

“THE BOOK OF REVELATION UNSEALED”

Chapter 3A

Jesus Foretells Destruction of the 2nd Temple



See end of chapter for articles around 2nd Temple's destruction and the riches taken by general Titus used to build the Roman Colosseum in Italy.

Luke 21:5-36

Then, as some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and donations, He said, **"These things which you see the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down."** (The Roman siege of Jerusalem led to the 2nd temple built by Herod being destroyed on the 10th August 70 AD by General Titus and his legions. See <http://www.templemount.org/destruct2.html>)



So they asked Him, saying, "Teacher, but when will these things be? And what sign will there be when these things are about to take place?" And He said: **"Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name** (false prophets), **saying, 'I am He,'** (Jesus) **and, 'The time has drawn near.'** (2nd return of Christ the end times has come) **Therefore do not go after them. But when you hear of wars and commotions,**

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do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately."

Jesus Foretells Wars and Persecution

Then He said to them, “Nation will rise against nation (In the Greek /Hebrew this nation means Ethos which is ethnicity, there will be one race against another referred to as racism the hatred of some one different to yourself. The Greek / Hebrew Strong’s concordance states nation as; G1484 ἔθνος ethnos eth'-nos : Probably from G1486; a race (as of the same habit), that is, a tribe; specifically a foreign (non-Jewish) one (usually by implication pagan): - Gentile, heathen, nation, people. Total KJV occurrences: 164) **and kingdom against kingdom.** (Throughout history there have always been wars and conflicts but since the turn of the 19th century (see seal 2 peace removed Chapter 5) there has been a dramatic increase in the world of war and death. With the coming of WW1 (see chapter 9) and WW2 (see chapter 10) never before has there been world war involving all nations and millions wiped out. You had at turn of 19th century Russo Japanese war 1904-5, Cambodian killing fields 1975-79, Ottoman Armenian genocide 1914-23, Pakistan Bangladesh liberation war 1971, WW1 1914-18, WW2 1939-45, Ukraine war 2014, Stalin Orthodox Christian Genocide 1917-38, Afghanistan war 2001- present, Iraq Iran war 1980-88, Iraqi US war 2003, Kosovo liberation war 1999, Gulf war 1991, Falklands war 1982, France Vietnam war 1946-54, Korean war 1950-53, Syrian war 2011 present, Vietnam war 1964-73 in the last 100 years there has been no less than 10 ongoing wars at any one time killing tens of millions) **And there will be great earthquakes** (acceleration of natural disasters Tsunamis, Earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, sink holes, mud slides, volcanic eruptions, nuclear disasters, mass animal die offs worldwide) **in various places, and famines** (mass water shortages, heat waves and famines killed over 57 million people in the last 100 years) **and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.**

But before all these things (before revelations unfolds and the end of time comes), **they will lay their hands on you and persecute you** (persecution originally started with the Pharisees then the Romans for 300 years then the Roman Catholics for 1260 years then the Muslims for 1400 years before end times), **delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But not a hair of your head shall be lost** (spiritual salvation). **By your patience possess your souls.**

Jesus Foretells Destruction of Jerusalem

"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies (history records the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD fulfilling Jesus words), **then know that its desolation** (destruction) **is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart** (many Christians in Israel at the time saw this coming because of prophecy and fled to the mountains of Judea as Jesus had said to do and were saved), **and let not those who are in the country enter her. For these are the days of vengeance** (vengeance of God against His spiritual enemies), **that all things which are written may be fulfilled** (the destruction of Jerusalem came then it was to be trampled by the gentiles until 1967 a nation no more, then in WW1 Beersheba was taken on 31st October 1917 then Jerusalem on 30th December 1917 defeating the Ottomans that had ruled over Jerusalem up until that point for 400 years. Jerusalem was finally taken back yet the Temple Mount remained in the hands of the Jordanians up until the Arab Israeli 1967 six day war it was then at that time the times of the gentiles was now fulfilled Jerusalem and the Temple mount were no longer being trampled by gentiles non Jews after 1997 years.

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In the end times for another period of 3.5 years or 42 months as found in Mathew 24:21 a “Great Tribulation” directly against Israel takes place WW3 the EZ 38 and 39 war takes place where Jerusalem is once again invaded its trampled by gentiles Rev 11:1-2. Half of Jerusalem is taken and the woman ravished raped for 42 months Zach 14:2. This initial final invasion of Israel takes place at the same time the two witnesses are empowered of Rev 11 leading the world to Armageddon Rev 16:16, this is where again a warning comes flee to the mountains of Judea Mathew 24:15-28. Its during this time as we saw in the “war against the saints” under the beast in chapter 35, that you also see once again the same abomination of desolation set up the star and moon of Islam in the Holy place. This time the abomination of desolation is set up at the Western Wailing Wall at the Temple Mount the Holiest site in Judaism at the al-Aqsa mosque the place of prayer for the Jews).

But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! *(Jerusalem’s destruction in a sense this is Gods revenge on the wicked Jews that refused His salvation at the time on those that murdered Him) For there will be great distress in the land (Jerusalem) and wrath (destruction) upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword (Roman swords 70 AD), and be led away captive (taken as slaves and dispersed abroad) into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled (1967 Arab Israeli war the Temple mount in Jerusalem is finally back in the hands of the Jews after 1997 years of being trampled in gentile hands since 70 AD).*

The Coming of the Son of Man

“(moving into the last days the end of times as declared in book of Daniel and Revelations, Isaiah and Ezekiel) And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (7 Trumpets, 7 seals and 7 bowls poured out ,1st and 2nd woes into 3rd woe, Beast and false Prophet killed, Rev 14:14-16 harvests, Rev 11 two witnesses fulfilled) Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory (Christ's return at 7th Trumpet in His wrath against the nations sinners). Now when these things begin to happen (Revelations began at turn of 19th century), look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws (Return of Christ) near.”

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. When they are already budding (Prophecy historically being fulfilled), you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening (Revelations and Daniel Prophecies), know that the kingdom of God is near (a short time left Jesus is coming soon). Assuredly, I say to you, this generation (bloodlines and generations of men) will by no means pass away till all things take place (Revelations and Daniel prophecies fulfilled along with other scriptural prophecies related to end times). Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Watch Yourselves

"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly (10 the wise virgins). For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth (who are not saved who don't know Christ). Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." *(the first resurrection to rule and reign with Christ for the 1000-year millennial reign and beyond). (NKJV)*

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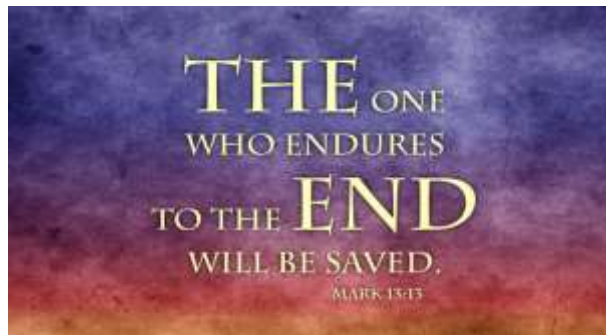
Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem

Luk 19:41-43 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes (because they ignored Christ and His salvation destruction comes to Jerusalem by 70 AD). For days will come upon you when your enemies (General Titus and the Roman legions) will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation." (NKJV)

Dan 9:27 (The Daniel 70-week prophecy is from around 602 BC nearly 700 years before Jerusalem was destroyed) Then he (Christ) shall confirm a covenant with many for one week (7 years of grace 27 AD - 34AD until Stephen was killed in 34 AD); But in the middle of the week (31 AD), He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering (Christ crucified on the cross 3.5 years into His ministry from 27 AD). And on the wing of abominations (the state of being abominated detested, destroyed, detestation destructions, even at this time of the Roman siege Jewish factions had been fighting amongst themselves in the city destroying one another) shall be one (39 years later in 70 AD General Titus came with the destruction of Jerusalem, this is not the twisted Jesuit end times “Daniel 69 week gap theory last 7 years antichrist as some teach” see Revelation Unsealed chapter 15 Daniel 9) who makes desolate (destroys the city of Jerusalem and its temple), Even until the consummation (fulfilment, accomplishment, an ultimate goal or end), which is determined (as prophesied about by Jesus Himself), Is poured out on the desolate (those who denied Christ in Jerusalem are destroyed/judged, as the city is sacked by the Romans in 70 AD. This was a brutal 5-month siege of the city destroying the second temple. Historians claim 600 thousand to 1.1 million jews died)." (NKJV)

Jesus Foretells Destruction of the Temple

Mark 13:1-37



According to Jewish tradition and scripture, the First Temple was built by King Solomon the son of King David in 957 BCE and destroyed by the Neo-Babylonian Empire in 586 BCE – however no substantial archaeological evidence has verified this. The Second Temple was constructed under the auspices of Zerubbabel in 516 BCE and destroyed by the Roman Empire in 70 CE. Orthodox Jewish tradition maintains it is here that the third and final Temple will also be built when the Messiah comes. The location is the holiest site in Judaism and is the place Jews turn towards during prayer. Due to its extreme sanctity, many Jews will not walk on the Mount itself, to avoid unintentionally entering the area where the Holy of Holies stood, since according to Rabbinical law, some aspect of the divine presence is still present at the site.

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Among Muslims, the Mount is the site of one of the three Sacred Mosques, the holiest sites in Islam. Amongst Sunni Muslims, it is considered the third holiest site in Islam. Revered as the Noble Sanctuary, the location of Muhammad's journey to Jerusalem and ascent to heaven, the site is also associated with Jewish biblical prophets who are also venerated in Islam. Umayyad Caliphs commissioned the construction of the al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock on the site. The Dome was completed in 692 CE, making it one of the oldest extant Islamic structures in the world. The Al Aqsa Mosque rests on the far southern side of the Mount, facing Mecca. The Dome of the Rock currently sits in the middle, occupying or close to the area where the Holy Temple previously stood.

In light of the dual claims of both Judaism and Islam, it is one of the most contested religious sites in the world. Since the Crusades, the Muslim community of Jerusalem has managed the site as a Waqf. The Temple Mount is within the Old City, which has been controlled by Israel since 1967. After the Six-Day War, Israel handed administration of the site back to the Waqf under Jordanian custodianship, while maintaining Israeli security control.^[11] It remains a major focal point of the Arab–Israeli conflict. In an attempt to keep the status quo, the Israeli government enforces a controversial ban on prayer by non-Muslims.

See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_Mount

Then as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!" And Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down" (*Jerusalem destroyed in 70 AD Temple was destroyed torn down to get the gold after being set on fire*).

Signs of the Close of the Age

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?" And Jesus, answering them, began to say: "Take heed that no one deceives you (*Hebrews 4:12*). For many (*false teachers and prophets*) will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and will deceive many. But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet.

For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom (*conflicts and wars WW1 and WW2 etc*). And there will be earthquakes in various places (*greatly increased in second half of 19th century*), and there will be famines and troubles. These are the beginnings of sorrows. "But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them. And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations (*now happened in the 19th and 20th century through satellites, social media, radio, TV internet, modern tech*).

But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death (*millions killed 70-150 million by Catholic church in 1260 years alone, 669 million by Islam, WW! with Spanish flu killed up to 100 million, 6 million Jews in WW2 alone with 70 million all up*). And you will be hated by all for My name's sake (*Modern UN turned against Christians, Islam,*

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worldwide governments, organisations and media). **But he who endures to the end shall be saved.**

The Abomination of Desolation

"So when you see the 'ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet (*this takes place with the warring against the saints under Rev 13:1-10 beast which has happened from mid 2013 – Jan 2017 a 42 month period*), **standing where it ought not"** (*let the reader understand this passage is now referring to the end of days unlike in Luke 21 where it speaks about the “destruction of Jerusalem” with similar words*), **"then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains** (*Jesus in Luke 21:5-36 mentioned to flee into mountains of Judea when Romans came to destroy Jerusalem warning Christians*) **Let him who is on the housetop not go down into the house, nor enter to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter.**

For in those days there will be tribulation (*7th Trumpet third woe wrath of God coming Ezekiel 38 and 39 war against Israel “Great Tribulation of 42 months the final WW3*), **such as has not been since the beginning of the creation** (*Armageddon in the valley of Hebron possibly nuclear weapons of war*) **which God created until this time, nor ever shall be. And unless the Lord had shortened those days** (*comes quickly wiping out those whom would try to destroy the Earth*), no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake (*Rev 14:14-16 worldwide harvest and His mature saints*), **whom He chose, He shortened the days.** **"Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'Look, He is there!' do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand.**

The Coming of the Son of Man

"But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds (*the whole Earth in every nation and every one in heavenly realms to be translated into the millennial kingdom 1000 year reign with Christ on Earth the first resurrection*), **from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.**

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

"Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves (*change of season birthing and acceleration of end time events Israel became a nation again in 1948 a new birth new leaves spring forth fulfilling prophecy once again*), **you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation** (*bloodlines and generations of man a generation in modern times is 85 years from 1948 till Trump recognised Jerusalem as Israel's capitol in Dec 2017 was 70 years leaving a gap of 15years till the generation has passed a short time remains we are no in the 6th Trumpet, 6th bowl and 5th seal see chapters*) **will by no means pass away till all these things take place** (*historically fulfilled*). **Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.**

No One Knows That Day or Hour

"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son (*Jesus now knows when He's coming because of Revelation fulfilments*), **but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is** (*now we do*). **It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore,**

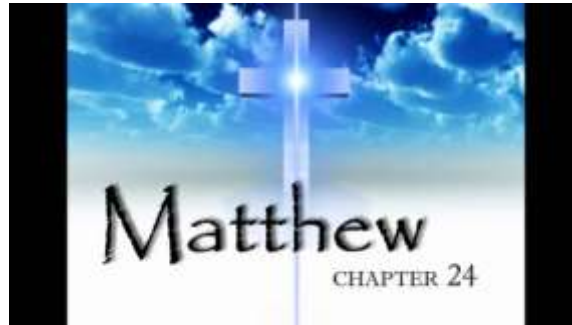
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for you do not know when the master of the house is coming in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!" (NKJV)

Jesus Foretells Temple destruction of 70AD and the end times war of Jerusalem in Israel

Math 24:1-51



Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down (70 AD this took place Jerusalem was sacked by Romans under General Titus)."

Signs of the End of the Age

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?" And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold (end times predictions have come true look around you in 20th century nations). But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come (Rev 14 this has happened through media , satellites , TV , Radio , internet ect).

The Abomination of Desolation

"Therefore when you see the 'ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand again this is now the end of days the end times as in Mark 13 in Jerusalem Abomination of desolation to come in Ez 38 and 39 war, Zach 14:2 Jerusalem invasion, Rev 11:1-2 Jerusalem trampled 42 months, Math 24:21 Great Tribulation abomination set up at al-

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Aqsa Mosque Western wailing Wall Holiest site for Judaism in Israel), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation (*WW3, Armageddon Rev 16:16, economic collapse, utter chaos*), such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

"Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' (*Church*) do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is (*body of Christ*), there the eagles (*saints*) will be gathered together.

The Coming of the Son of Man

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven (*His return 7th Trumpet 3rd woe*), and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet (*7th Trumpet blast will be heard worldwide*), and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

"Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves (*Jerusalem reborn 1948*), you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation (*estimated 85 years is a generation since 1948, Trump recognises Jerusalem as Israel's capital another sign in Dec 2017 just 70 years since 1948 a short time left we are in the 6th Trumpet, 6th Bowl and 5th seal now see chapters*) will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

No One Knows That Day and Hour

"But of that day and hour (*end times*) no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were (*Rampant evil, lack of love, Homosexuals, international corruption, fallen angels "UFO's", nephillim, fallen angels (aliens) greed "bankers", occultists, rape, murder, prostitution, child sex*), so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be (*the world doing its thing as normal deceived by Satan*). Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left (*harvest time at least 50% of the world's people saved 3.5- 4 billion, as in the days of Noah the righteous remained the wicked were taken away by the flood. In our days again the wicked shall be taken into fire the saints shall remain at Christs return moving into the 1000 year millennial reign of Christ on Earth. Many teach it's the wicked that remain and the saints are taken in a secret 150 year old rapture theory this is a false teaching see chapters.*).

Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left (*at time of harvest Rev 14:14-16*)

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*at end of the harvest angels gather the tares out of the wheat buddle them up and burn them with fire the wheat remains Math 3:12 and 13:30 at Christs return 7th Trumpet 3rd woe, the harvest is the end of the world). **Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour (short time left because of historical fulfilments) you do not expect. "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing (spiritually aware knowing the times and seasons not carried away by false doctrines of demons and men, blessed is he/she that reads the book of Revelation and understands it).***

Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards (alcohol defiles your discernment a principality of the antichrist behind it the white horse the conqueror), the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two (Hebrews 4:12 the sword of God living and powerful) and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Mathew 25:33 "sheep and goats" outer darkness judgement for 1000 years to the goats until the 2nd resurrection and the "Great White Throne of God" final judgement comes). (NKJV)

There are two dates and times worked out through history from prophecy for Jerusalem's demise then re birth as a nation with the destruction of the second Temple see articles below. What many don't understand through history is all the 2nd Temple gold and implements were taken to Rome with the riches used to build the famous Colosseum also known as the Flavian Amphitheatre in Italy Rome between 70AD-80AD construction began under emperor Vespasian in 72AD two years after Jerusalem was sacked by the Romans see articles on next few pages.

Article 1: Prophecy Fulfilled from Cyrus Israel Becomes A Nation In 1948



Prior to 1948, Israel last existed as an independent nation in 606 B.C. when the first captives of Israel were taken by Nebuchadnezzar.

The destruction of Israel at the hands of the Babylonians was completed in 587 B.C. with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple.

For 70 biblical years (approximately 69 years on the Gregorian calendar), the Jewish people were held as captives in Babylon.

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In 537 B.C., the Persian King Cyrus conquered Babylon and issued a decree for the Jews to return to their land and rebuild the Temple.

It was during the Babylonian captivity and this return to Israel that Ezekiel appeared as a prophet and provided the following information on the future existence of Israel as an independent nation:

"Now lie on your left side and place the sins of Israel on yourself. You are to bear their sins for the number of days you lie there on your side. You will bear Israel's sins for 390 days - one day for each year of their sin. After that, turn over and lie on your right side for 40 days - one day for each year of Judah's sin." Ezekiel 4:4-6 (NLT)

According to this passage, the people of Israel would not be free until this period of punishment passed. This time is known as the "Servitude of the Nation," and the time allotted by God is 430 years.

However, 70 years of atonement for Israel's sin had already been served during the Babylonian captivity, so only 360 years of punishment remained. The Jews who returned to Israel in 537 B.C. refused to repent of their sins as Ezekiel warned.

As a result, Israel continued to be ruled by foreign powers: the Persians, the Greeks, and the Romans.

In A.D. 70, Titus and the Roman legions destroyed the Temple and scattered the Jewish people as slaves among the various provinces of the Roman Empire. The year 176 B.C. had come and gone, yet Israel never emerged as an independent nation. So what happened?

Was the Bible wrong? Did God change his mind? Absolutely not.

Several earlier Old Testament passages shed light on this mystery. In the Book of Leviticus, they reveal that if, upon their return to the land of Israel, the people refused to obey God, he would increase their punishments seven-fold. This is repeated several times:

"And if in spite of this, you still disobey me, I will punish you for your sins seven times over." Leviticus 26:18 (NLT)

"If even then you remain hostile toward me and refuse to obey, I will inflict you with seven more disasters for your sins." Leviticus 26:21 (NLT)

"And if you fail to learn a lesson from this and continue your hostility toward me, then I myself will be hostile toward you, and I will personally strike you seven times over for your sins." Leviticus 26:23-24 (NLT)

"If after this you still refuse to listen and still remain hostile toward me, then I will give full vent to my hostility. I will punish you seven times over for your sins." Leviticus 26:27-28 (NLT)

In the year 537 B.C., 360 years of punishment remained on God's timetable. However, when the people of Israel refused to repent of their sins, this punishment was multiplied seven-fold from 360 years to 2,520 years. 360 days comprise a biblical year, so the allotted time equalled 907,200 days.

However, in modern times, we don't use the Jewish calendar, but rather the Gregorian calendar which has 365.2425 days in a year. If the 907,200 days are divided by 365.2425, we get approximately 2,483.8292 years.

Historians have established that Cyrus the Persian issued his proclamation to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem sometime in the first half of the year 537 B.C. We don't know the exact day of the proclamation, but the Bible reveals that it had to be prior to the seventh month on the Jewish calendar because in that month, "the Israelites had settled in their towns, all the people assembled together as one person in Jerusalem." Ezra 3:1 (NLT)

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Without an exact starting date, it's more accurate to count backward 907,200 days from the day of Israel's restoration. Israel declared its status as an independent nation on May 14, 1948. The following online calendar conversion tool is available for counting days as well as converting between the Gregorian calendar and the Jewish calendar.

Calendar Conversion Tool

Subtracting 907,200 days from the Gregorian date of May 14, 1948, the calculator reveals a date of July 15, 537 B.C.

Gregorian Calendar: A.D. 14 May 1948

Jewish Calendar: 5 Iyyar 5708

-907,200 days (360 days x 2,520 years)

Gregorian Calendar: 15 July 537 B.C.

Jewish Calendar: 15 Av 3224

Does this reconcile with the Biblical statement that the Jews had resettled in Jerusalem in the seventh month of 537 B.C.?

The equivalent date on the Jewish calendar is 15 Av 3224 - the fifteenth day of the fifth month. Since approximately 900 miles separate Babylon and Jerusalem (the geographical distance is less, but the ancient travel route is estimated at 900 miles), and ancient caravans rarely traveled more than 20 miles per day, this date doesn't seem to contradict the biblical account. The Jews would have had only 74 days to make their trip. Accounting for the Sabbath day of rest, that leaves approximately 63 actual travel days to reach Jerusalem before the end of the seventh month. To cover 900 miles in that time, they needed to average 14.29 miles/per day, 6 days per week - a task well within reach.

It also seems highly likely that Cyrus made his proclamation in this part of the year, because the Jewish holiday Tisha B'Av, a three week fast commemorating the destruction of the Temple 50 years earlier ends on the 9th of Av. 9 Av 537 B.C. was within a one week of the 50th anniversary of the Temple's destruction, a fitting time for a king's proclamation to rebuild it.

Although July 15, 537 B.C. can not be verified by outside sources as the exact day of Cyrus's proclamation, we do know that 537 B.C. was the year in which he made it. As such, we can know for certain that the Bible, in one of the most remarkable prophecies in history, accurately foresaw the year of Israel's restoration as an independent nation some two thousand five hundred years before the event occurred.

Britt Gillette is the founder of End Times Bible Prophecy and the author of Coming To Jesus and Signs Of The Second Coming. Receive his book 7 Signs of the End Times for FREE when you sign up for his monthly newsletter.

See: <http://www.end-times-bible-prophecy.com/prophecy-fulfilled-israel-becomes-a-nation-in-1948.html>

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Article 2:

Prediction Israel Would Become A Nation Again

These Easily Verifiable Prophecies Have Almost All Happened—Which Means the End Is Near



What are the chances that a nation that had ceased to exist as a country to suddenly reappear back on the scene and be resurrected after more than 2000 years? That's not likely. Nothing like that has never before happened. This is why the fulfilment of all these prophecies is so incredibly amazing. And the predictions were all made over 2,000 years ago! Let's take a look at this phenomenon because if it's true, it means that the end of our age is VERY CLOSE.

Jerusalem & the Temple to Be Destroyed

When Jesus approached Jerusalem for the last time, he uttered a prophecy that made him weep:

"But as he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to weep. 'How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes. Before long your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you from every side. They will crush you into the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not recognize it when God visited you.'" (Luke 19:41-44 *NLT*).

So the Lord indicates that the reason for this judgment that will be coming from the hands of the Romans is that the nation of Israel did not respond recognize that he was really their God and Messiah. Later in the week, when the Jesus was teaching the disciples about the end times, he offered more details about what was going to happen to their nation:

“And when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then you will know that the time of its destruction has arrived... For there will be disaster in the land and great anger against this people. They will be killed by the sword or sent away as captives to all the nations of the world. And Jerusalem will be trampled down by the Gentiles until the period of the Gentiles comes to an end." (Luke 21:19,23-24 *NLT*).

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Notice that he says they will be killed by the sword or sent captive to all of the nations of the world until the period of Gentile domination over their land had ended. Everything Jesus predicted happened just as he said it would. Those predictions were literally fulfilled in A.D. 66-70 when the Romans sacked Jerusalem and destroyed the Jewish temple, sending most of the Jews into exile. The Romans commemorated the destruction of the temple on their Arch of Titus where the image of a golden candlestick was clearly etched in stone (see the photo).

Predictions About Israel's Future & Return

Even before Jesus' time, the Hebrew prophets had predicted the Jewish diaspora. For about 2,000 years the Jews would be exiled from the promised land which God had given to them. After the proper time had elapsed, they would be literally compelled to return to their ancient land. The remaking of Israel as a nation is one of the most incredible supernatural displays of God's power in our era. Nothing like this has ever happened before, that a nation would be resurrected after being out of existence for so long. This is a modern prophetic miracle (still in the making).

Hundreds of prophecies were given and they were all specific and exact in nature. Here are just a few of those biblical predictions which have been fulfilled as Israel became an independent nation after so long:

1. Land Laid Waste, the People Scattered, a Sword to Follow Them.

Leviticus 26:32-33 "I will lay waste the land, so that your enemies who live there will be appalled. I will scatter you among the nations and will draw out my sword and pursue you. Your land will be laid waste, and your cities will lie in ruins." NIV

When the worldwide dispersion of the Jewish people began in 70 AD, those that weren't slaughtered were sent into exile. This dispersion was accelerated after a second revolt in 136 AD. Almost everywhere the Jews went they were ostracized and hated causing many persecutions and even the holocaust in Germany where six million perished. The sword truly has followed them everywhere.

2. Israel Destroyed and the Land Destroyed.

"The whole land will be a burning waste of salt and sulfur-nothing planted, nothing sprouting, no vegetation growing on it. It will be like the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in fierce anger." (Deuteronomy 29:23).

Back in 1867, American writer Mark Twain wrote about the land at the time saying, "Palestine sits in sackcloth

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and ashes... the spell of a curse that has withered its fields and fettered its energies... Palestine is desolate and unlovely... It is a hopeless, dreary, heartbroken land."

3. Jerusalem's Temple Mount to be Destroyed & Plowed Under

"Therefore because of you, Zion will be plowed like a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble, the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets." (Micah 3:12 *NIV*). This plowing of the temple mount literally happened at the second destruction of the temple mound by the Romans in AD 135.

4. The Hebrew Language Would Be Resurrected



"For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one accord." (Zephaniah 3:9 *NASB*)

As the Jews were scattered throughout the world, they gradually stopped speaking their native Hebrew and picked up the languages of the countries where they fled. After many centuries, few Jews could speak Hebrew or even read the Torah (the Law).

But Zephaniah predicted the revival of the Hebrew language. The Living Bible paraphrases that verse this way: "At that time I will change the speech of my returning people to pure Hebrew so that all can worship the Lord together."

God orchestrated this revival of spoken and written Hebrew through a single Orthodox Jew who took the name Eliezer Ben-Yehuda. Almost singlehandedly, despite great opposition from his own people, this man resurrected the Hebrew tongue as he studied the Hebrew language all over the world." This became Eliezer's lifelong mission from God, and he reintroduced Hebrew to Palestine where it eventually became Israel's native tongue. (You can read the amazing story of how God used this man to fulfill this prophecy here: [The Revival of the Hebrew Language](#).)

5. They Would Buy Back the Land.

"Fields will be bought for silver, and deeds will be signed, sealed and witnessed in the territory of Benjamin, in the villages around Jerusalem, in the towns of Judah and in the towns of the hill country, of the western foothills and of the Negev, because I will restore their fortunes, declares the LORD." (Jeremiah 32:44 *NIV*).

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Jeremiah prophesied of a day when Jews would once again purchase land within the ancient territory of Palestine. That is precisely what returning Jews were able to do, starting nearly a century ago, as many began to buy back the land.

6. Israel Would be Reborn in a Day.

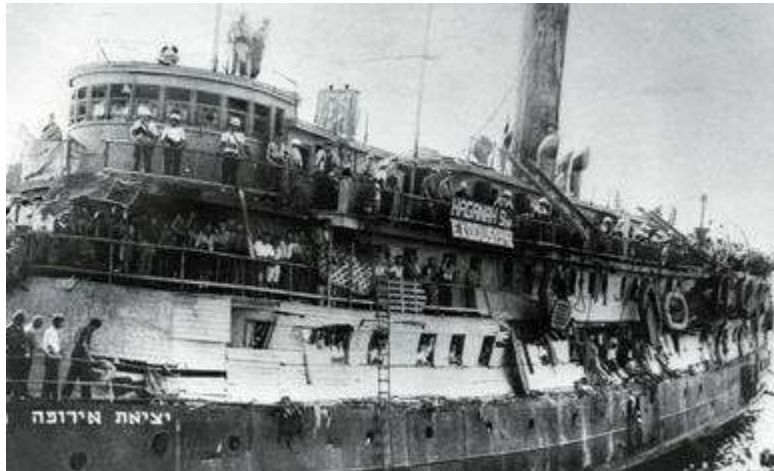
"Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children." (Isaiah 66:8 *NIV*).

Israel, a country that had not really existed as a separate nation for nearly 2,500 years, was declared a new sovereign state by an act of the United Nations on May 14, 1948. The nation was literally born in a single day just as God predicted it would be.

7. A Worldwide Return of Jews to Israel

"I will bring you from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered -- with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath." (Ezekiel 20:34)

"Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth..." (Isaiah 43:5-6 *NIV*).



The Jews had been scattered to virtually every country in the world. But over the years, many have felt compelled to return to their ancestral homeland (especially as they experienced persecution). So it started slowly, but bit by bit they began to come from the east, the west, the north and the south returning to Israel. During the past century, millions of Jews returned, from the Middle East; from the west (Europe and the United States); from the north (in Russia); from the south (Ethiopia); and from the ends of the earth, just as it had all been predicted.

8. The Jews Would Return to Jerusalem

"This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'I will save my people from the countries of the east and the west. I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; they will be my people, and I will be faithful and righteous to them as their God.'" (Zechariah 8:7-8).

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Although Israel became a nation in 1948, the Jews did not have control over Jerusalem until 1967 when they recaptured the city during the Six Day War.

9. Israel Would Bloom and the Fill the World with Fruit.

"The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills, and I will bring my people Israel back from exile.'" (Amos 9:13-14a *NIV*)

"In days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will bud and blossom and fill all the world with fruit." Isaiah 26:6 *NIV*)

"The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy...." (Isaiah 35:1-2 *NIV*).

Palestine was a desolate wasteland full of malarial swamps and deserts right up until the beginning of the last century. When the Jews began to return to the area in large numbers, they began to transform the land. Israel has now advanced in their farming and irrigation techniques taking this once barren land and turning it back into extremely productive farmland. Israel is today a source of food for many countries. Israeli agricultural production is truly a great wonder considering how fast it happened.

10. Israel's Deserts will Become Like the Garden of Eden

"I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs." Isaiah 41:18 *NIV*).

"The Lord will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden..." (Isaiah 51:3 *NIV*).

God declared that he would restore Israel and turn her into a paradise like the garden of Eden. This foreshadows what is currently happening in Israel. The Jews have been irrigating, cultivating and reconditioning the land during much of the 1900s. Many of the country's swamps, which had been infested with malaria, have been converted into farmland. Water from the Sea of Galilee has been channeled through some portions of the deserts. While much work remains, Israel is definitely blooming again.

11. Trees Will Grow Again in the Wasteland.

"I will put in the desert the cedar and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive. I will set junipers in the wasteland, the fir and the cypress together,
so that people may see and know, may consider and understand,
that the hand of the Lord has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it." (Isaiah 41:19-20 *NIV*).

This passage emphasizes that trees and forests will be established in the wasteland which is what Israel was. During the past century, more than 200 million trees have been planted in Israel. The replanted forests are flourishing in this tiny country because it has built a network of irrigation systems all causing the land to bloom. And truly, the Lord brought it all about as he promised through his prophets.

12. In the Last Days the Lord will Defend Jerusalem and Israel.

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"I will make Jerusalem like an intoxicating drink that makes the nearby nations stagger when they send their armies to besiege Jerusalem and Judah. On that day I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock. All the nations will gather against it to try to move it, but they will only hurt themselves... And the clans of Judah will say to themselves, 'The people of Jerusalem have found strength in the Lord of Heaven's Armies, their God.'" Zechariah 12:3-4, 5 NLT

All of the surrounding nations want to destroy Israel and drive her into the sea. But the Lord has promised to make Jerusalem an immovable rock. He promises that those attacking Israel will only hurt themselves. Recently Israel's Iron Dome defense had an incoming Hamas missile which it failed to shoot down. Listen to the words of the commander:

"We fired the first [interceptor]. It missed. Second [interceptor]. It missed. This is very rare. I was in shock. At this point we had just four seconds until the missile lands. We had already notified emergency services to converge on the target location and had warned of a mass-casualty incident.

“Suddenly, Iron Dome (which calculates wind speeds, among other things) shows a major wind coming from the east, a strong wind that ... sends the missile into the sea. We were all stunned. I stood up and shouted, ‘There is a God!’



Many Israelis don't actually believe in God and are not religious at all. But they are still seeing the obvious hand of his protection upon them. Even those who have launched the rockets have allegedly admitted that Israel's God keeps intervening and spoils their aim! Read the entire account here: [Hand of God Sent Missile into the Sea.](#)

Why is this happening? It is because God said what he would do so long ago. God doesn't forget his promises. And all of these predictions are clear proofs that he is going to bring about (or at least allow to happen) all of those things that he has predicted through his prophets. People who doubt that God is involved in fulfilling these prophecies are simply spiritually blind. That kind of blindness can not only get you killed, but it will likely put you right in the middle of hell if you don't allow the Spirit to open your eyes. (See **Why You Can't Understand.**)

The prophecies above, and many more that are not shown about the death and rebirth of the nation of Israel were given to us by God as warnings. He wants us to know how accurate his predictions really are. When God declares through his prophets that something is going to happen, you can be sure that he is writing "history in advance."

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In exactly the say way, when Jesus promised to come back at the end of the age, he meant exactly what he said. He will come back on time and on schedule. The timing of the second coming of Christ will be directly tied into the rebirth of Israel as a nation (See **When Will the Lord Return?**).



This Generation Will Not Pass Away

Jesus gave a parable about a fig tree in Luke 13:6-9; it is cut down after three years of life, because it hasn't produced any fruit. In that parable the fig tree clearly represented Israel, who had failed to respond to the Lord as their Savior and Messiah even after three years of miraculous ministry. As I pointed out in Luke 19 and 21 (quoted above), Jesus also clearly prophesized that Israel would be destroyed and that the Jews would be exiled into the world.

In the last week of his earthly life, Jesus cleansed the temple, condemning the religious leaders for their corruption. Right afterwards, he curses a fig tree he finds along the roadside that has leaves but no fruit—and immediately it begins to wither. Again, he uses a fig tree as a symbol for Israel, and again the symbolism is that the nation is marked for destruction.

Shortly after this, the disciples ask the Lord about what will happen at the end of the age, when he returns. In the middle of his answer about the future, Jesus gives them another parable about a fig tree, and once again it's clear he's using this figure as a symbol for Israel. He says: “Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see all these things, you can know his return is very near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene until all these things take place.” (Matthew 24:32-34 *NLT*).

Now this fig is different from the fig in the first parable and the tree that he's just cursed, because both of those trees didn't have any fruit or buds. But this tree has buds, indicating that fruit is beginning. So in this parable, the Lord is talking about Israel developing green leaves and also fruit buds. In nature, he says, when you see these signs you know what season you're in. In a prophetic sense, when you see Israel "bud" you know that "his return is very near, right at the door." Then Jesus gives an important timing clue. He says: "I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene until all these things take place."

So he's saying that you know what season you're in, when you see the buds of the fig tree; and, the generation that sees this won't pass away until all the things he's been talking about take place. So let's summarize: 1) the season is the last days before the Lord returns, 2) the budding fig represents Israel beginning to blossom again (or

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become a nation in the land), and 3) the generation who sees this won't pass away until the end times events the Lord is talking about have come to pass.

For the fig tree to truly bud would mean that Israel would have to become a nation. Just a few Jews living in Palestine didn't qualify for this to be the budding. Jesus had already predicted that Israel wouldn't be able to become a nation again until the time of Gentile rule over the land was fulfilled. That means, because Israel has indeed become a nation, that *we are in the last days*.

As I have already shown, on May 14, 1948, Israel became a nation. So at this writing, she has now been officially in existence for over 66 years. That's about the length of a single generation. In fact, the Scripture gives us the length of the average life: "The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." (Psalm 90:10).

So a generation is somewhere between 70 and 80 years. Which means there isn't likely much more time on the clock before events in the world start to become much worse and tribulation-style events against the Church, the Jews and the other innocents in the world really picks up.

The Lord's statement has coined the term: "the last generation." This will be the generation that witnesses the events which will lead right up to the Great Tribulation. With everything that I see unfolding right now in our world (especially with events like **God's Judgment at Fukushima**), I for one am convinced that we are the Last Generation. And if that is true, it means that it is highly likely the Lord will come back soon to rescue his people.

I don't care how much food you have stored in your basement. If you are not ready to fly into the sky when the Lord appears in the air, you're not really ready for the worst case scenario here on our earth. The only way that you can be sure that you're ready to meet God is if you are found by him to be a true Christian. This is SO important. Because even if you don't end up going through any sort of tribulation, you will still eventually die. And trust me, you don't want to end up in **That Place Called Hell**. (I just have to think about that place and it tends to keep me on the right road).

I've prepared several articles for you that will help you here in the Seeker's section so that you can connect with Jesus. Take a look at: **How to Repent** and **How to Become A Christian**.

The Lord could come back at any moment. No sign has to take place before he appears in the sky, with a trumpet and a shout, all Christians will rise up to him and then we will disappear, leaving the turmoil behind. Trust me when I say that you really do not want to be left behind. The alternatives are just too horrific to contemplate.

See: <http://freshlightsource.com/endtimes/israelwillbecomenation.html>

Article 3:

Colosseum (Italy Rome)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia *For other uses, see Colosseum (disambiguation).*

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Colosseum



Location

Regio IV Templum Pacis ("Temple of Peace"), Rome, Italy

Built in

70–80 AD

Built by/for

Vespasian, Titus

Type of structure

Amphitheatre



The **Colosseum** or **Coliseum** (*/ˌkɒləˈsiːəm/ KOL-ə-SEE-əm*), also known as the **Flavian Amphitheatre** (Latin: *Amphitheatrum Flavium*; Italian: *Anfiteatro Flavio* [amfiteˈaːtro

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[ˈflaːvjo] or *Colosseo* [kolosˈseːo]), is an oval amphitheatre in the centre of the city of Rome, Italy. Built of travertine limestone, tuff (volcanic rock), and brick-faced concrete,^[1] it was the largest amphitheatre ever built at the time and held 50,000 to 80,000 spectators. The Colosseum is situated just east of the Roman Forum. Construction began under the emperor Vespasian in AD 72^[2] and was completed in AD 80 under his successor and heir, Titus.^[3] Further modifications were made during the reign of Domitian (81–96).^[4] These three emperors are known as the Flavian dynasty, and the amphitheatre was named in Latin for its association with their family name (*Flavius*).

The Colosseum could hold an estimated 50,000 to 80,000 spectators at various points of its history over the centuries,^{[5][6]} having an average audience of some 65,000;^{[7][8]} it was used for gladiatorial contests and public spectacles such as mock sea battles (for only a short time as the hypogeum was soon filled in with mechanisms to support the other activities), animal hunts, executions, re-enactments of famous battles, and dramas based on Roman mythology. The building ceased to be used for entertainment in the early medieval era. It was later reused for such purposes as housing, workshops, quarters for a religious order, a fortress, a quarry, and a Christian shrine.^[citation needed]

Although substantially ruined because of earthquakes and stone-robbers, the Colosseum is still an iconic symbol of Imperial Rome and is listed as one of the New7Wonders of the World.^[9] It is one of Rome's most popular tourist attractions and also has links to the Roman Catholic Church, as each Good Friday the Pope leads a torchlit "Way of the Cross" procession that starts in the area around the Colosseum.^[10] In 2018, it was the most popular tourist attraction in the world, with 7.4 million visitors.^[11]

The Colosseum is also depicted on the Italian version of the five-cent euro coin.



The Colosseum

The Colosseum's original Latin name was *Amphitheatrum Flavium*, often anglicized as *Flavian Amphitheatre*.^[12] The building was constructed by emperors of the Flavian dynasty, following the reign of Nero.^[13] This name is still used in modern English, but generally the structure is better known as the Colosseum. In antiquity, Romans may have referred to the Colosseum by the unofficial name *Amphitheatrum Caesareum* (with *Caesareum* an adjective pertaining to the title *Caesar*), but this name may have been strictly poetic^{[14][15]} as it was not exclusive to the Colosseum; Vespasian and Titus, builders of the Colosseum, also constructed an amphitheater of the same name in Puteoli (modern Pozzuoli).^[16]

The name *Colosseum* is believed to be derived from a colossal statue of Nero that once stood nearby.^[4] This statue was later remodeled by Nero's successors into the likeness of Helios (*Sol*) or Apollo, the sun god, by adding the appropriate solar crown. It was then commonly referred to as the "Colossus solis". Nero's head was also replaced several times with the heads of succeeding emperors. Despite its pagan links, the statue remained standing well into the medieval era and was credited with magical powers. It came to be seen as an iconic symbol of the permanence of Rome.

In the 8th century, an epigram attributed to the Venerable Bede celebrated the symbolic significance of the statue in a prophecy that is variously quoted: *Quamdiu stat Colisæus, stat et Roma; quando cadet colisæus, cadet et*

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Roma; quando cadet Roma, cadet et mundus ("as long as the Colossus stands, so shall Rome; when the Colossus falls, Rome shall fall; when Rome falls, so falls the world").^[17] This is often mistranslated to refer to the Colosseum rather than the Colossus (as in, for instance, Byron's poem *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*). However, at the time that the Pseudo-Bede wrote, the masculine noun *coliseus* was applied to the statue rather than to what was still known as the Flavian amphitheatre.

The Colossus did eventually fall, possibly being pulled down to reuse its bronze. By the year 1000 the name "Colosseum" had been coined to refer to the amphitheatre from the nearby "Colossus Solis".^[18] The statue itself was largely forgotten and only its base survives, situated between the Colosseum and the nearby Temple of Venus and Roma.^[19]

The name further evolved to *Coliseum* during the Middle Ages^[citation needed]. In Italy, the amphitheatre is still known as *il Colosseo*, and other Romance languages have come to use similar forms such as *Coloseumul* (Romanian), *le Colisée* (French), *el Coliseo* (Spanish) and *o Coliseu* (Portuguese).

History

Construction, inauguration, and Roman renovations



Colosseum



Sestertius of Titus celebrating the inauguration of the Colosseum (minted 80 AD).

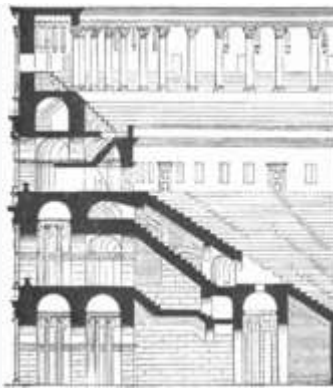
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A map of central Rome during the Roman Empire, with the Colosseum at the upper right corner

The site chosen was a flat area on the floor of a low valley between the Caelian, Esquiline and Palatine Hills, through which a canalised stream ran as well as an artificial lake/marsh.^[20] By the 2nd century BC the area was densely inhabited. It was devastated by the Great Fire of Rome in 64 AD, following which Nero seized much of the area to add to his personal domain. He built the grandiose *Domus Aurea* on the site, in front of which he created an artificial lake surrounded by pavilions, gardens and porticoes. The existing *Aqua Claudia* aqueduct was extended to supply water to the area and the gigantic bronze Colossus of Nero was set up nearby at the entrance to the *Domus Aurea*.^[19]



Cross-section from the *Lexikon der gesamten Technik* (1904)

Although the Colossus was preserved, much of the *Domus Aurea* was torn down. The lake was filled in and the land reused as the location for the new Flavian Amphitheatre. Gladiatorial schools and other support buildings were constructed nearby within the former grounds of the *Domus Aurea*. Vespasian's decision to build the Colosseum on the site of Nero's lake can be seen as a populist gesture of returning to the people an area of the city which Nero had appropriated for his own use. In contrast to many other amphitheatres, which were located on the outskirts of a city, the Colosseum was constructed in the city centre, in effect, placing it both symbolically and precisely at the heart of Rome.

Construction was funded by the opulent spoils taken from the Jewish Temple after the First Jewish–Roman War in 70 CE led to the Siege of Jerusalem. According to a reconstructed inscription found on the site, "the emperor Vespasian ordered this new amphitheatre to be erected from his general's share of the booty." It is often assumed that Jewish prisoners of war were brought back to Rome and contributed to the massive workforce needed for the construction of the amphitheatre, but there is no ancient evidence for that; it would, nonetheless, be commensurate with Roman practice to add humiliation to the defeated population.^[21] Along with this free source of unskilled labor, teams of professional Roman builders, engineers, artists, painters and decorators undertook the

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more specialized tasks necessary for building the Colosseum. The Colosseum was constructed with several different materials: wood, limestone, tuff, tiles, cement, and mortar.

Construction of the Colosseum began under the rule of Vespasian^[4] in around 70–72 AD (73–75 AD according to some sources). The Colosseum had been completed up to the third story by the time of Vespasian's death in 79. The top level was finished by his son, Titus, in 80,^[4] and the inaugural games were held in 80 or 81 AD.^[22] Dio Cassius recounts that over 9,000 wild animals were killed during the inaugural games of the amphitheatre. Commemorative coinage was issued celebrating the inauguration.^[23] The building was remodelled further under Vespasian's younger son, the newly designated Emperor Domitian, who constructed the *hypogeum*, a series of tunnels used to house animals and slaves. He also added a gallery to the top of the Colosseum to increase its seating capacity.^[24]

In 217, the Colosseum was badly damaged by a major fire (caused by lightning, according to Dio Cassius^[25]) which destroyed the wooden upper levels of the amphitheatre's interior. It was not fully repaired until about 240 and underwent further repairs in 250 or 252 and again in 320. Gladiatorial fights are last mentioned around 435.^[citation needed] An inscription records the restoration of various parts of the Colosseum under Theodosius II and Valentinian III (reigned 425–455), possibly to repair damage caused by a major earthquake in 443; more work followed in 484^[26] and 508. The arena continued to be used for contests well into the 6th century. Animal hunts continued until at least 523, when Anicius Maximus celebrated his consulship with some *venationes*, criticised by King Theodoric the Great for their high cost.^[19]

Medieval

Map of medieval Rome depicting the Colosseum

The Colosseum underwent several radical changes of use. By the late 6th century a small chapel had been built into the structure of the amphitheater, though this apparently did not confer any particular religious significance on the building as a whole. The arena was converted into a cemetery. The numerous vaulted spaces in the arcades under the seating were converted into housing and workshops, and are recorded as still being rented out as late as the 12th century. Around 1200 the Frangipani family took over the Colosseum and fortified it, apparently using it as a castle.

Severe damage was inflicted on the Colosseum by the great earthquake in 1349, causing the outer south side, lying on a less stable alluvial terrain, to collapse. Much of the tumbled stone was reused to build palaces, churches, hospitals and other buildings elsewhere in Rome. A religious order moved into the northern third of the Colosseum in the mid-14th century^[27] and continued to inhabit it until as late as the early 19th century. The interior of the amphitheater was extensively stripped of stone, which was reused elsewhere, or (in the case of the marble façade) was burned to make quicklime.^[19] The bronze clamps which held the stonework together were pried or hacked out of the walls, leaving numerous pockmarks which still scar the building today.

Modern



The Colosseum in a 1757 engraving by Giovanni Battista Piranesi

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1747 view by Giovanni Paolo Panini, emphasizing the semi-rural environs of the Colosseum at the time

During the 16th and 17th century, Church officials sought a productive role for the Colosseum. Pope Sixtus V (1585–1590) planned to turn the building into a wool factory to provide employment for Rome's prostitutes, though this proposal fell through with his premature death.^[28] In 1671 Cardinal Altieri authorized its use for bullfights; a public outcry caused the idea to be hastily abandoned.



Allied troops consult a guidebook outside the Colosseum after liberation in 1944

In 1749, Pope Benedict XIV endorsed the view that the Colosseum was a sacred site where early Christians had been martyred. He forbade the use of the Colosseum as a quarry and consecrated the building to the Passion of Christ and installed Stations of the Cross, declaring it sanctified by the blood of the Christian martyrs who perished there (*see Significance in Christianity*). However, there is no historical evidence to support Benedict's claim, nor is there even any evidence that anyone before the 16th century suggested this might be the case; the *Catholic Encyclopedia* concludes that there are no historical grounds for the supposition, other than the reasonably plausible conjecture that some of the many martyrs may well have been.^[29]



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Interior of the Colosseum, Rome (1832) by Thomas Cole, showing the Stations of the Cross around the arena and the extensive vegetation

Later popes initiated various stabilization and restoration projects, removing the extensive vegetation which had overgrown the structure and threatened to damage it further. The façade was reinforced with triangular brick wedges in 1807 and 1827, and the interior was repaired in 1831, 1846 and in the 1930s. The arena substructure was partly excavated in 1810–1814 and 1874 and was fully exposed under Benito Mussolini in the 1930s.^[19]

The Colosseum is today one of Rome's most popular tourist attractions, receiving millions of visitors annually. The effects of pollution and general deterioration over time prompted a major restoration programme carried out between 1993 and 2000, at a cost of 40 billion Italian lire (\$19.3m / €20.6m at 2000 prices).

In recent years, the Colosseum has become a symbol of the international campaign against capital punishment, which was abolished in Italy in 1948. Several anti–death penalty demonstrations took place in front of the Colosseum in 2000. Since that time, as a gesture against the death penalty, the local authorities of Rome change the color of the Colosseum's night time illumination from white to gold whenever a person condemned to the death penalty anywhere in the world gets their sentence commuted or is released,^[30] or if a jurisdiction abolishes the death penalty. Most recently, the Colosseum was illuminated in gold in November 2012 following the abolishment of capital punishment in the American state of Connecticut in April 2012.^[31]

Because of the ruined state of the interior, it is impractical to use the Colosseum to host large events; only a few hundred spectators can be accommodated in temporary seating. However, much larger concerts have been held just outside, using the Colosseum as a backdrop. Performers who have played at the Colosseum in recent years have included Ray Charles (May 2002),^[32] Paul McCartney (May 2003),^[33] Elton John (September 2005),^[34] and Billy Joel (July 2006).



The Colosseum today as a background to the busy metropolis

Physical description

Exterior



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Original façade of the Colosseum

Unlike earlier Greek theatres that were built into hillsides, the Colosseum is an entirely free-standing structure. It derives its basic exterior and interior architecture from that of two Roman theatres back to back. It is elliptical in plan and is 189 meters (615 ft / 640 Roman feet) long, and 156 meters (510 ft / 528 Roman feet) wide, with a base area of 24,000 square metres (6 acres). The height of the outer wall is 48 meters (157 ft / 165 Roman feet). The perimeter originally measured 545 meters (1,788 ft / 1,835 Roman feet). The central arena is an oval 87 m (287 ft) long and 55 m (180 ft) wide, surrounded by a wall 5 m (15 ft) high, above which rose tiers of seating.

The outer wall is estimated to have required over 100,000 cubic metres (3,531,467 cubic feet) of travertine stone which were set without mortar; they were held together by 300 tons of iron clamps.^[19] However, it has suffered extensive damage over the centuries, with large segments having collapsed following earthquakes. The north side of the perimeter wall is still standing; the distinctive triangular brick wedges at each end are modern additions, having been constructed in the early 19th century to shore up the wall. The remainder of the present-day exterior of the Colosseum is in fact the original interior wall.



The exterior of the Colosseum, showing the partially intact outer wall (left) and the mostly intact inner wall (center and right)

The surviving part of the outer wall's monumental façade comprises three stories of superimposed arcades surmounted by a podium on which stands a tall attic, both of which are pierced by windows interspersed at regular intervals. The arcades are framed by half-columns of the Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian orders, while the attic is decorated with Corinthian pilasters.^[35] Each of the arches in the second- and third-floor arcades framed statues, probably honoring divinities and other figures from Classical mythology.

Two hundred and forty mast corbels were positioned around the top of the attic. They originally supported a retractable awning, known as the *velarium*, that kept the sun and rain off spectators. This consisted of a canvas-covered, net-like structure made of ropes, with a hole in the center.^[4] It covered two-thirds of the arena, and sloped down towards the center to catch the wind and provide a breeze for the audience. Sailors, specially enlisted from the Roman naval headquarters at Misenum and housed in the nearby *Castra Misematium*, were used to work the *velarium*.^[36]



Entrance LII of the Colosseum, with Roman numerals still visible

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The Colosseum's huge crowd capacity made it essential that the venue could be filled or evacuated quickly. Its architects adopted solutions very similar to those used in modern stadiums to deal with the same problem. The amphitheatre was ringed by eighty entrances at ground level, 76 of which were used by ordinary spectators.^[4] Each entrance and exit was numbered, as was each staircase. The northern main entrance was reserved for the Roman Emperor and his aides, whilst the other three axial entrances were most likely used by the elite. All four axial entrances were richly decorated with painted stucco reliefs, of which fragments survive. Many of the original outer entrances have disappeared with the collapse of the perimeter wall, but entrances XXIII (23) to LIII (53) survive.^[19]

Spectators were given tickets in the form of numbered pottery shards, which directed them to the appropriate section and row. They accessed their seats via *vomitoria* (singular *vomitrium*), passageways that opened into a tier of seats from below or behind. These quickly dispersed people into their seats and, upon conclusion of the event or in an emergency evacuation, could permit their exit within only a few minutes. The name *vomitoria* derived from the Latin word for a rapid discharge, from which English derives the word vomit.

Interior seating



The raked areas that once held seating

According to the Codex-Calendar of 354, the Colosseum could accommodate 87,000 people, although modern estimates put the figure at around 50,000. They were seated in a tiered arrangement that reflected the rigidly stratified nature of Roman society. Special boxes were provided at the north and south ends respectively for the Emperor and the Vestal Virgins, providing the best views of the arena. Flanking them at the same level was a broad platform or *podium* for the senatorial class, who were allowed to bring their own chairs. The names of some 5th century senators can still be seen carved into the stonework, presumably reserving areas for their use.

Diagram of the levels of seating

The tier above the senators, known as the *maenianum primum*, was occupied by the non-senatorial noble class or knights (*equites*). The next level up, the *maenianum secundum*, was originally reserved for ordinary Roman citizens (*plebeians*) and was divided into two sections. The lower part (the *imumum*) was for wealthy citizens, while the upper part (the *sumum*) was for poor citizens. Specific sectors were provided for other social groups: for instance, boys with their tutors, soldiers on leave, foreign dignitaries, scribes, heralds, priests and so on. Stone (and later marble) seating was provided for the citizens and nobles, who presumably would have brought their own cushions with them. Inscriptions identified the areas reserved for specific groups.

Another level, the *maenianum secundum in legneis*, was added at the very top of the building during the reign of Domitian. This comprised a gallery for the common poor, slaves and women. It would have been either standing room only, or would have had very steep wooden benches. Some groups were banned altogether from the Colosseum, notably gravediggers, actors and former gladiators.^[19]

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Detail of the hypogeum

A view of the interior of the Colosseum; clearing showing the hypogeum (latin for 'underground')

The *hypogeum* was connected by tunnels to a number of points outside the Colosseum. Animals and performers were brought through the tunnel from nearby stables, with the gladiators' barracks at the Ludus Magnus to the east also being connected by tunnels. Separate tunnels were provided for the Emperor and the Vestal Virgins to permit them to enter and exit the Colosseum without needing to pass through the crowds.^[19]

Substantial quantities of machinery also existed in the *hypogeum*. Elevators and pulleys raised and lowered scenery and props, as well as lifting caged animals to the surface for release. There is evidence for the existence of major hydraulic mechanisms^[19] and according to ancient accounts, it was possible to flood the arena rapidly, presumably via a connection to a nearby aqueduct. However, the construction of the hypogeum at Domitian's behest put an end to the practise of flooding, and thus also to naval battles, early in the Colosseum's existence.

Supporting buildings



The Colosseum – a view from the Oppian Hill

The Colosseum and its activities supported a substantial industry in the area. In addition to the amphitheatre itself, many other buildings nearby were linked to the games. Immediately to the east is the remains of the *Ludus Magnus*, a training school for gladiators. This was connected to the Colosseum by an underground passage, to allow easy access for the gladiators. The *Ludus Magnus* had its own miniature training arena, which was itself a popular attraction for Roman spectators. Other training schools were in the same area, including the *Ludus Matutinus* (Morning School), where fighters of animals were trained, plus the Dacian and Gallic Schools.

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Also nearby were the *Armamentarium*, comprising an armory to store weapons; the *Summum Choragium*, where machinery was stored; the *Sanitarium*, which had facilities to treat wounded gladiators; and the *Spoliarium*, where bodies of dead gladiators were stripped of their armor and disposed of.

Around the perimeter of the Colosseum, at a distance of 18 m (59 ft) from the perimeter, was a series of tall stone posts, with five remaining on the eastern side. Various explanations have been advanced for their presence; they may have been a religious boundary, or an outer boundary for ticket checks, or an anchor for the *velarium* or awning.^[19]

Right next to the Colosseum is also the Arch of Constantine.

Use



Pollice Verso (Thumbs Down) by Jean-Léon Gérôme, 1872

The Colosseum was used to host gladiatorial shows as well as a variety of other events. The shows, called *munera*, were always given by private individuals rather than the state. They had a strong religious element but were also demonstrations of power and family prestige, and were immensely popular with the population. Another popular type of show was the animal hunt, or *venatio*. This utilized a great variety of wild beasts, mainly imported from Africa and the Middle East, and included creatures such as rhinoceros, hippopotamuses, elephants, giraffes, aurochs, wisents, Barbary lions, panthers, leopards, bears, Caspian tigers, crocodiles and ostriches. Battles and hunts were often staged amid elaborate sets with movable trees and buildings. Such events were occasionally on a huge scale; Trajan is said to have celebrated his victories in Dacia in 107 with contests involving 11,000 animals and 10,000 gladiators over the course of 123 days. During lunch intervals, executions *ad bestias* would be staged. Those condemned to death would be sent into the arena, naked and unarmed, to face the beasts of death which would literally tear them to pieces. Other performances would also take place by acrobats and magicians, typically during the intervals.

During the early days of the Colosseum, ancient writers recorded that the building was used for *naumachiae* (more properly known as *navalia proelia*) or simulated sea battles. Accounts of the inaugural games held by Titus in AD 80 describe it being filled with water for a display of specially trained swimming horses and bulls. There is also an account of a re-enactment of a famous sea battle between the Corcyrean (Corfiot) Greeks and the Corinthians. This has been the subject of some debate among historians; although providing the water would not have been a problem, it is unclear how the arena could have been waterproofed, nor would there have been enough space in the arena for the warships to move around. It has been suggested that the reports either have the location wrong, or that the Colosseum originally featured a wide floodable channel down its central axis (which would later have been replaced by the hypogeum).^[19]

Sylvae or recreations of natural scenes were also held in the arena. Painters, technicians and architects would construct a simulation of a forest with real trees and bushes planted in the arena's floor, and animals would then be introduced. Such scenes might be used simply to display a natural environment for the urban population, or could otherwise be used as the backdrop for hunts or dramas depicting episodes from mythology. They were also

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occasionally used for executions in which the hero of the story – played by a condemned person – was killed in one of various gruesome but mythologically authentic ways, such as being mauled by beasts or burned to death.

Today



A panorama of the interior of the Colosseum in 2016

The Colosseum today is now a major tourist attraction in Rome with thousands of tourists each year entering to view the interior arena.^[38] There is now a museum dedicated to Eros located in the upper floor of the outer wall of the building. Part of the arena floor has been re-floored. Beneath the Colosseum, a network of subterranean passageways once used to transport wild animals and gladiators to the arena opened to the public in summer 2010.^[39]

The Colosseum is also the site of Roman Catholic ceremonies in the 20th and 21st centuries. For instance, Pope Benedict XVI led the Stations of the Cross called the Scriptural Way of the Cross (which calls for more meditation) at the Colosseum^{[40][41]} on Good Fridays.^[10]

Restoration

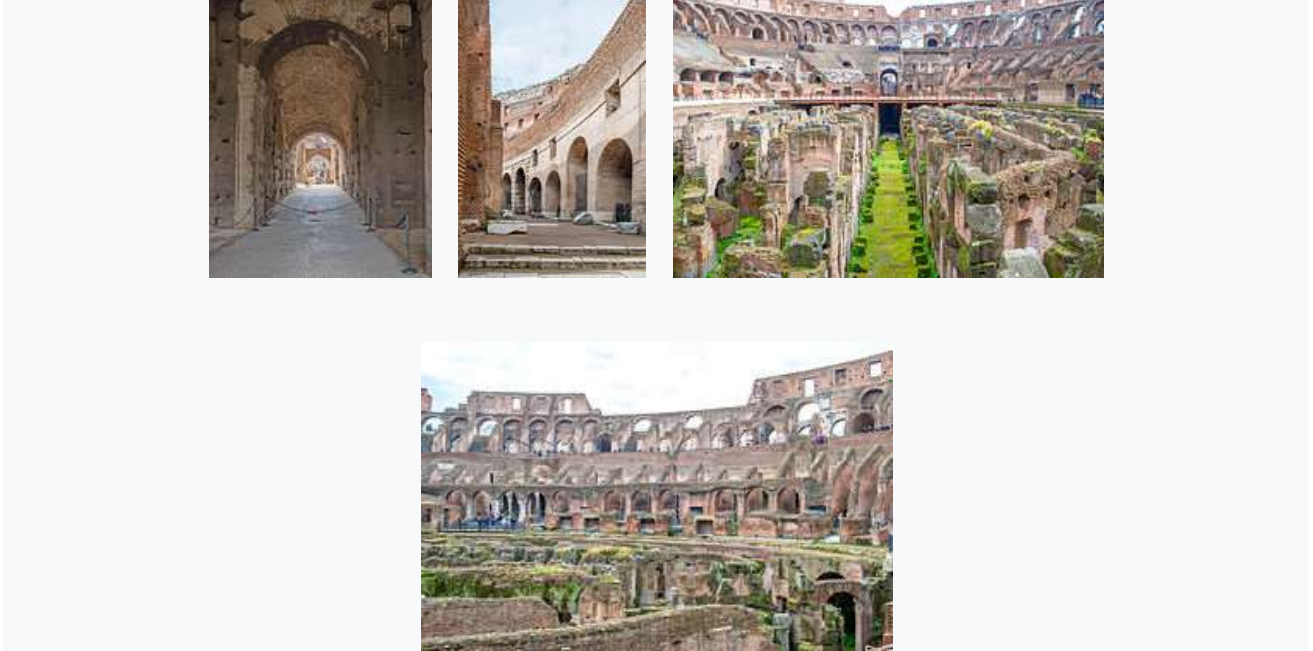
In 2011 Diego Della Valle, head of the shoe firm Tod's, entered into an agreement with local officials to sponsor a €25 million restoration of the Colosseum. Work was planned to begin at the end of 2011, taking up to two and a half years.^[42] Due to the controversial nature of using a public-private partnership to fund the restoration, work was delayed and began in 2013. The restoration is the first full cleaning and repair in the Colosseum's history.^[43] The first stage is to clean and restore the Colosseum's arcaded façade and replace the metal enclosures that block the ground-level arches. Taking three years, the final product of this work was unveiled 1 July 2016, when the Italian minister of culture, Dario Franceschini, also announced that the funds have been committed to replace the floors by the end of 2018. These will provide a stage that Franceschini says will be used for "cultural events of the highest level."^[44] The project also plans to create a services center and to restore the galleries and underground spaces inside the Colosseum.^[45] New to tours of the restored marvel beginning 1 November 2017, the top two levels have been opened for guided visits. The fourth level held the marketplace, and the top fifth tier is where the poorest citizens, the plebeians, gathered and watched the show, bringing picnics for the day-long event.^[46]



Colosseum 2012

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Colosseum 2013



Colosseum 2018



Colosseum 2020

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Significance in Christianity



The Christian Martyrs' Last Prayer, by Jean-Léon Gérôme (1883)

View of the interior of the Colosseum, by C. W. Eckersberg (1815)

The Colosseum is generally regarded by Christians as a site of the martyrdom of large numbers of believers during the persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire, as evidenced by Church history and tradition.^{[47][48][49]} On the other hand, other scholars believe that the majority of martyrdoms may have occurred at other venues within the city of Rome, rather than at the Colosseum, citing a lack of still-intact physical evidence or historical records.^{[50][51][52]} These scholars assert that "some Christians were executed as common criminals in the Colosseum—their crime being refusal to reverence the Roman gods", but most Christian martyrs of the early Church were executed for their faith at the Circus Maximus.^{[53][54]} According to Irenæus (died about 202), Ignatius of Antioch was fed to the lions in Rome around 107 A.D and although Irenæus says nothing about this happening at the Colosseum, tradition ascribes it to that place.^{[55][56][57][58]}

In the Middle Ages, the Colosseum was not regarded as a monument, and was used as what some modern sources label a "quarry,"^[59] which is to say that stones from the Colosseum were taken for the building of other sacred sites.^[60] This fact is used to support the idea that, at a time when sites associated with martyrs were highly venerated the Colosseum was not being treated as a sacred site.^[61] It was not included in the itineraries compiled for the use of pilgrims nor in works such as the 12th century *Mirabilia Urbis Romae* ("Marvels of the City of Rome"), which claims the Circus Flaminius – but not the Colosseum – as the site of martyrdoms.^[62] Part of the structure was inhabited by a Christian religious order, but it is not known whether this was for any particular religious reason.

Pope Pius V (1566–1572) is said to have recommended that pilgrims gather sand from the arena of the Colosseum to serve as a relic, on the grounds that it was impregnated with the blood of martyrs, although some of his contemporaries did not share his conviction.^[63] A century later Fioravante Martinelli listed the Colosseum at the head of a list of places sacred to the martyrs in his 1653 book *Roma ex ethnica sacra*. Martinelli's book evidently had an effect on public opinion; in response to Cardinal Altieri's proposal some years later to turn the Colosseum into a bullring, Carlo Tomassi published a pamphlet in protest against what he regarded as an act of desecration. The ensuing controversy persuaded Pope Clement X to close the Colosseum's external arcades and declare it a sanctuary.^[64]



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Cross dedicated to the Christian martyrs, placed in 2000 by Pope John Paul II.

At the insistence of St. Leonard of Port Maurice, Pope Benedict XIV (1740–1758) forbade the quarrying of the Colosseum and erected Stations of the Cross around the arena, which remained until February 1874.^[65] Benedict Joseph Labre spent the later years of his life within the walls of the Colosseum, living on alms, before he died in 1783.^[65] Several 19th century popes funded repair and restoration work on the Colosseum, and it still retains its Christian connection today. A Christian cross stands in the Colosseum, with a plaque, stating:

The amphitheater, one consecrated to triumphs, entertainments, and the impious worship of pagan gods, is now dedicated to the sufferings of the martyrs purified from impious superstitions.^[55]

Other Christian crosses stand in several points around the arena and every Good Friday the Pope leads a Via Crucis procession to the amphitheater.

Flora



Plants on the inner walls of the Colosseum

The Colosseum has a wide and well-documented history of flora ever since Domenico Panaroli made the first catalogue of its plants in 1643. Since then, 684 species have been identified there. The peak was in 1855 (420 species). Attempts were made in 1871 to eradicate the vegetation, because of concerns over the damage that was being caused to the masonry, but much of it has returned.^[19] 242 species have been counted today and of the species first identified by Panaroli, 200 remain.

The variation of plants can be explained by the change of climate in Rome through the centuries. Additionally, bird migration, flower blooming, and the growth of Rome that caused the Colosseum to become embedded within the modern city centre rather than on the outskirts of the ancient city, as well as deliberate transport of species, are also contributing causes. Another reason often given is their seeds being unwittingly transported either on the fur or in the feces of animals brought there from all corners of the empire.^[66]

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53. ^ Brockman, Norbert C. (2011). *Encyclopedia of Sacred Places [2 volumes]*. ABC-CLIO. p. 108. ISBN 978-1-59884-655-3. *There seems little doubt that some Christians were executed as common criminals in the Colosseum-their crime being refusal to reverence the Roman gods. Most martyrs, however, died for their faith at the Circus Maximus. Some were even executed as members of what the Romans considered a Jewish sect, since both Jews and Christians refused to reverence the gods.*
54. ^ Potter, David Stone (1999). *Life, Death, and Entertainment in the Roman Empire*. University of Michigan Press. p. 227. ISBN 978-0-472-08568-2. *The public execution of condemned offenders, including Christians, is associated above all with the amphitheater, although there were executions at various other venues. Gladiatorial games, hunting displays, and executions also took place at the Circus Maximus, even after the construction of the Colosseum (Humphrey 1987, 121).*
55. ^ Jump up to:^a ^b Litfin, Bryan M. (2007). *Getting to Know the Church Fathers: An Evangelical Introduction*. Brazos Press. p. 44. ISBN 978-1-4412-0074-7. *But according to Irenaeus (who spent time in Rome not long after these events took place) Ignatius did in fact meet his end by being torn apart by wild animals for the amusement of the Roman masses, probably in the infamous Colosseum. The crowd there that day would have viewed the spectacle as a crushing defeat of this meek man's Christian religion. But Ignatius understood his death to be a shout of victory. Today a Christian cross stands in the Colosseum of Rome with a plaque that reads, "The amphitheater, one consecrated to triumphs, entertainments, and the impious worship of pagan gods, is now dedicated to the sufferings of the martyrs purified from impious superstitions."*

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56. ^ Flinn, Frank K. (2006). *Encyclopedia of Catholicism*. Infobase Publishing. p. 359. ISBN 978-0-8160-7565-2. He was caught up in the general persecution of the church under the emperor Trajan (r. 98–117), brought to Rome, and fed to the lions in the Coliseum around 107 C.E. His feast day is 17 October. Before his execution, Ignatius wrote seven letters to the churches along his route, one each to Ephesus, Magnesia, Tralles, and Philadelphia, two to the church at Smyrna, and one to Smyrna's bishop, Polycarp. The letters are a rich source about early theology, liturgy, and church organization.
57. ^ Hopkins, p. 103: "It is likely that Christians were put to death there and that those said to have been martyred 'in Rome' actually died in the Colosseum. But, despite what we are often told, that is only a guess. One of the possible candidates for martyrdom in the Colosseum is St. Ignatius, a bishop of Antioch (in Syria) at the beginning of the second century AD, who was 'condemned to the beasts' at Rome."
58. ^ Brockman, Norbert C. (2011). *Encyclopedia of Sacred Places [2 volumes]*. ABC-CLIO. p. 108. ISBN 978-1-59884-655-3. The Christians who did die in the Colosseum often did so under dramatic circumstances, thus cementing the legend. The hero St. Ignatius of Antioch, a disciple of St. John the Beloved, was sent to the beasts by Trajan in 107. Shortly after, 115 Christians were killed by archers. When Christians refused to pray to the gods for the end of a plague in the latter part of the second century, Marcus Aurelius had thousands killed in the Colosseum for blasphemy.
59. ^ Hopkins, p. 160: "For most of the Middle Ages and early Renaissance the Colosseum was not so much a monument as a quarry. To describe this activity as 'robbery' is to give the wrong impression. For the most part, there was nothing illegal or unofficial about the removal of this stone."
60. ^ "The-Colosseum.net: 1300–1700". *the-colosseum.net*.
61. ^ "The Coliseum". *Catholic Encyclopedia*. New Advent. Retrieved 24 April 2014. In the Middle Ages, for example, when the sanctuaries of the martyrs were looked upon with so great veneration, the Coliseum was completely neglected; its name never occurs in the itineraries, or guide-books, compiler for the use of pilgrims to the Eternal City.
62. ^ "The Coliseum". *Catholic Encyclopedia*. New Advent. Retrieved 24 April 2014. The "Mirabilia Romae", the first manuscripts of which date from the twelfth century, cites among the places mentioned in the "Passions" of the martyrs the Circus Flaminius ad pontem Judaeorum, but in this sense makes no allusion to the Coliseum.
63. ^ "The Coliseum". *Catholic Encyclopedia*. New Advent. Retrieved 24 April 2014. Pope St. Pius (1566–72) is said to have recommended persons desirous of obtaining relics to procure some sand from the arena of the Coliseum, which, the pope declared, was impregnated with the blood of martyrs. The opinion of the saintly pontiff, however, does not seem to have been shared by his contemporaries.
64. ^ "The Coliseum". *Catholic Encyclopedia*. New Advent. Retrieved 24 April 2014. The pamphlet was so completely successful that four years later, the jubilee year of 1675, the exterior arcades were closed by order of Clement X; from this time the Coliseum became a sanctuary.
65. ^ Jump up to:^a ^b "The Coliseum". *Catholic Encyclopedia*. New Advent. Retrieved 24 April 2014. At the instance of St. Leonard of Port Maurice, Benedict XIV (1740-58) erected Stations of the Cross in the Coliseum, which remained until February, 1874, when they were removed by order of Commendatore Rosa. St. Benedict Joseph Labre (d. 1783) passed a life of austere devotion, living on alms, within the walls of the Coliseum.
66. ^ Cooper, Paul (5 December 2017). "Rome's Colosseum Was Once a Wild, Tangled Garden". *The Atlantic*. Retrieved 12 January 2018.

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See: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colosseum>

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For more information, address:

brian_wordinaction@yahoo.com

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www.joel2fire.com or joel2fire.com