

## IMMINENCY IN THE BIBLE

**"...this generation shall not pass away..."**

**MT.24:34**

**MK.13:30**

**LK.21:32**

**"...some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see..."**

**MT.16:28**

**What things would those people being spoken to in these passages "see," and what things would be "fulfilled" in their lifetime?**

**"...the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works" (Mt.16:27).**

**"...they [will] see the Son of man coming in his kingdom" (Mt.16:28).**

**"...There shall not be left here one stone upon another that shall not be thrown down" [Jesus speaking of the Jewish Temple] (Mt.24:2).**

**Many would be deceived (Mt.24:4, 5).**

**"...ye [those He was speaking to] shall ^ hear of wars and rumors of wars..." (Mt.24:6).**

**"...nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes in divers places. All these are the beginnings of sorrows" (Mt.24:7, 8).**

**The above is a partial listing of what Jesus said and does not include what Paul, Peter, James and John said about imminency.**

Figure 3

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## WHAT WERE FIRST CENTURY FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST EXPECTING?

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- 📖 "...the end of all things is at hand..." (1 Peter 4:7) "...the fullness of the time was come..." (Gal. 4:4) "...The time is fulfilled..." (Mark 1:15)
  
- 📖 "...happened unto them...upon whom the ends of the world [ages] are come" (1 Cor. 10:11)
  
- 📖 "For there be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled" (Luke 21:22)
  
- 📖 "...the time is short..." (1 Cor. 7:29)
  
- 📖 "...for the fashion [the outward form] of this world passeth away [is passing away]" (1 Cor. 7:31)
  
- 📖 "...it is the last time [the last hour]..." (1 John 2:18)

These Scriptures indicate that the time of something extremely significant had grown very short!

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## EVENTS LEADING TO AD 70 DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM

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### FIRST ATTACK

- 📖 Judea was ruled by Roman procurators
- 📖 Most procurators knew little about the Jewish religion
- 📖 There were frequent rebellions and demonstrations against Roman rule.
- 📖 In AD 66, Roman armies commanded by Cestius Gallus came to Jerusalem to put down one such rebellion.
- 📖 Cestius Gallus surrounded Jerusalem and began a siege but then abruptly withdrew from the area.
- 📖 The Jews chased the Romans killing many and capturing their abandoned war machinery.
- 📖 This gave the Jews a false sense of being unconquerable.

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## EVENTS LEADING TO AD 70

# DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM

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### SECOND ATTACK

- 📖 Nero was upset with the performance of Cestius Gallus and ordered Vespasian back to Jerusalem in AD 67 to crush the Jewish uprising and avenge Rome's humiliation and the damage to its ruling prestige.
- 📖 Vespasian advanced into Galilee, a region north of Jerusalem.
- 📖 Vespasian conquered the major cities of Galilee and marched south and encamped around Jerusalem.
- 📖 When word came of Nero's death back in Rome, Vespasian withdrew his troops and returned to Rome to become emperor.
- 📖 The Jews prevailed again!

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## EVENTS LEADING TO AD 70 DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM

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### THIRD ATTACK

- 📖 Shortly before Passover, AD 70, Titus, son of Vespasian arrived at Jerusalem to put down the revolt and crush the insurrection.
- 📖 Titus had marched south through Galilee and set up three camps overlooking the city.
- 📖 During the siege, those who tried to flee the city were either prevented from doing so, killed by Jewish factions inside the city, or captured, tortured and crucified by the Romans at the city wall.
- 📖 Josephus reports that the Romans built an embankment or rampart to breach the city walls just as Jesus had foretold in Lk.19:43-44.
- 📖 Josephus notes that five hundred or more were captured daily and the Roman soldiers out of rage, hatred and amusement nailed their prisoners in different postures (Wars of the Jews, Book 5, Ch.11, Line 450).
- 📖 So great were the numbers put to death that space could not be found for the crosses nor crosses for their bodies (War of the Jews, Book Five, Chapter Eleven, 451).
- 📖 1.1 million Jews were killed during the siege.
- 📖 97,000 were taken into captivity.

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## WHY JERUSALEM WAS DESTROYED

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- 📖 Israel refused to repent of murdering the prophets who were sent to them (Mt. 23:37-38; Lk. 13:34-35).
- 📖 To destroy the genealogical records which qualified the descendants of Aaron to serve as priests.
- 📖 To scatter the people and make it impossible for them to continue their fruitless and futile pursuit of their own brand of religion.
- 📖 For God to repudiate Judaism as a religious system.
- 📖 To forcibly bring to an end the sacrificial system so cherished by the people since it now constituted rebellion and blasphemy against the one perfect sacrifice, God's own Son.
- 📖 The Jewish historian Josephus wrote, "If the Romans had delayed any longer in attacking these villains, the city would certainly have been swallowed up by the earth or flooded or destroyed by lightning, as Sodom was, for it had brought forth a generation more atheistic than those who had previously suffered such punishments from God."

*"...because thou (the Jewish people, see verse 41) knewest not the time of thy visitation" (Luke 19:44)*

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## JEWISH PERSECUTION OF THE EARLY CHURCH

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- 📖 The book of Acts is replete with such accounts such as the stonings of Stephen and Paul, beatings, and beheadings of the apostles and others, perpetrated by the Jewish religious leaders and Herodians against the hated Christian sect. "*...because he [Herod the king] saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter...the expectation of the Jewish people*" (Acts 12:1-3,7, 11).
- 📖 Before his road to Damascus experience, the Apostle Paul himself was a Jewish persecutor of the church. "*...breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples...*" (Acts 9:1).
- 📖 After his road to Damascus experience, the Apostle Paul received repressive treatment from the Jewish authorities in his lists of things he endured in 2 Cor. 11:24-27. Also, "*...the Jews took counsel to kill him [Paul]*" (Acts 9:23).
- 📖 Jesus warned His disciples in Mt. 10:16-18 that they would be persecuted by their fellow Israelites.
- 📖 "*...And at that time there was a great persecution against the church*" (Acts 8:1).

## TWO-FOLD MISSION OF CHRIST

### First "Coming"

*"To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins " (Lk. 1:77).*

*"...that all men through him might believe " (Jn. 1:7).*

### Second "Coming"

*"...flee from the wrath to come? (Mt.3:7).*

*"...the axe is laid unto the root of the trees" (Mt.3:10).*

*"...will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire " (Mt. 3:12).*

SALVATION



JUDGMENT

*"To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord*

*and the day of vengeance of our God..." (Isa.61:)*

Question: What about John 12:47?



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## THE SECOND COMING IN JUDGMENT

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- ☞ The Second Coming of Jesus is distinctly portrayed in the Scriptures to be a coming in judgment.
- ☞ *"...he shall reward every man according to his works"* (Mt. 16:27).
- ☞ *"...judging the twelve tribes of Israel"* (Lk.22:30).
- ☞ *"And when he [Jesus] was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it"* (Lk.19:41).
- ☞ His cursing of the fig tree (Mt. 21:18-19; Mk. 11:12-14,20)
- ☞ The parable of the wicked husbandman (Mt. 21; Mk.12; Lk.20).
- ☞ The parable of the marriage of the king's son (Mt.22).
- ☞ The "woes" pronounced upon "that generation" (Mt.23:29-36).
- ☞ The lamentation over Jerusalem (Mt.23:37, 38).
- ☞ All of the above are referring to the theme of

**JUDGMENT!**

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## **THE MEANING OF "WRATH" IN THE SCRIPTURES**

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**John the Baptist's  
warning to his  
generation**

**"the wrath to come"  
Luke 3:7**



**Jesus' statement  
of "wrath upon  
this people"  
Luke 21:23**



**Paul's statement to  
the people of his  
day saying that**

**"Jesus who delivers  
us from the wrath  
to come"**

**1 Thess.1:9-10**



**The destruction of  
Jerusalem!  
70 AD  
was the "wrath"  
being spoken about**

**Figure 8**