

The Lesson Three

A.D. 70

The Wrath of God in the Fall of Jerusalem

The destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 is significant because in it, God was completing His work of grace. *The Temple was destroyed not apart from God or despite God, but in a full accordance with God's will.*

"The awful catastrophe of the destruction of the Jewish theocracy must have produced the profoundest sensation among the Christians. It was the greatest calamity of Judaism and a great benefit to Christianity; a refutation of the one, a vindication of the other. It separated them forever. Henceforth the heathen could no longer look upon Christianity as a mere sect of Judaism, but must regard and treat it as a new, peculiar religion. The destruction of Jerusalem, therefore, marks that momentous crisis at which the Christian church burst forth forever from the chrysalis of Judaism, awoke to a sense of maturity, and in government and worship at once took its independent stand before the world."

(Phillip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, Vol. I, pp. 403-404)

It Is Finished – AD 70.

AD 70 marks the "official end" to the Covenant with the Jews (the Old Covenant). Now, God enters into a New Agreement (Covenant) with every tribe, kindred, people, and race. This agreement is in His Son. It is biblically correct to say, "The Old Covenant was '*finished*' in AD 70." (**Heb. 8:13**). You must approach the word "finished" in Scriptures like you would when you describe *different aspects of your work and life*. Jesus had *different tasks* to finish at *different stages* until everything He was sent to do was finished. Jesus said to the Father in the Garden of Gethsemane *before His death on the cross*, "I have glorified You on the earth. **I have finished the work** which You have given Me to do." (John 17:4). What did He mean? No one believes that all was accomplished by Jesus in the Garden. He still had to go to the cross. But this declaration of Jesus to the Father tells us that his mission was done for his earthly ministry of healing the sick, raising the dead, and preaching the gospel. **But Jesus had other work to finish?** Christ's life was the just a part of His mission. Christ died to fulfill the Law of sacrifice. On the cross, He cried – "*It is finished*" (John 19:30). But this "finish" on the cross wasn't the last Christ finished a work. Go read **Revelation 15:1**.

*"And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having seven plagues, which are the last, **for in them is finished the wrath of God**"* (Authorized Standard Version).

Our New Covenant theology isn't fully developed until we grasp the big picture of Christ's atonement.

An Old Covenant "Type" of the Finished Wrath of God in AD 70.

In the Exodus story we see that Israel came out of Egypt, passed through the Red Sea, but then *wandered in the wilderness for 40 years of testing before entering the Promised Land*. Listen to Paul:

*"Now these happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, **on whom the end of the ages has come.**"* (1 Corinthians 10:10-11).

The end of that Mosaic age was still in the process of ending in Paul's day and did not end until the Temple, priesthood, sacrificial system, and city were all destroyed! Jesus described the end of the ages

In **Matthew 23:36-38**, after Jesus pronounces 8 woes on the Pharisees and Sadducees, He says, "I say to YOU, all these things will come upon THIS GENERATION... **your house (the Temple) will be left desolate.**"

Matthew 24:3, "Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the **END OF THE AGE?**'"

Matthew 24:32-34 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when YOU see all these things (Matthew 24:4-31) know that it is near—at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, **THIS GENERATION WILL BY NO MEANS PASS AWAY TILL ALL THESE THINGS TAKE PLACE.**" The end of the Mosaic Age was near. From the crucifixion (AD 30) to the destruction of the temple and the city (AD 70) was one transitional generation. It was 40 years, just like the Exodus transition typology into the "Promised Land."

Yom Kippur is another "Shadow" of the End of God's Wrath

Yom Kippur (Tishri 10 which corresponds to our August/September), also called The Day of Atonement, and it was the culmination of the 40-day season of repentance called *Teshuvah*. It was Jewish tradition that *Moses ascended Mt. Sinai and spent 40 days with God receiving the Law of God*. Jews would thus spend 40 days prior to the Day of Atonement to seek God in repentance to confirm that their names were in the Book of Life. It was believed that if they did not "return to the Lord" (*teshuvah*) during this time, their names would be blotted out of the Book of Life, i.e. no atonement that year. This blotting out idea is a distinctively Jewish concept based on the Old Covenant conditional promises of blessings and cursings.

David prayed the following for his enemies "Let them be blotted out of the book of the living and the book of life and not be enrolled among the righteous (Psalm 69:28). "And I urge to help these women who labored with me in the gospel... **whose names are in the Book of Life.**" (Psalm 69:28). "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels." "For the law produces wrath; but where there is no Law, neither is there violation." (Romans 4:15). "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but God's wrath abides on him." (John 3:16-17).

Listen to the teachings of Christ: **Matthew 5:17-18**: "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I came to **fulfill them**. Not one jot or tittle of the Law will pass away until everything is fulfilled." **Luke 21:21**, "For these are the **DAYS OF VENGEANCE**, that ALL things which are written may be fulfilled." Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law; Tabernacles, Passover, Unleavened Bread, FirstFruits, and Atonement.

At Atonement the High Priest Would Appear Before the People Before God's Judgment Appeared

The Old Covenant high priest washed himself and took the blood of the sacrifice in the outer courtyard. He then entered the Holy of Holies and placed the blood on the mercy seat. However, it wasn't until the priest came back out and *pronounced the blessing* that the **PROCESS OF ATONEMENT was "finished"**. (Read **Leviticus 9:22-24**; Hebrews 9:6-10; Hebrews 8:13; and Hebrews 9:26-28 for Atonement fulfilled).

The New Covenant begins with the birth, life, and full obedience of the Messiah (finished in the Garden); it continues with the cross and "cutting a new covenant" by Christ's death, burial, and resurrection; but it doesn't appear in all its fullness until AD 70 when God cleanses the Temple, the city, and the land in judgment, removing the Old Covenant system, and finishing the process of the atonement by pronouncing the blessings of the New Covenant. The wrath of God was finished at the Temple's destruction in AD 70.