

Lesson: 68 Our Lord's Great Prophecy Part B Volume: 7

NOTE: Through the influence of the Reformation of the sixteenth century, and the movements which grew out of it, the power of the Papacy to enforce its decrees against those it pronounced heretics was gradually lessened, until with the exception of Spain, persecution ceased almost wholly about the middle of the eighteenth century - the beginning of an epoch of freedom.

17. Against what deceptions did Christ then warn us?

"Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise ____ Christs, and ____ prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." **Mathew 24:23-24**

18. Answering the question as to what would be the sign of His coming and the end of the world, what did Christ say?

"There shall be ____ in the ____, and in the ____, and in the ____; and upon the earth, ____ of ____, with ____; the ____ and the ____ roaring; men's hearts ____ them for ____, and for looking after those ____ which are coming on the ____: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." **Luke 21:25-26**

19. When were the first of these signs to appear, and what were they to be?

"Immediately after the ____ of those days shall the ____ be ____, and the ____ shall not give her light, and the ____ shall ____ from heaven." **Matthew 24:29**

20. How is this expressed by Mark?

"But in those days, after that ____, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken." **Mark 13:24-25**

NOTE: As already noted, papal persecution almost wholly ceased about the middle of the eighteenth century. Then, true to Christ's words, the signs of His coming at once began to appear.

21. When was there a wonderful darkening of the sun?

On May **19, 1780.**

FOUNDATION PROGRESSIVE SABBATH ADVENT MINISTRIES
(FPSAM), Inc.

The Foundation Bible Lessons

PART 7:

Coming Events and Signs of the Times

Topic: Our Lord's Great Prophecy

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MISSION STATEMENT

Foundation Progressive Sabbath Advent Ministries (FPSAM), Inc. exists to build upon the four **PILLARS** (*Mental, Physical, Spiritual and Social*) that **GUIDED** Jesus' life.

VISION

All Foundation Progressive Sabbath Advent Ministries (FPSAM), Inc. members will use the four pillars to establish and build their personal life and that of others.

SLOGAN

"Don't Accommodate Eliminate"

MOTTO

"Building on FOUR"

TEXT

"And Jesus increased in wisdom (Mental) and stature (Physical & Spiritual), and in favor with God (Spiritual) and man (Social)." **Luke 2:52**

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12. When this sign appeared, what were the disciples to do?

"When you therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) then let them which be in Judea _____. *into the _____.*"

Matthew 24:15-16

NOTE: In October, **66 A.D.**, when Cestius came against the city, but for some unaccountable reason suddenly withdrew his army from it, the Christians discerned in this the sign foretold by Christ, and fled. After the departure of Cestius, Josephus, in his "Wars of the Jews," chapter 20, says that "many of the most eminent of the Jews swam away from the city, as from a ship when it is going to sink." It is a remarkable fact that in the terrible siege which occurred under Titus three and one-half years later, not a single Christian is known to have lost his life, while **1,100,000** Jews are said to have perished in it. **Here is a most striking lesson on the value and importance of studying and believing the prophecies, and giving heed to the signs of the times.** Those who believed what Christ had said, and watched for the sign which He had foretold, were saved, while the unbelieving perished. So it will be in the end of the world. **The watchful and believing will be delivered, while the careless and unbelieving will be snared and taken.** See **Matthew 24:36-44; Luke 21:34-36; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6.**

13. When the sign appeared, how suddenly were they to flee?

"Let him which is on the housetop ____ come down to take anything out of his house: neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes." **Matthew 24:17-18**

14. Besides telling His disciples when to flee, how did Christ further show His solicitude and tender care for them?

"But pray you that your flight be not in *the _____*, neither on the _____ day." **Matthew 24:20**

NOTES: The winter would be an unfavorable time in which to flee, entailing discomfort and hardship; and an attempt to flee on the Sabbath day would doubtless have been met with difficulty, so false and pharisaical were the notions of the Jews respecting the true character and object of the Sabbath. See **Matthew 12:1-14; Luke 13:14-17; Mark 1:32; 2:23-28; John 5:10-18**

NOTE: The prayers of Christ's followers were heard. Events were so overruled that neither Jews nor Romans hindered the flight of the Christians. Upon the retreat of Cestius, the Jews pursued after his army, and the Christians thus had an opportunity to leave the city.

The country also had been cleared of enemies who might have endeavored to intercept them. At the time of this siege, the Jews were assembled at Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles, and thus the Christians of Judea were able to escape unmolested, and in the autumn, a most favorable time for flight.

15. What trying experience did Christ then foretell?

"For then shall be great _____, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." **Matthew 24:21**

NOTES: In paragraph 4 of his preface to his "Wars of the Jews," Josephus, referring to the destruction of Jerusalem, says: "The misfortunes of all men, from the beginning of the world, if they be compared to these of the Jews, are not so considerable." In this terrible calamity, the prophecy of Moses recorded in **Deuteronomy 28:47-53** was literally fulfilled. He said: "Thou shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, . . . in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith your enemies shall distress thee." For an account of the fulfillment of this, see Josephus's "**Wars of the Jews,**" **book 6, chap. 3, par. 4.**

Following the destruction of Jerusalem came the persecution of the early Christians under the pagan emperors during the first three centuries of the Christian era, that begun under Diocletian in **303 A.D.**, and continuing for ten years (**Revelation 2:10**), being the most bitter and extensive persecution of God's people the world had yet witnessed. Following this came the still greater and more terrible persecution of the saints during the long centuries of papal supremacy, foretold in **Daniel 7:25** and **Revelation 12:6**. All these tribulations occurred under either pagan or papal Rome.

16. For whose sake did Christ say the period of papal persecution would be shortened?

"And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but *for the _____ sake those _____ shall be _____.*" **Matthew 24:22**