

~The Great Tribulation--future or fulfilled~?

Matt 24:21

"For then shall be **great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, **nor ever shall be.**"

Jesus, when uttering these words, was answering the questions posed to Him by His apostles-see verse 3. He is telling them that the tribulation will be so horrific that it will exceed every tribulation against Israel that had gone before or *will ever come again*. Notice He says "...no, nor ever shall be" telling us that life will go on after it is over, but the persecutions will never be as atrocious. If Jesus was speaking of the end of the entire world, then it makes no sense because if this tribulation is at the end of the entire world (as the futurist holds) then it is redundant to say there will be no further persecution to Israel as everything will cease to exist after this anyhow! However, if the end means the end of the age (**aion-Gk**) of the *Theocratic nation of Israel*, but not the end of the entire world, it makes perfect sense!

A.D. 66, Gallus, the Roman general, laid siege to Jerusalem, succeeded, **A.D. 68, by Vespasian**, the emperor, who was succeeded by his son **Titus, A.D. 71**, who prosecuted the war to its awful end, as the Jews were divided into bloody factions, and were killing one another, and would not surrender to the Romans.

Read **Josephus**, and you will find the "*..horrors of the siege beggared all description - famine raging, people dying in piles; pestilence, arising from the putrefying corpses, sweeping the city with the besom of destruction far more terrific than the sword, which was also devouring them on all sides, till a solid million perished, and a million more were sold into slavery, the city utterly destroyed and left without an inhabitant. When the Roman armies effected all entrance through the walls, they at once set up their battle-flags on the Holy Campus, on the summit of Moriah, taking possession of the temple and all the holy places. This was the "abomination of desolation" - "abomination," because the Roman gods were pictured on it, and the soldiers worshipped them as they looked on the flags; and "desolation," because those battle-flags meant the destruction of Jerusalem. Jesus notified His disciples that the moment they saw these Roman battle-flags floating from the pinnacles of the temple, they should all recognize it as the signal for them to make their escape. Their flight was to be so sudden that, if on the housetop, they were not to come down.*"

Note - You can now run all over Jerusalem on the flat roofs of the houses, as the narrow streets are overarched, the buildings being continuous, jam up to the wall, which is a part of the contiguous edifice. Consequently they could run to the wall on the roofs of the houses and pass down, thus making their escape, which must be sudden and expeditious, or they would be intercepted and detained.

Luke 21:20

"And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh."

compare

Matthew 24:15-18

"Therefore **when you may see the abomination of desolation**, spoken of by Daniel the prophet [Daniel 9:27], standing in the holy place, let the one reading take notice then; let those who are in Judea go. to the mountains; and let him who is on the housetop not come down to take things out of his house; and let him who is in the field not turn back to take his garments."

*When you compare the context of the above 2 verses, you will see that they are both speaking of the same thing. Matthew calls the abomination of desolation what Luke calls the (Roman) armies.
(insertion mine-bob)*

Some contend that the Holocaust during the second world war was greater. Yes, in sheer numbers, it was, but not in *degree* of atrocities. During WW2 many were systematically slaughtered, by shooting, gassing, starvation, although it was not as atrocious as during the siege of Jerusalem wherein mothers ate their babies, women were raped and slaughtered, pregnant women were ripped open and their babies murdered while Jew killed Jew and every sort of evil was displayed among them. Over a million and a half people slaughtered and another million gone into captivity! There was, according to Josephus, nothing like it, ever! Read his commentaries on it.

As *well*, because the Old Testament covenant people (**Jews**) were rejected and replaced by the New Covenant people, (**Christians**) the people in Palestine today, are NOT the Theocratic nation of Israel. God *destroyed them in totality in 70AD*-never to be His chosen people again. At any rarte,they could never prove their lineage now, which is critical for the Priesthood, as all the genealogical records were destroyed in the burning of Jerusalem.

WE, as Christians, *are now the people of God* and will be forever. Observe Peter's declaration:

1 Pet 2:9

But ye (**Christians**) are now the *chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation*, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

This, alone, should satisfy the hardest skeptic that the OT **Jews are no longer** God's *chosen people, priesthood, nation*. According to one who should know, Peter tells us that *we* are now those things! Only those opposed to Peter's teaching would deny it

*"After fifty years a Roman colony was founded on the memorable site where Jerusalem once stood, even the name being dropped, and the new Roman city was called **Elia Capitolina** for the ensuing two centuries, till the conversion of the Emperor Constantine, who came thither, revived the city, and restored the sacred name, **Jerusalem**."*

The early Christians were spared the slaughter of Jerusalem because they took heed of Jesus' warning to "flee to the mountains"!