

The Great Controversy Series
2-A Desolate House of Thieves Destroyed
Chapter 1: “The Destruction of Jerusalem”
 Bible Sermon Study Notes: Pastor Cary Rodgers, Jr

Core message of the Great Controversy is a great pleading to the world to repent and be converted...

Mic 6:2 Hear ye, O mountains, the LORD'S controversy, and ye strong foundations of the earth: for the LORD hath a controversy with his people, and he will plead with Israel.

Problem SIN = DEATH!

Eze_18:30 Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

What applied to Israel in the past applies to us today. We need to learn from how God dealt with Israel so we can learn how God deals with us today.

Matter of fact, the first chapter of the Great Controversy speaks directly to Seventh-day Adventist. Remember the Israelites were in essence “Seventh-day Adventist.” They were suppose to keep the law of God including the seventh-day Sabbath. They also were supposed to looking for the first advent, or coming of the Messiah.

Why does God record the lessons of how He dealt with Israel for us today?

Remember if you want to know the future look at the past! There nothing new under the sun!

Romans 15:4

4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime [previously or in the past] were written for our learning [instruction], that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

PATIENCE [Greek] hupomonē [*hoop-om-on-ay*] **cheerful endurance, constancy**

Constancy (Webster dictionary)

CONSTANCY, n. [L., to stand.]

1. Fixedness; a standing firm; hence, applied to God or his works, immutability; unalterable continuance; a permanent state.
2. Fixedness or firmness of mind; persevering resolution; steady, unshaken determination; particularly applicable to firmness of mind under sufferings, to steadiness in attachments, and to perseverance in enterprise. Lasting affection; stability in love or friendship.
3. Certainty; veracity; reality.

COMFORT [Greek] paraklēsis [*par-ak'-lay-sis*] - *imploration, hortation, solace*: - consolation, exhortation, intreaty.

Exhortation and Comfort uses the same Greek word “paraklesis”

Exhortation = an appeal to encourage

Imploration - to beg urgently or piteously for (aid, mercy, pardon, etc.): (Dictionary.com)

In other words, the lessons of Israel was given to God's people today so we can cheerful endure with firmness in mind, to be encouraged, and to urgently and humbly ask for the pardon and aid of Jesus Christ.

1Co 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition [attention], upon whom the ends of the world are come.

What was the spiritual condition of Israel at the time of Jesus Christ?

They were apostates! Even though they did not openly worship Baal and other false idols like others Israelites generations before them, they were in worst condition! They were supposed to be Seventh-day Adventists looking for the Messiah Jesus Christ, but when He came with undeniable evidence they killed HIM!

Listen, all people but especially those who keep the law and the testimonies, those who believe in the seventh day Sabbath and the second coming of Jesus Christ, we all need to make sure that we are abiding in Christ's True Church by faith and not mesmerized into BABYLON!

Did you know that Israel at the time of Christ drunk so much "Babylonian" (false doctrine) wine that they were spiritually in Babylon and they fell as Babylon!

It was **Passover season** and many Jews from every nation came to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration! It was a very festive season of the year, Passover day was soon approaching. As Jesus earthly ministry was coming to an end while riding on a donkey toward Jerusalem there were shouts of praise to Jesus as the king that they thought was about to usurp the authority of Rome and become king of the Jewish nation! The city was astir, the people were excited EXCEPT the Jewish leaders! They told Jesus that He need to stop this at once.

Luke 19:38-40

38 Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.
39 And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples.
40 And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.

What was Jesus' reaction when He stopped and saw the city of Jerusalem?

Luke 19:41 And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it

What heart wrenching warning did He give Israel and His disciples?

Luke 19:42-44

42 Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.
43 For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side,
44 And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

Matthew 24:1-2

1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple.
2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one

stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

Why did Jesus give such a dire prophecy about Israel?

Going back to Luke 19 when Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem, what did He do next?

Luke 19:45-48

45 And he went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold therein, and them that bought;

46 Saying unto them, It is written, **My house is the house of prayer**: but ye have made it a den of thieves.

47 And he taught daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to destroy him,

48 And could not find what they might do: for all the people were very attentive to hear him.

Notice that this scene here in Luke 19 is near the end of Christ's ministry.

Did Jesus do something similar at the beginning of His ministry to bring about a revival and reformation among His people of Israel? Yes....

John 2:13-16

13 And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,

14 And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

15 And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

16 And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not **my Father's house** an house of merchandise.

About 3 ½ years when Jesus ministry was coming to a close did the leadership of Israel change. Did they reform and following Jesus? No, they rejected the TRUTH and got worst. We saw that in Luke 19.

We must learn some very valuable lessons in our day.

Remember, what did Jesus call the church of Israel in Luke 19:46?

“A den of thieves”.

Who were these “thieves”?

John 10:1-13

1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

2 But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

6 This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.

7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

12 But he that is an hireling [wage workers], and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

These hireling claimed to be pastors hired to take care of the sheep but they allowed the wolf (error), worldliness and Satan, to come in an SCATTER the sheep!

What did the sheep do when they realize they heard strange doctrine coming from the “hireling”?

Verse 5 – They flee from the hireling and follow the good shepherd, Jesus Christ who is on the Mountain of TRUTH!

Again, who was responsible for making God’s house a den of thieves? The leadership! The priests, scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees! This is the same leadership that wanted to kill Jesus.

Lesson: When the leadership apostatize and becomes corrupt the whole house eventually is corrupted.

Is there a parallel in our day in which we cannot ignore?

At the time of the prophet Isaiah what was the condition of Israel and why?

Isaiah 1:1-6

1 The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.

3 The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

4 Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.

5 Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

6 From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

The whole head is sick, this is referring to the leadership of Israel from the king, priest, scribes, and many “prophets.” When Israel’s leadership rejected the truth, Jesus, they were officially in full blown apostasy.

When the head is sick, the body is sick! This was the condition of Israel of the past and this is the condition of the Seventh-day Adventist corporate church today who have LEFT the Mountain of Truth to embrace BABYLON!

Are there any parallels in the condition of the leadership of apostate Israel and many SDA ministers today hired as pastors and leaders in the corporate church?

Jer_12:10 Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion under foot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness.

Isaiah 56:10-12

10 His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.

11 Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.

12 Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and to morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant.

“God's people” have been clearly given the knowledge of TRUTH... Law and the testimonies in Israel and today in the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Over the years the pillars in which the Seventh-day Adventist Church was established on has been chipped away by the leadership from the conference level down to the local pastors.

Truth rejected... Worldliness and Lies accepted

Sanctuary message of victory over sin – REJECTED

Health reform in its entirety without the use of poisonous drugs - REJECTED

Education reform without worldly standards, accreditation, papal Rome's “degree” system – REJECTED

Three Angels Message in its entirety exposing Papal Rome and Mark of the Beast Crisis – REJECTED

The seventh-day Sabbath! - Soon to be totally REJECTED

What happen over the years has the pillars of truth has been rejected?

Worldly dance and music in the church – ACCEPTED

Homosexuality and transgender (“non-practicing”??) - ACCEPTED

Ecumenical meetings with the Papacy! - ACCEPTED

Abortions in many SDA hospitals – ACCEPTED

Humanism and spiritualism – ACCEPTED

Idol WORSHIP! - ACCEPTED

Hollywood – ACCEPTED

NBA/NFL/PGA, etc – ACCEPTED

Like Israel at the time of Christ the people we are now taught that if you remove your membership from the SDA church that you have been shaken out and lost! They created a system like Israel to keep all who protest and call for reform quiet. Like Israel they teach the people to revere the church leadership and pastors. Like Israel they set up idol to worship in the high places of their educational system and hospitals.

Was this prophesied in the Bible about the last day people who like Israel had both the law and the testimonies the whole truth? Yes!

Romans 1:18-32

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all **ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;**

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Wake up this a prophecy of our current corporate SDA church who “hold the TRUTH in unrighteousness! They know the judgment of God, day of Atonement, but reject it! Like Israel, Jesus is warning His people.

Jeremiah 6:16-17

16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

17 Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken.

When God’s people from head to toe who “hold the TRUTH in unrighteousness” reject the truth, what is God’s response?

Hos 4:1 Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

Hos 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

What is the result when God’s people from the head to the feet are in full blown apostasy?

Isaiah 3:8

8 For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah is fallen: because their tongue and their doings *are* against the LORD, to provoke the eyes of his glory.

When the leadership of Israel refused to reform what happen to the whole house from head to toe?

Matthew 23:37-38

37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

Those who don't truly trust Christ will be left desolate. Jesus will not leave nor forsake those who put their trust in Him!

What is the result of a "desolate" house?

Mic_6:13 Therefore also will I make thee sick in smiting thee, in making thee desolate because of thy sins.

Mic 7:13 Notwithstanding the land shall be desolate because of them that dwell therein, for the fruit of their doings.

"But when men pass the limits of divine forbearance, that restraint is removed. God does not stand toward the sinner as an executioner of the sentence against transgression; but He leaves the rejectors of His mercy to themselves, to reap that which they have sown. Every ray of light rejected, every warning despised or unheeded, every passion indulged, every transgression of the law of God, is a seed sown which yields its unfailing harvest." GC 36

When Jesus gave His prophecy about Israel's and Jerusalem's doom, in which "not one stone would be left upon another" what did he tell His "remnant" of Israel to do?

Did Jesus tell them to stay in among the apostates in hope of a revival and reformation?

Mat 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Mat 24:16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

Luk 19:43 For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side,

These were the signs of their escape before the doom of Jerusalem.

Jesus prophesied 40 years before it happened that Jerusalem was going to be destroyed but He lovingly given those who remained in the truth signs when it was time to get out!

66 AD: Abomination of Desolation surrounds Jerusalem

In 66 AD during the war between Israel and Rome, the Roman soldiers lead by Cestius Gaius surrounded the city of Jerusalem, the ABOMINATION of DESOLATION as prophesied by Christ. They saw the clear sign that this was time to flee to the mountain, when the army retreated. Those NT christian leaders who compromised God truth begin to mock at it and believed that God would protect Jerusalem and that they had nothing to worry about. Some believed them and stayed, but the remnant held on by faith to the Law and the testimonies. They believed the prophecy of Jerusalem destruction, and when **Cestius Gaius** and army suddenly retreated ALL the true NT Christians got out and fled to the mountains! Those who were convinced by the apostate NT leadership stayed behind. For a moment it appeared that Israel would actually win its independence from Rome. When Cestius retreated, Israel chased them killed many Roman soldiers. Israel was victorious! They and many of the apostate Christians were celebrating.

70 AD: Destruction of Jerusalem

About four years later, the Roman army came back to Jerusalem in full force under a new army general by the name of Titus. They surrounded the city with no intentions of retreating. Their main goal was to take the capital city of Israel and stop Israel rebel once and for ALL. When the signal was given Roman attacked the city with no intentions of destroying the temple, but it was completely destroyed in the fight. History

reveals that over 1 million Jews lost their lives in the fight and another 97,000 was taken as captives.

Modern Israel – SDA Corp Churches

First Siege – attack on God’s marriage – homosexuality.... An abomination of destruction... this is the time to get OUT... You cannot wait for the second to make a decision...

Second Siege – reject the seventh-day Sabbath an accept Papal Rome’s counterfeit Sunday Sabbath... too late!

“Like Israel of old the wicked destroy themselves; they fall by their iniquity. By a life of sin, they have placed themselves so out of harmony with God, their natures have become so debased with evil, that the manifestation of His glory is to them a consuming fire.” GC 37

Note: Those who supposed to be Sabbath keepers looking for the first advent of Christ, rejected Christ and had him killed. Also they killed many of Christ true disciples! Is there a parallel for us to understand for the last days? To be continued...

Only two choices ... appeal... True Church or Babylon. ALL who reject God’s truth will be in Babylon even SDA apostates.