

DANIEL (DARE TO BE GOD'S MESSENGER)
PROGRAM 38 (#911218)
WEEK 8 (911344)
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a Production of
Precept Ministries International
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SERIES: Daniel (Dare To Be God's Messenger)

TITLE: Program 38 – The Times Of The Gentiles

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

It's an exciting time of year after the winter, isn't it, when you see the crocus pop the ground, when you see the buds come out on the trees, what do you know? Hey, spring is near. And it's an exciting time of year when you're standing there and it becomes glorious as you watch those green leaves turn into russet reds and yellows and browns. The leaves are telling you, hey, this season is coming. What is God telling us about the seasons?

PART ONE

When you look at Daniel, beloved, you see in Daniel, chapter 9 that gap of time that we've been talking about, between the Messiah, the Prince coming, and then the 70th week of Daniel. There's a gap of time. What is it called? Well I believe it's called the times of the Gentiles. And that's what I want us to look at, because it's so important. And I want us to go to Luke, chapter 21, where we left off in our last program. In Luke, chapter 21, remember

Jesus is sitting with His disciples. They're outside the temple. They're watching the activity. He has told them that the temple is going to be destroyed and they have asked, when? And he tells them what is going to happen in the future and how it's going to lead up to the time of the end. And then he says in verse 12, but before these things, before you come to the end, then this temple is going to be torn down. You're going to be delivered up to synagogues and you're going to be delivered up to kings and rulers and you're going to be, in a sense, martyred. Some of you are going to be put to death for your faith. And then he says in verse 20, but when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, so you want to put a time phrase over when. Draw that little green clock there. It says, recognize her desolation is at hand. Then it says, then, another time phrase, let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains and let those who are in the midst of the city depart and let not those who are in the country enter the city because these are days of vengeance in order that all things which are written may be fulfilled. Now what was written that needs to be fulfilled? Well, you ought to be going Oh, yes, yeah; you got it. Daniel, chapter 9. So let's go to Daniel, chapter 9 and let's look at it in verse 25 he says so you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, now that happened with Artaxerxes in 445 B.C. And then he says to rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, until Jesus came on the donkey, declared the Prince, will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks. That's 483 years or 69 weeks. And it, Jerusalem will be built again and it was built again. It was built under and this is what the book of Ezra is all about. This is what the book of Haggai is about is getting back on that work and getting that temple finished. This is what the book of Zechariah talks about. You laid, the foundation stone, you'll lay the capstone, Zechariah. So it will be built again with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. And it was times of distress that they rebuilt it. All right, Herod then came along and what he did was he added to that temple and he made it grand and he made it glorious. And it says then, after

the sixty-two weeks Messiah will be cut off and have nothing. In other words, He's going to be crucified. And the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The sanctuary's the temple. So what Jesus is saying in Luke, chapter 21 that's recorded for us, in Luke, chapter 21, you and I are seeing the fulfillment of Daniel, chapter 9, verse 24 through 27, but specifically verse 26. And so it says because these are days of vengeance, Luke, chapter 21, in order that all things which are written may be fulfilled. Now remember when this prophecy in Daniel 9 starts off in verse 24, it says that it's going to take seventy weeks to seal up the vision in prophecy, in other words, to complete all these things. So this is part of that completion, not yet complete, but coming. In verse 23 of Luke, chapter 21: Woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babes in those days. In other words, woe to nursing mothers. Why? For there will be great distress on the land, and many, many times when a woman who is nursing a child is in distress, her milk dries up. And remember they didn't have all these formulas and things that we have today. And it says and wrath to this people, to the Jews. And they will fall by the edge of the sword. Remember Rome was a terrible empire. It crushed, it devoured, it killed by the thousands. And it says they will fall by the edge of the sword and will be led captive into all the nations. Now this is the Diaspora. This is the great scattering, the dispersion of the Jews throughout all the world. And it says they will be led captive into all nations and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot; now hang on. And if you're Jewish and you're listening to this out of curiosity, we have a divine appointment. God wants you to see that this Word is true. He wants you to understand that Jesus is the Messiah, that Yeshua is the Messiah. And He says they will be led captive into all the nations and Jerusalem will be trampled down under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. Now, these are the times of the Gentiles. God was working with Israel. Israel was destroyed. The Jews were scattered. Now what happens? We live in this gap of time when Gentiles are

coming to know the Lord Jesus Christ, when they are believing, when the church is made up of more Gentiles than it is Jews. Because the church was and the mystery of the church in, in Ephesians, chapter 3 is this: Jew and Gentile in one body, that one body being the church, being the body of Jesus Christ. But now the times of the Gentiles are being fulfilled. God is sending out His people all over to bring people to Himself. And He says those that the Father draws, will come to Him. So what God is doing is God is moving throughout the nations now with the gospel of Jesus Christ. That's what Precept Ministries International is all about. We're here to assist people all over the world, everybody, any time, any place, any age, any language, to show them how to discover truth for themselves. We want to establish them in God's Word. And so we're throughout the world and we see people coming to Christ all the time and it is so exciting. But we not only see them come to Christ, but we see them rooted and grounded and established in the Word of God. We're in 120 countries and we're in 69 languages. I mean we see people that are so dedicated to teaching others how to study the Word of God that they'll go into countries where their lives are at stake. And we got word about one of our workers, one of our men, a husband and wife were in Kazakhstan. They were getting ready to do a training seminar and the husband was in the church on his knees, praying earnestly and someone came to the window of the church, looked down, saw him and shot him through the back and killed him. We're laying down our lives for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Do you know why? Because when that last Gentile, when that last sheep hears the voice of the Shepherd and recognizes the voice of the Shepherd and comes to Him and receives eternal life, as John, chapter 10 tells us, then the times of the Gentiles will be fulfilled. And what you're going to see then is you are going to see all hell break loose on this earth; for it is the time, the gap has been closed. The purpose of the gap has been fulfilled and now we move back to Israel and the little horn of the fourth beast. And that ten-horned kingdom comes to power and they make a

covenant with God's people, with the Jews and they rebuild the temple and they institute their sacrifices. And then one day that little horn walks into that temple and he takes his seat in the holy of holies and he proclaims himself to be god. And there's only three and a half years left and then Jesus Christ is going to reign on the face of this earth. And then the one that was shot will see the fruit of his labors. And we will all see the fruit of our labors because Christ will reign as King of kings and Lord of lords and we will rule and we will reign with Him. O, beloved, these things will be fulfilled. These things will surely come to pass. And it will just be proof over and over and over again of the veracity, the truthfulness of God's Word, the sureness of His prophecy. Every prophecy will be fulfilled. The vision will be sealed up and you and I then will live on this earth with Jesus Christ and rule and reign with Him. We'll have more to tell you about the times of the Gentiles, but we'll do that right after this break.

PART TWO

Welcome back my friend. Are you ready to dig in to Luke, chapter 21? We want to finish it today, so let's get into it. All right, what we have seen is that Jerusalem, verse 24 of Luke 21, will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. So there is a time for the Gentiles. It is not Israel's day right now. But we know that Jerusalem is being trampled down even today. And it will be trampled down until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. Now what is he talking about? Well, I believe that he's saying that God, is drawing into His body, drawing into His church those people that are yet to be saved that will comprise the church. And in doing that is not finished with Israel. I want to take you to Romans, chapter 11, Romans, chapter 11. Now listen, Romans, chapter 11 he's showing that the Jews' rejection has been the Gentiles salvation. In other words, God made a natural olive tree. That natural olive tree was Israel. Israel, some of the branches of the Jews rejected and did not believe in Jesus

so they were cut off. But the Gentiles that believed in Jesus, which were wild olive branches were grafted in to the natural olive tree. And he says this, now look, you Gentiles, I want you to understand that Israel's rejection has been your salvation. But I don't want you to get uppity about it. I don't want you to think O, I'm better than them. He says I want you to know that if you, a wild olive branch, was grafted into this tree, then if those branches that were cut off, if Jews come back and say that they believe in Christ, then they'll be grafted in. So he's showing them, I'm not through with Israel. Now watch what He says. I do not want you, verse 25, brethren to be uninformed of this mystery. There's mystery here. Lest you be wise in your own estimation. What's the mystery? That a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. So in this gap of time, between the 69th week and the 70th week, we have the times of the Gentiles, when the Gentiles are ruling. But we also have the times of the fullness of the Gentiles when God is bringing in every single Gentile that is going to believe. And then He says this has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in and thus all Israel will be saved. In other words, by the time they get through going through this horrific time, this time of tribulation such as has never been, those that come through the fire, those that remain faithful to God, those that believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah will be saved. And He says thus all Israel will be saved just as it is written. The Deliverer, speaking of Jesus; He's the Deliverer. He'll come from Zion. He's talking about the heavenly Zion. He will remove ungodliness from Jacob. In other words, He's going to take care of Israel's sin, Ezekiel 36 talks about this. And this is the covenant that I will make with them when I take away their sins. He says from the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake. But from the standpoint of God's choice, Israel, the Jews are beloved for the sake of the fathers, Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. And He says for the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable. What is he saying? He's saying this beloved: Look, I made a

covenant with Israel, I promised them, I called them; I do not revoke My promises. Isn't that wonderful. So you can know that because of the way that God deals with Israel and His faithfulness in dealing with Israel, He's going to be faithful with you, because that's His character. He watches over His Word to perform it and to fulfill it. And this is what's happening. We're living in this gap of time. Now go back to Luke, chapter 21 and watch what he says. All right, so verse 25: and there will be signs in sun and moon and stars and upon the earth dismay among nations. In other words, they, they'll be sitting there and their mouths will be hanging open and they'll just be in shock because of the things that are happening in the stars and the sun and the moon and in the skies and the things that they are seeing. These times are going to be disastrous and fear and wonder what is going on. It says and perplexity at the roaring of the seas and the waves, men fainting from fear and the expectations of the things that are coming upon the world. Now, this is what's going to be happening here. And the powers of the heavens will be shaken and then, another time phrase, want to put a clock there, they will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and great glory. Now how are we marking that? Remember we're putting a cloud around it and then I color it blue on the outsides and yellow on the inside. They will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now listen to what he says. Here's the application. When these things begin to take place straighten up. Lift up your heads because your redemption is drawing nigh. And He told them a parable. Remember at the beginning of the program I talked to you about the trees and the budding of the trees and what we knew was coming. He says He told them a parable. Behold the fig tree and all the trees, as soon as they put forth leaves you see it and you know for yourselves that summer is now near. Even so, you too, when you see these things happening recognize that the kingdom of God is at hand. Hey, (clapping) wake up, look up. Watch and know these things and know that when you see them that His coming is near. He says heaven and earth will pass away, but

My words will not pass away. Be on guard that your hearts may not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness. What is He saying? He's talking about this loose, immoral living, the way that we're living now. I mean we are living in total disregard of God. As a matter of fact, we are thumbing our noses at Him. And we are saying we don't believe you. I mean those Ten Commandments are passé; they do not exist. And we're saying to the church stay there, we'll listen to any other religion, but we will not listen to Christianity because they think we want to conform them into our mold. No all we want to do is give them the opportunity to hear the message of the gospel that they might be saved and then God will conform them into His will, into His purpose, into His plan. And so he says be on your guard, don't get caught up with these times. Don't live this dissipated rule less, immoral, amoral lifestyle and drunkenness. Don't let the worries of this life and the day come on you suddenly like a trap where it catches you in its jaws and it's too late. He says it will come on all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. There will not be one human being that will escape this time. He says but keep on the alert at all times, praying in order that you may have the strength to escape all these things that are about to take place and to stand before the Son of Man. Pray that you'll escape them so that someday you will stand before Him; you will see Him face to face and He will not say depart from Me you cursed, but He will put His arms around you and say welcome home, beloved. You fought the good fight. You finished the course. He says these things are about to take place. Oh, beloved, watch this one world government move. Watch this aligning off the nations. Watch what's happening and see He is coming. And be on your guard and be ready to meet your God.