

A Historical Study On The Book Of Luke
Teaching #25: Jerusalem's Redemption: Part Two
Luke 2:38

In our previous study, we began examining the redemption of Jerusalem.

The redemption of Jerusalem and Israel is mentioned **three times** in Luke.

First Mention – By Anna

[...when Anna] *spoke about the child [Jesus] to all who were looking forward to **the redemption of Jerusalem*** (Luke 2:38).

Second Mention – By Jesus

Luke 21:28

[Jesus said,] *“When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city...At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because **your redemption is drawing near.**”*

Third Mention – By The Two Men On The Road To Emmaus

Luke 24:21

*“...we [the two men on the road to Emmaus] had hoped that he [Jesus] was the one who was going to **redeem** Israel.”*

To understand the redemption of Jerusalem, we need to understand the:

- The **CURSES** of the old testament law of Moses in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28.

One of the curses for breaking the law of Moses was that **God would send other nations** into the land of Israel to pronounce judgment on Israel and overtake the land and overthrow the people. As a result, they were in bondage to the control of other nations (see Part 1 for this teaching).

When Jesus was born, the nation of Rome was in control of Israel. The people of Israel, such as Anna and the two men on the road to Emmaus, were looking for Jesus to redeem (set free from bondage) from the control of Rome.

In addition to understanding the curses under the law of Moses, we all need to understand...

- The **PROPHECY** by Daniel concerning old testament Israel - the Israel that was under the law of Moses.

In Daniel 9:24-26, God prophesied, through Daniel, that he (God) would bring the age of the law to an end. This is the end of the age that Jesus and his disciples spoke about in Matthew 24-25, Mark 13, and Luke 21.

This prophecy begins in Daniel 2 when Daniel explains how Israel would fall under the curses of the law (Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28), being ruled by foreign nations. The final nation depicted in Daniel's explanation is Rome. This prophecy is shown through the image of a statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, which Daniel interpreted.

The Prophecy of the Statue and Four Kingdoms

The Four Kingdoms of the Statue

The prophecy of the Statue revealed **Four Kingdoms**.

Kingdom #1: Gold Head – Babylon (605 BC to 539 BC)

Kingdom #2: Silver Arms and Chest – Medes and Persians (539 BC to 332 BC)

Kingdom #3: Bronze Waist – Greece (332 BC to 62 BC)

Kingdom #4: Legs of Iron (Rome) and Feet Mixed With Clay (the corrupt leadership of Israel mixed in with the leadership of Rome – see [Luke Study #24 Part One](#)) – Rome and Israel (63 BC to 70 AD).

The Prophecy of the Fifth Kingdom Outside the Statue

The Fifth Kingdom Outside The Statue

Outside of the statue was a **Fifth Kingdom**.

Kingdom #5: The Kingdom of God/Heaven – A Rock (Stone) That Would Become A Mountain And Fill The Whole Earth

This kingdom begins as a **Stone**.

The Stone:

- **Crushes the feet of the Fourth Kingdom** of iron mixed with clay,
- **Establishes a Kingdom** that symbolically grows as a mountain to fill the whole world.

So this **STONE** becomes a **MOUNTAIN** that fills the whole earth.

In Part 1, we began examining this Stone that became a Mountain, filling the whole earth.

Daniel 2:34-35

*“While you [King Nebuchadnezzar] were watching, a **rock** [stone in most translations – this is Jesus] was cut out [a stone cut out from a mountain and used to build something – Jesus was cut out from the mountain of Israel by God – Israel is referred to as a mountain in Daniel – 9:16; 20; 11:45. Jesus became the chief cornerstone used to build the spiritual temple of grace – Ephesians 2:11-22], but not by human hands.*

Human hands would not cut out this stone.

This stone was cut out by God and used as the cornerstone to build the Fifth Kingdom (the spiritual Kingdom of Grace – Ephesians 2:11-22).

The Fifth Kingdom is:

- The spiritual kingdom of grace built by God.
...in contrast to
- The physical kingdoms built by human hands.

What Does “Not By Human Hands Mean?”

In the previous study, we examined how this phrase was used through the Bible by contrasting *built by human hands* with *built NOT by human hands*.

- **Built by human hands** refers to a physical kingdom, building, or structure built by the effort, sweat and works of the physical efforts **of people**. Physical things built by human hands are temporal and **COME TO AN END**.
- **Built NOT by human hands** refers to a spiritual kingdom, building, or structure built **by the grace God**. Spiritual things built by God are eternal and **HAVE NO END**.

With this background and understanding, let’s turn our attention to...

The Eternal Spiritual Kingdom of Grace That Grows As A Mountain And Fills The Earth

Through Jesus, the one who is the **STONE**, God is progressively building a spiritual kingdom that is increasing in size (as people place their faith in Jesus), becoming a **GROWING MOUNTAIN** that fills the whole earth with his grace. This Kingdom of Grace has no end.

God’s Growing Mountain of Grace

Let’s examine God’s growing mountain of grace, starting in **Daniel 2:34-35**.

*“While you were watching, a **rock** [stone] was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them [In AD 70, God destroyed the corrupt alliance between the Roman Empire and corrupt leadership in Israel, consisting of the chief priests and Pharisee that existed in the days of Jesus*

and following the days of Jesus— see Matthew 21:44-45]. *Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold [Babylon, Medo-Persian, Greece, Rome/Corrupt, Unbelieving, First Century Israel] were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer [crushed]. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock [stone-Jesus] that struck the statue **became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth** [this mountain is the spiritual kingdom of grace established by Jesus as the chief cornerstone that grows throughout the whole world as more and more people place their faith in Jesus— see Ephesians 2:1-22; 2 Corinthians 4:15; Colossians 1:5-6, 12-14].*

The Gospel of Grace Flows Throughout The Earth And Fills The Whole Earth

Colossian 1:5-6 shows how the gospel of grace was **flowing** into the world and **filling** up the world.

Colossians 1:5-6

*...the true message of the gospel that has come to you. In the same way, **the gospel is bearing fruit and GROWING THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE WORLD** [filling the earth with grace]—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood **God's grace**.*

The gospel of grace grows the mountain of grace and fills the earth with grace.

What is the gospel of grace?

The message (gospel) of God's grace is all that God has done for us through Jesus to:

- forgive our sins (Ephesians 1:6-8; Colossians 1:13-14)
- make us righteous (Romans)
- make us spiritually alive (Ephesians 2)
- and reconcile us to himself as Father (2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Galatians 4:4-6)

Forgiveness and righteousness are received through faith (Acts 26:15-18; 13:38-39; Romans, Galatians) apart from the law of Moses or any law-based requirement (see Romans, Galatians, and Ephesians for Paul's full teaching about the gospel of grace).

This message of grace was flowing into the world and filling up the world as seen in **Colossians 1:5-6**.

It is also seen in **2 Corinthians 4:15**.

2 Corinthians 4:15

*All this [the difficulties Paul faced in sharing the gospel of grace and the opposition he faced to prevent him from sharing the gospel – even to the point of death - as mentioned in the verses before verse 15] **is for your benefit** [Paul and his team went through many difficulties and faced much opposition to share the gospel of grace, yet it was all worth it because of the impact the message of grace had in the lives of more and more people], **so that the grace** [the context of what Paul wrote began in 2 Corinthians 3:1 and is about how the old testament law of Moses had come to an end (the old is gone) and the new testament of grace had begun (the new has come)] **that is reaching more and more people** [the good news of the new testament of grace – which was established in the blood of Jesus – was reaching people all over the world] **may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God**.*

What Happens In People's Hearts When They Hear The Good News About God's Grace?

1. When people hear the good news of God's grace, it produces overwhelming gladness in their hearts.
2. When people hear the good news of God's grace, it results in overflowing gratitude to God.
3. When people hear the goodness of God's grace, it causes people to see the greatness of God.

During the life and ministry of Paul, the message of God's grace filled the earth, it filled the hearts of people with gladness and gratitude, causing people to see the greatness of God (when people see the grace of God, they see the greatness of God.)

What was Paul's message of grace that filled the earth and filled people's hearts with gladness and gratitude?

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (Berean Standard Bible)

The old has passed away (the old testament of law resulting in bondage, death and condemnation – see 2 Corinthians 3). *Behold, the new has come* (the new testament of grace resulting in forgiveness, righteousness, eternal life, and freedom)! *All this is from God* [God brought the old testament of grace to an end, and he established the new testament in the blood of Jesus – see 2 Corinthians chapter 3], *who reconciled us* [made it possible for the human race to be in relationship with God through the removal of the sins barrier blocking a relationship with God] *to Himself through Christ* [the blood of Jesus that established the new testament of grace] *and gave us* [Paul and his team] *the ministry* [the assignment of taking the message of the new testament of grace to others] *of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ* [through the work of Jesus...through his blood, his death, and his resurrection, God made it possible for all people to know him personally], *not counting men's trespasses against them* [the new testament message of grace is that God, through Jesus, removed the barrier of sins preventing a person from knowing God by placing the sins of the world upon Jesus...the reason God is not counting any of our sins against us is because all of our sins were counted against Jesus]. *And He has committed to us* [Paul and his team] *the message of reconciliation* [the message of the new testament of grace, the message that all of our sins have been counted against Jesus and none are left to be counted against us]. *Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ* [Paul and his team, on behalf of Jesus, shared the good news of God's grace with people all over the world – they filled the world with the message of God's grace], *as though God were making His appeal through us* [God, through Paul and his team, was making known the message of the new testament of grace]. *We implore you on behalf of Christ: Be reconciled to God* [in context, Paul is appealing to those who have rejected Jesus as the Christ and his work on the cross, where Jesus established the new testament of grace, to turn away from following the law of Moses for salvation and turn to the grace of Jesus by placing their faith in him]. *God made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf* [Jesus took all of our sins upon himself at the cross...this is what the book of Hebrews explains], *so that in Him we might become* [might become is one Greek word meaning to emerge forth as] *the righteousness of God* [through faith in Jesus, a person becomes or emerges forth as God's righteous one – this is what the book of Romans is about].

In 2 Corinthians 3-6:2, **Paul speaks on behalf of Jesus** (ambassador of Jesus) the message of the new testament of grace. He explained:

- The old testament of law ended.

- The new testament of grace began.
- The old testament of law was a ministry of bondage and death.
- The new testament of grace is a ministry of forgiveness, righteousness, freedom, and eternal life.
- The old testament of law was based upon Moses.
- The new testament of grace is based upon Jesus
- The old testament of law achieved external, temporal forgiveness and could not reconcile a person to God.
- The new testament of grace achieved internal, eternal forgiveness and eternally reconciled people to God who placed their faith in Jesus.

In Paul's time, this was not a popular message among the rejecters of Jesus - teachers and leaders of the Law of Moses (clay of the Fourth Kingdom), which is why they tried to kill him. Eventually, they had Paul arrested, tried, and beheaded by Rome (the kingdom of iron mixed with clay).

However, before his death, Paul communicated the gospel of grace, the new testament of grace, which began to fill the whole earth.

What does this have to do with the redemption of Jerusalem?

According to Jesus (in the Book of Revelation, Matthew 24-25, Mark 13, and Luke 21) God would bring **JUDGMENT** on **Old Testament, First Century**, Unbelieving and Christ Rejecting Israel by destroying the temple in Jerusalem (no stone would be left upon another). This would be the final judgment under the old testament of law and would be based upon Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 (see Revelation 6).

What do we know about this judgment?

- This judgment would include **vengeance for the martyrs (Luke 21:22)**. The martyrs included believers in Jesus killed in the first century by Jewish leaders and Rome. In Revelation 6:9:11, John writes about the martyrs (those slain) slain during the persecution of the believers starting with Stephen (Acts 7; Acts 22:20) and continuing through AD 70.
- This judgment would also **mark the official end of the Old Testament Age as prophesied by Daniel in Daniel chapter 9:24-27**.
- This judgment would result in **the establishment of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21-22, Isaiah 65:17-25)**.

We will examine this later in our series of studies.

In AD 70, those who believed in Jesus fled Jerusalem prior to this destruction, as instructed by Jesus. In this way, they were part of the redemption from Jerusalem that took place in AD 70. As we noted in our previous study, this is the Second Redemption/Jerusalem. The First Redemption/Exodus was when the people of Israel escaped the judgment on Egypt when they were led out of Egypt by Moses.

Until the time of judgment came in AD 70, the message of God's grace was reaching more and more people, resulting in the great mountain of grace growing throughout the world. Yet, at the same time, many believers were slain – martyred for their belief in Jesus at the hands of Rome (Iron) and the unbelieving leaders in Israel (Clay).

Thanks for being a part of this Bible Study!

All verses are NIV unless otherwise noted.

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