

Lesson Two

A.D. 70

The Battle, the Destruction, and the Dispersion

*“Jesus left **the temple** and was walking away when His disciples came up to Him to call His attention to its buildings. ‘Do you see all **these things** (the temple and the walls)?’ He asked. ‘I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down’” (Mt. 24:1-2 NIV, also Lk. 21:5-6). Jesus gave this specific prophecy of the Temple and Jerusalem walls being destroyed shortly before His death and resurrection. The disciples asked Jesus **“When shall these things be?”** (Mt. 24:3, NKJV). Jesus responds in Matthew 23 by giving them “signs of the times”, all prior to events of A.D. 70. Proposition: A.D. 70 is *“the God orchestrated official end of the Old Covenant way of worship.”* Is that true?*

The Crucifixion (A.D. 30) - *“Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying Truly this was the Son of God”* (Matthew 27:54).

The Destruction of the Temple and the City (A.D. 70) - Why did God wait for **40 years** after Jesus' death and resurrection to fulfill Jesus' prophecy about the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem? The number **40** in the Bible is symbolic of transition. Also, **40** years speaks of God's patience in giving time for people to repent. *God did not leave the Jews without a witness to the significance of Christ's work.*

A Black Stone Was Drawn and the Scarlet Thread Stayed Red for 40 Consecutive Years (A.D. 30-70).

The Day of Atonement for Jews occurred during the fall. Jesus died during Passover in the spring A.D. 30. *“The priest shall cast lots on the two goats; one for the Lord, and the other for the scapegoat”* (Lv. 16:8).

The scapegoat ritual was atonement in the Old Covenant (sinners **at-one** with God, an **at-one-moment**). Information from the Babylonian Talmud and the Mishnah indicates that the lots were two stones—one white and one black. The white stone had the words **“For the Lord”** (*LaHashem*) written on it, and the black stone had the words **“For Azazel”** (i.e., the “escape-goat”) on it. These two stones were placed into a container and shaken. Without looking into the container, the high priest would put his right hand into the container and draw out one of the lots. The Talmud (Jewish) states that for two hundred years prior to A.D. 30, the first stone in the right hand of the high priest randomly fluctuated between the white and black stone. But, *beginning with the Day of Atonement A.D. 30, (after the crucifixion) the black stone appeared in the right hand 40 consecutive years.* The odds of that happening are over a trillion to one.

“Immediately after the lots decided the destiny of the two goats, they were distinguished from each other by peculiar marks. The one which was “for Jehovah” had a red woolen thread tied *around its neck*, while the one “for Azazel” had **the scarlet thread** tied on the horns.” (Charles Ellicot's Commentary on Leviticus). A portion of this scarlet cloth tied to the goats was tied to the Temple door. Each year the red cloth on the Temple door turned white to signify the atonement of Yom Kippur was acceptable to the Lord. From the Day of Atonement A.D. 30 to A.D. 70, *the scarlet thread never turned white on the Temple door.*

“The Rabbis taught that 40 years prior to the destruction of the Temple the lot did not come up in the right hand nor did the scarlet wool become white” (Talmud, *Yoma* 39).

“Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool” (Isaiah 1:18).