tree. The top brass, the princes.

And hath taken of the king's seed, and made a covenant



with him, and hath taken an oath of him; he hath also taken the mighty of the land.

The royal seed. Such is the kingdom of heaven. "Give me the youth and I'll take the world." -Adolph Hitler

Prepare.

"In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem and besieged it." -Daniel 1:1

Not the first, not the second, but the third. Not a second early, nor a second late. The Almighty holds the leash. And it was just unlatched. The wicked one thinks himself sovereign but, just a mere pawn he is. Besieged. No one gets in, and no one gets out. The enemy remains perched without, and allows all within the walls of the great city to starve. A slow and agonizing death...in only a few pages cannibalism will begin. Mothers abandon their children to perish outside their door, a shut door, to smother the crying out of a starving daughter...tongue swollen from dehydration, cleaves to the inner of mouth. Choking begins.

Then...the door opens. The child is picked up. To be boiled and eaten.

This is too heinous...too gruesome.

What is happening here?

The tree...has been cut down.

To complicate the matter...in case you think that Israel, God's people are on the losing side. God never loses. Be advised...

"And the LORD gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand..." -Daniel 1:2

The tree has been cut down. The times of the Gentiles has begun. The seconds...they tick. The map is set. Teach us to number our days.

Jesus said..."Behold the fig tree. Behold all the trees."

The nations of the world will begin to convulse.

There is no king in Israel but One is coming. He is the Capstone, the Cornerstone, the Stone that is made without hands that will come crushing down and destroy the revolt. Victory with power and glory to take the Promise Land.

