

**ISRAEL
PROGRAM 6 (#911166)
WEEK 2 (#911334)
©2011 PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL**



PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
a Production of
Precept Ministries International
P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218
1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

SERIES: Israel

TITLE: Program 6 – The Signs Of The End

MONDAY

OPEN

September 11th was a day of infamy. It was a day that you and I will never forget. It was day that changed the shape of history. It was a day that brought fear to men's hearts. I'm standing right now outside the temple mount area in Jerusalem. And as Jesus walked down these temple mount steps where I'm standing, His disciples asked Him two questions. They wanted to know when the end would come and what would be the sign of His coming. And that's what we're going to look at today as we see what Jesus says about the end.

PART ONE

After that day of infamy, September 11th, people started asking the question: Is this the end? When is the end coming? I'm in Jerusalem right now, in the nation of Israel. I'm standing on the Temple steps, the southern steps, the steps that Jesus would go down as He came out of the Temple. And one day,

as they were coming out of the Temple, His disciples, asking the same question, “What is the sign of the end? How will we know when the end comes?” And it was a very, very valid question. Because you see, if we would go back all the way to the Old Testament, we would know from those scriptures and especially from Daniel, that there was a time coming, a time when there would be a tumult of nations, a time of tribulation such as this world has never seen yet, and will never see again. A time of tribulation that would usher in the end. And so the question was very, very natural. What had happened was this: They had been at the Temple Mount. The treasury was there. They were putting in their gifts and sometimes the Pharisees would ring a bell and they would announce how much had been put in. And along comes a little old lady with her two copper coins, a widow. It’s all that she has. And she takes those two copper coins and she puts them in and it’s very obvious that’s it’s not like all the other gifts that have just been given and no bell was rung for her. If a bell was rung at all that day. “And [Jesus] said, ‘Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them; for...out of their surplus [they gave] into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on.’ And while they were talking about the temple, that it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts....”(Luke 21:3-5) Now you can imagine if we would be able to go up on the temple mount to the time of Jesus, what would we see there? We would see a magnificent temple, the temple of Herod the Great, the one that Herod had embellished. Herod loved to build. That’s why he built with such huge, huge stones. He was Herod the Great and he wanted everyone to see the magnificence of his work. And as they looked at it, Jesus turned to them and this is what He says. [“The day is coming when what you see, not one stone will be left upon another. It will all be torn down. It will all be brought to an end.”](PARAPHRASE 21:6) And “They questioned Him, saying, ‘Teacher, when therefore will these things [be]? And what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?’”(21:7) And what He wants them to make sure is, [“Look, see that you’re not misled; because many are going to come saying, ‘I am the Christ. I am He.’” But He says, “Do not believe

them.”](PARAPHRASE 21:8) You say, “Well why shouldn’t they believe them?” Well we’re going to see later why they shouldn’t believe. But listen, when Jesus comes, the whole world will know. Because it will be like the lightening coming out of the east to the west, when Jesus Christ comes. And He says, “...you [will] hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end does not follow immediately.”(21:9) Now what I would like to suggest is if you’re able to walk with me through the scriptures, and that’s so important, for you to have your own Bible, but simply to take a red coloring pencil or a red color, and just color the word “the end”. Because this is a passage that you and I are going to look at, not only here in Luke 21, but in a parallel passage in Matthew, chapter 24. As a matter of fact, let’s look at this passage. It says, “[And] Then He continued by saying to them, ‘Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.’”(21:10-11) Aren’t all these the things that strike fear in our heart? I mean, after September 11, what happened? Well we went to war with Afghanistan. And then after Afghanistan what happened? All of a sudden a plane took off in New York and after being in the air about three minutes, it disintegrated. It exploded and over 265 people were killed. People on the ground were killed. Hearts struck us for fear, out of terror because of what was happening. In a sense, the plane exploding, we wondered: Is it a sign? Is it a sign in the sky that this is happening again? You know, it’s so wonderful to understand, Beloved, that God says this... God says that, “[He] has not given [His children the] spirit of fear, but...power and...love and...a sound mind.”(2 Timothy 1:7, NKJV) And do you know where a sound mind comes from? A sound mind comes from understanding God’s Word, of knowing and understanding that this is pure unadulterated truth. And when you and I get into the Word of God and we see what it says and we know that these are words of truth, that this is God’s Book, that its God breathed. Its God inspired. And not one jot or one tittle of it will ever be changed until everything is fulfilled. When you and I see that,

when you and I understand that, then it stabilizes us. Now come and look at verse 12. Because this is what it says. “But before all these things...,”(Luke 21:12a) But before all these things. What things? All these things of kingdom against kingdom and nation against nation and terrors in the heavens and signs in the skies. “...before all these things...,” He says, “...they will lay...hands on you...,”(21:12a) And it’s like he’s standing here right now with His disciples and they’re coming out of here and He’s turning to them and He’s saying to them, “They’re going to lay hands on you.” Can you imagine the feeling of fear and what is coming? I thought You were the King. I thought we would reign with You. And yes, He is the King. And yes, they will reign with Him and yes, you and I, if we know Jesus Christ, we will reign with them. But before the crown comes a cross, Beloved. And so He says, “...you will be hated by all [nations for]...My name[’s sake].”(21:17) He says, “...they will... [deliver] you to the synagogues and [to] prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name’s sake.”(21:12b) Do you know that James, who was the half brother of Jesus Christ, who became the pillar of the church and who wrote the Epistle of James, that James was taken outside of the synagogue and that he was stoned and that he was beaten to death? Now James was not one of the twelve. James was not with Jesus on that day. But He was saying to His disciples, “This is what they’re going to do to you.” And you know what, when they did it, they thought that they were doing God a favor. They thought they were doing what God said. He said, “It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony....” And then He goes on to say, “...So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute. But you will be [delivered up] even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death...Yet not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives.”(Luke 21:13-19) And then He made this classic statement. [“But when you see Jerusalem encompassed about by armies, then [know this]...”] (PARAPHRASE Luke 21:20a) Then know what? He’s going to tell them

what the beginning of the end is. He says, "...then recognize that her desolation is [at hand]." (21:20b) What is He saying? He's saying this: That all this temple is going to be destroyed. All this city is going to be destroyed. You say, "How could that happen?" It's kind of like people felt in America. Aren't we God's favorite nation? Surely God would never let war come to our shores! Well they thought and they knew that they were God's chosen people. And surely this earthly Zion, this earthly Jerusalem was the city of the great King and nothing would happen to it again. Oh yes, this temple had been destroyed in 586 B.C. by the Babylonians when they besieged it three times. And finally in 586 B.C. it was totally destroyed. And they thought surely, this could not happen again. But He says, "It is going to happen again." Now watch what He says so that you can understand. He says, "Then [let] those who are in Judea...flee to the mountains..." (21:21a) What is He saying? Well, "If you're in Judea, I want you to flee to the mountains. I don't want you to come back into this city." He says, "Then [let] those who are in Judea...flee to the mountains, [then let] those who are in the midst of the city [depart]..." (21:21a-b) [When you see this compassed about by armies, then I want you to depart. I want you to get out of here.] He says, "...because these are days of vengeance, [in order] that all [the] things [that] are written [may] be fulfilled." (21:22) So these are days of vengeance, this must come. And then He says, "Woe to those who are [with child] and to those who...[nurse babes] in those days; for there will be..." And listen carefully. "...great distress [to] the land and wrath [upon all its] people..." (21:23) Why wrath? And we'll look at that when we come right back.

PART TWO

Remember I told you this, Precious One, that every word of God is a pure word. It's a God breathed word and every word of God is really going to come to pass. And so He says, "...and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and [they] will be led captive into all...nations; and Jerusalem will be

trampled under foot by [all] the Gentiles...” Now listen, “...until, until the times of the Gentiles [be] fulfilled.”(21:24) Now what I want you to do is I want you to stop there for a minute and I want you to write Romans 11 next to that. If you’ll write Romans 11, verse 25. Because I want to show you something. I want to show you what God is saying. Why is Jerusalem in the present day turmoil it’s in? Why are there so many that want to have this nation? Why are there denominations that want to take over certain parts of Jerusalem. Why do the Arabs want this land? Why is Israel not at peace? Well it’s not going to be at peace until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled and the seventieth week of Daniel is finished. And you say, “Kay, what are the times of the Gentiles? And what is the seventieth week of Daniel?” I promise you, Precious One, if you will follow me, if you will listen to me carefully, if you’ll get our your Bible, if you will mark the text, then I will show you not my opinion, but I will show you what the Word of God says. Because we’ll just look at the Word of God. You see, years and years ago, centuries ago, millenniums ago, when God called Abraham out of the Ur of the Chaldees... His name was Abram then. God said to him, [“I will make of thee a great nation and in thee all the nations of the earth will be blessed.”] (PARAPHRASE Genesis 12:2, KJV) Galatians 3 tells us that that was the time when God preached the gospel, the good news of salvation, even to the nations. So God chose a man. From Abraham came Isaac, from Isaac came Jacob, from came Jacob came the twelve sons who became the twelve tribes of Israel, God’s elect and chosen people. And yet God wants all men to come to the knowledge of Him. Aren’t you glad? Especially if you’re not a Jew. Aren’t you thankful? Because God wants the Gentiles to come in. And so, after the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D., this is what Jesus prophesied. Now, He was prophesying this about 29 A.D. And in 70 A.D. Titus and all his Roman army came down and laid siege to this city and eventually they took this city and not one stone in that Temple Mount was left standing. And that’s why you come right down to the bedrock of the Herodian stones. And up above that is all something new. Because what Jesus said was going to come to pass. But then He made an interesting

statement. The end couldn't come until the times of the Gentiles would be fulfilled, until the fullness of the Gentiles. Now what is God saying? Well, God is saying this: That He has a natural olive tree. And that natural olive tree has branches. That natural olive tree is Israel. These are God's chosen people. From them come the covenants and the promises and everything else. And it says, "If those branches did not believe in Christ as the Messiah, they were broken off. And then God turned to the Gentiles. And the gospel came to the Gentiles and the Gentiles believed. Then the Gentiles were grafted in." And it says, ["When the fullness of the Gentiles believe in Jesus, receive Jesus, when every one of Jesus' lost sheep hear the voice of their shepherd and they turn and they follow Him and that last Gentile is saved, then the times of the Gentiles will be fulfilled."](PARAPHRASE Romans 11:25) And then you begin a progression that is going to lead us to the end. And what will be those signs and what will those times be like? Well that's what we're going to see later on. But let me just say this, Precious One: If you want to hasten the day of the coming of Jesus Christ, then you need to become today a follower of Jesus Christ. You need to realize that after the end, there's a new beginning. Because when the end of this age comes, when we have a tollment of nations, when we have a time of tribulation, such as the world has never seen, that time is followed by the Son of Man coming on clouds of glory to rule and to reign on the face of this earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. This is what He promised in the book of Daniel. ["And then all the kingdoms of this earth will belong to the kingdoms of our God and the kingdoms of our Christ. And those Jews and those Gentiles that have believed in Jesus Christ will be raised from the dead and will live again with Him and live in His kingdom and rule and reign."](PARAPHRASE Daniel 2) When you look at this text, I want you to think about these last few verses. Let's look at them now. They're in Luke, chapter 21. Luke 21:24. "...and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations..." speaking of Jerusalem, of the Jews, "...and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by [all] the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."(Luke 21:24) That's why Jerusalem, as I said before,

is trampled under foot now. Now listen to Romans, chapter 11, verse 25.
“For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery-- [lest] you...be wise in your own estimation-- that a partial hardening has happened to Israel...”(Romans 11:25a) In other words, the reason all the Jews haven’t believed is because a partial hardening has happened to them. And look at what it says, “until”. There’s that time phrase. “...until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.”(11:25b) Now when that fullness of the Gentiles has come in, a very exciting event is going to take place. And it’s going to be called, what I believe is called the rapture, the catching up of the saints. And we’ll talk about that later on. But then He says, “And [thus] all Israel will be saved....”(11:26a) Now He’s not talking about all the Jews that were up there for all the times. But He’s talking about the Israel that survives this time of tribulation. We’ll look at that next as we look at Matthew, chapter 24. But He’s saying then all Israel will be saved. [“The Jews that are left will be saved when the deliverer comes from Zion.”](PARAPHRASE 11:26b) You say, “This is Zion.” Yes, this is the earthly Zion. But there’s a heavenly Zion. And Jesus is going to come from heaven. “...as the lightening comes from the east...to the west...,” Matthew 24 says, “...so [shall] the coming of the Son of Man be.”(Matthew 24:27) And He, at that time will remove ungodliness from Jacob just as He says in the prophet Ezekiel, chapter 36. He says, “[And] This is [the covenant] My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.”(Romans 11:27) Listen, this Temple was destroyed because of Israel’s sin, because they refused to listen to God, because they refused to believe God, because they refused to obey God. And listen to me very carefully. Jew or Gentile, if you refuse to believe God, if you refuse to obey God, then you will perish and God doesn’t want that.