

The Shoah in the Bible

Both, Christ and the prophet Daniel, the latter held by the rabbis in highest esteem, foresaw a tribulation period of unparalleled severity coming upon the Jews:

“Then shall be great tribulation, such as there has never been from the beginning of the world until now.” (MATT 24:21)

“There shall be a time of tribulation, such as has never been since there was a nation.” (DAN 12:1)

The destruction of Jerusalem which marked the beginning of the diaspora in 70 A.D. was witnessed by the Jewish historian Josephus; he writes: “It is therefore impossible to go distinctly over every instance of these men’s iniquity [referring to the Jews]. I shall therefore speak my mind here at once briefly: - That neither did any other city ever suffer such miseries, nor did any age ever breed a generation [of Jews] more fruitful in wickedness than this was, from the beginning of the world.” (The Wars of the Jews, V.5.5, in: The Works of Flavius Josephus, William Whiston, 1851, p. 565)

The hunger during Jerusalem’s five-month siege drove people insane, so that they ate their own children (as God had warned in DEUT 28:53-57, JER 19:9). After the Romans had taken the city, some 500 Jews were crucified each day. There was so much blood flowing through the streets that even fires were quenched. 1.1 million Jews perished in those days and the rest was sold into slavery (DEUT 28:68). Before the Romans laid the siege, the followers of Yeshua (Jesus) had left the city as instructed – not a single Nazarene died (LK 21:20-21).

The Destruction of Jerusalem was God’s judgment for rejecting His messengers and above all His Son. The scribes and Pharisees, who had incited the mob against Christ, were addressed by Him thus:

“Behold, I send to you prophets, and the wise men, and the scribes, and some of them ye shall kill and crucify, and some of them ye shall scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city, that upon you may come all the righteous blood which has been shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Jehoiada, whom ye slew between the Temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation. Yerushalayim, Yerushalayim, which kills the prophets, and stones them which are sent to thee, how many times would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, and thou wouldst not!” (MATT 23:34-37)

The Jews brought God’s wrath not only upon themselves, but also upon their children:

“And Pilate said to them, What will I do then with Yeshua, who is called Messiah? And they [the Jews] all answered and said, Let him be crucified! Then the governor said to them, But what evil has He done? And they repeated and cried, Let Him be crucified! Then Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, for a great commotion arose. Therefore he took water, and washed his hands before the people, saying, ‘I am innocent of the blood of this righteous man.’ Then answered all the people and said, ‘His blood be on us, and our children.’” (MATT 27:22-25)

Even while being led to the crucifixion site, Yeshua warned the women of the coming judgment:

“Daughters of Yerushalayim, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your sons. For if they [the Romans] do these things with a green tree [the righteous], what will be done with the dry [the wicked]?” (LK 23:28, 31)

God’s presence had already departed from the Temple:

“Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.” (MATT 23:38)

And at one point the Jews and the Temple would be totally destroyed:

“The days will come upon thee when your enemies shall surround thee and afflict thee on every side. And they shall overthrow thee and thy children within thee and they shall not leave among thee a stone upon a stone, for thou did not know the time of your visitation [by the Messiah]. For these are the days of vengeance that all that is written might be fulfilled.” (LK 19:43-44, 21:22)

Just as Yeshua HaMashiach (Jesus Christ) would suffer thirty-nine lashes of the Roman scourge before He was crucified and His temple destroyed, so would the Jews suffer thirty-nine years of the Roman scourge before they were crucified and their Temple destroyed.

The diaspora, also known as “Israel’s Great Tribulation”, is part of the “Times of the Gentiles”, a period of divine national chastisement which had started many centuries earlier. It was already in Moses’ day, that God had warned Israel of idolatry and promised to scatter her into the whole world if she chose to disobey:

“And YHWH shall scatter you among the nations, and you shall be left few in number among the Gentiles in your tribulation when all these things have come upon you at the end of days.” (DEUT 4:27, 30)

God repeated His warning many times:

“If you break My covenant, then I will bring a sword upon you, that shall execute the vengeance of my covenant; and I will scatter you among the nations, and there you shall serve other gods, even wood and stone. And among these nations shall you have no repose, and there shall be no rest for the sole of your foot; and your life shall hang in doubt before you, and you shall fear night and day, and shall have no assurance of your life. And they that are left of you shall pine away in their iniquity in your enemies’ lands.” (LEV 26:15, 25, 33, DEUT 28:65-66, LEV 26:39)

And God warned His people that He would cause them to be hated and despised if they turned away from Him:

“And I will pursue after them with the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, and will make them a horror unto all the kingdoms of the earth, a curse, and an astonishment, and a hissing, and a reproach, among all the nations where I have driven them. And you shall be only oppressed and crushed away, and you shall serve your enemy whom YHWH shall send against you; and he shall put a yoke of iron upon your neck, until he has destroyed you.” (JER 29:18, DEUT 28:33, 48)

But Israel would be led astray by her leaders. For centuries the Jews had worshipped Canaanite gods until the horrific Assyrian deportations began. Undeterred by this, Judah not only continued sinning but rather multiplied her abominations.

The Jews who said, “We are innocent” (JER 2:35) had offered little children to *Moloch* and Baal as burnt sacrifices (holocausts). Innocent babies were burnt alive in the Hinnom Valley (Gr. Gehenna) to please idols and sun gods (JER 19:4-5, 32:35, EZE 16:20-21, 20:26, 23:37, 2 CHR 28:3, 33:6). When the little ones were thrown into the red-hot bronze statue of Moloch, a drum would start playing in order to drown out their pitiful shrieks and cries – that went on for centuries (N.B. "toph" means "drum" and "to burn" in Hebrew; the place of burning in the Hinnom Valley was called Tophet).

But the kings, princes, priests, and prophets, and all the people following them refused to receive correction. Only a few accepted the imminent 70-year captivity as God's righteous judgment, and that's why Israel would be punished for seven times more:

“If you will not yet for all this hearken unto Me, then I will chastise you seven times more for your sins.” (LEV 26:18)

The prolonged punishment began 70 years later, after the appointed Babylonian exile had ended in 536 B.C. In the same year Daniel received a vision about a future tribulation:

“There shall be a time of tribulation, such as has never been since there was a nation, and at that time your people shall be delivered.” (DAN 12:1)

The prophecy refers to the latter days and to the diaspora which would last for nearly 2,000 years. God would mark this period with a double destruction (JER 17:18), beginning with the destruction of Jerusalem and ending with the destruction of Jerusalem, i.e., with the Shoah of the Jewish people. Looking down the centuries of Gentile oppression up to the Holocaust, Yeshua seems to have sighed in heaviness while confirming Daniel's dual prediction:

“Then shall be great tribulation, such as there has never been from the beginning of the world until now, no, - nor ever shall be.” (MATT 24:21)

Luke describes the Jewish diaspora beginning in 70 A.D. and terminating in 1948 in a single verse:

“And they shall fall by the edge of the sword and be led away captive into all nations. And Yerushalayim shall be trodden down by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.” (LK 21:24)

Before their final expulsion, the Jews were persecuting Christians alongside Rome. However, Hadrian slaughtered 580,000 Jews during the Bar Kokhba revolt (132-135 AD), after which Judaism was outlawed, and the Jews enslaved or expelled – territorially the Jews ceased to be a people.

H. Grattan Guinness writes: “They had rejected their Messiah, but not their law or their prophets; nor, alas! even those ‘traditions of the elders’, which our Lord so strongly condemned. These they collected with the greatest care, immediately after the triumph of Hadrian, and with much pain and patience embodied as the ‘oral law’ in their Mishna. Behind this wall which they built up they have ever since continued to hide from the light of fulfilled prophecy, making void, not only the law of God, but the predictions of the prophets, that they may keep their own traditions. Their faithful observance of circumcision, of the Sabbath, and of the other ordinances of Moses, and of the Talmudic precepts and ceremonies, preserved them in all the lands of their exile as one people, a peculiar people, though dwelling among all nations.” (Light for the Last Days – A study in Chronological Prophecy, H. Grattan Guinness, 1885, p. 128)

For a while conditions improved, but from Constantine onwards the Jewish people were increasingly persecuted. The Crusades and the Spanish Inquisition were some of the darkest periods in Israel's affliction. Banishment after banishment, extortion after extortion, massacre after massacre. With the Enlightenment things started to improve, but in the mid-19th century anti-Semitism revived. In Russia horrific pogroms were perpetrated – Israel's tribulation hadn't ended yet:

In 1933 Rome swept Hitler into power, after she had dismantled the Weimar Republic. 1933 marks the beginning of the Holocaust, and is also alluded to in DAN 12:12. Counting 1,335 Jewish years from the Arab conquest of Jerusalem (considering the German-Arab alliance) takes us to the Shoah:

637 AD - Fall of Jerusalem ----- 1,335 years -----> 1933 AD - Start of the Shoah (“destruction”)

In July 1934, after Hitler had consolidated his power through the “Night of the Long Knives”, the Jews’ clandestine immigration to Palestine began. Some 115,000 ma’apilim, viz. illegal immigrants, would reach the shores of the Promised Land even before Israel’s rebirth in 1948. Counting 7 x 360 or 2,520 years from the fall of Jerusalem (LEV 26:24) takes us to the so-called Ha’pala:

587 BC - Fall of Jerusalem ----- 2,520 years ----- > 1934 AD - Start of the Ha’pala (“ascension”)

The Holocaust itself is clearly referred to in the Tanakh. Jews, Gypsies, Serbs, Poles, communists, socialists, criminals, prostitutes, alcoholics, beggars, the homeless, the disabled, the Baptists, the Greek Orthodox, the Russian Orthodox, Judaizers such as the Christadelphians or the “Earnest Bible Students” plus other Protestants including Germans perished in some 40,000 Nazis ghettos and camps throughout Europe between 1933 and 1945 – 20 million victims. Many were tortured and killed because they wouldn’t renounce their faith; tons of religious literature and Bibles were confiscated or burnt. The Holocaust was simply the Western “Holy Inquisition” revived in disguise just as the Gulag system in the East. To create a smokescreen, Catholics were murdered too. Here are some passages which relate exclusively to the Shoah of the Jewish people:

“For thus says YHWH: I hear cries of fear, of dread – there is no peace. Can men give birth? Why do I see men holding their stomachs like women in labour? And why are their faces deathly-pale? Alas! A time of terror, such as has never been; it will be a time of tribulation for Ya’akov.” (JER 30:5-7)

“I will bring the worst of the heathen [Assyrians/Germans], and they shall possess their houses. And I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the clefts of the rocks. For they are not hid from My face; neither is their iniquity concealed from My eyes.” (EZE 7:24, JER 16:16-17)

“Thus says the Adonai YHWH: You [Jerusalem] shall drink of the cup of your sister [Samaria], which is deep and large, and full to the uttermost; you shall be laughed to scorn and held in derision.” (EZE 23:32)

“Thus says the Adonai YHWH: An evil, an only evil [unprecedented], behold, it comes. An end is come, the end is come, it awakes against you; behold, it comes. All hands shall be feeble, and all knees shall be weak as water. They shall also gird themselves with sackcloth, and horror shall cover them; and shame shall be upon all faces, and baldness upon all their heads.” (EZE 7:5-6, 17-18)

“I will also give you into their hand; and they [the Assyrians] shall strip you of your clothes, and take your fair jewels; and they shall leave you naked and bare.” (EZE 16:39)

“YHWH will smite with a scab [baldness] the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and YHWH will lay bare their secret parts [nakedness]. In that day will YHWH take away their scarves, and their girdles, and their necklaces, the chains, and the bracelets, and the amulets, the shawls, and the headbands, and the earrings, the rings, and jewels, the blouses, and the mantles, and the purses, and the shoes, the glasses, and the fine linen, and the hats, and the veils; and their gold shall be removed. And instead of scent, their shall be stench; and instead of a sash, a rope; and instead of curled hair,

baldness; and instead of a dress, sackcloth; and branding instead of beauty.” (ISA 3:17-23, EZE 7:19, ISA 3:24)

“They shall be consumed by the sword, and by famine; and their carcasses shall be meat for the fowls of heaven, and for the beasts of the earth. They shall die of grievous deaths; they shall not be lamented.” (JER 16:4)

“At that time, says YHWH, they shall bring out the bones of the kings of Y’udah, and the bones of his princes, and the bones of the cohanim, and the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Yerushalayim, and they shall spread them before the sun, and the moon, and all the host of heaven, whom they have loved, and whom they have served, and after whom they have walked, and whom they have sought, and whom they have worshipped; they shall not be gathered, nor be buried, they shall be for dung upon the face of the earth. And death shall be chosen rather than life by all the residue that remain of this evil family, that remain in all the places where I have driven them, says YHWH Tzva’ot.” (JER 8:1-3)

“These bones are the whole House of Yisra’el; behold, they say: Our hope is lost, we have been utterly destroyed.” (EZE 37:11)

The Great Tribulation of Israel would end once the additional Seven Times of punishment had run out. This gradually increasing national chastisement started in 536 B.C. when the Jews returned to Israel. In the same year Daniel was shown a period of 2,520 prophetic years¹ of 360 days each (DAN 12:7). If we start counting from 536 B.C. onwards, we arrive at the following:

536 BC - Jews return to Israel ----- 2,520 years -----> 1948 AD - Jews return to Israel

In 1948, when the State of Israel was born, the Great Tribulation of God’s elect, the people of Israel², had ended.

During the 2,000 years of her scattering, Israel was blamed, oppressed, stigmatized, ghettoized, persecuted, banished, massacred, crucified, burned, drowned, hanged, shot, deported, starved, sterilized, gassed and almost annihilated. Had the Third Reich continued, none of God’s chosen people would have survived.

“If those days had not been shortened, no one would have escaped, but for the elect’s sake those days [were] shortened.” (MATT 24:22)

Many verses were fulfilled in 1948. One of them can be seen in Tel Aviv’s Independence Hall where the establishment of the State of Israel was declared:

“And I will turn the captivity of My people Israel, and they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them.” (AMOS 9:14)

¹ ***A time, times, and a half*** = 360 + 720 + 180 = 1260. The two raised hands in DANIEL 12:7 signify a doubling of years: 1260 + 1260 = 2520, which equals seven prophetic times.

² Contrary to widespread opinion, the term *Jews* comprises a remnant of all Twelve Tribes, not just the *House of Judah* (JER 50:4, EZE 16:53)