

What about the Holocaust?

God's immediate answer to this often asked question was: "Which Holocaust?" This answer came to me the day following an encounter with a Jewish couple in which after a lot of witnessing about the Lord, the wife asked me this question: "What about the Holocaust?"

I'm not sure what I answered her, but the next morning as I awoke in a dream, the Lord revealed this answer, which makes perfect sense. And that is, to understand the Holocaust, one must understand what God has to say in His Holy Word about His Jewish people, and what is their history in God's dealing with them.

We read from Moses, in Deuteronomy chapter 28, that God promised His people many blessings if they obeyed Him, and many curses if they disobeyed Him. Every conceivable blessing of good health, protection, provision, and prosperity was promised by God and was fulfilled through the centuries as His people walked according to His word, and worshiped Him as the one true and living God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, with all the covenant blessings of that wonderful eternal blood covenant that the Lord made with Abraham.

However, the many curses warned against are horrible, and the listing of every conceivable disease, calamity, and destructive judgment upon any people have also been experienced by His people for their disobedience and turning away from the Lord and worshiping false gods and materialism.

God divided the kingdom of Israel because of the sin of His people, and a Holocaust occurred when God sent their enemies, the Assyrians, against the northern Kingdom of Israel and destroyed them from being a nation. He had sent His prophets to warn them time and time again, but they would not listen to them, and instead listened to the false and popular prophets of their day who promised prosperity and blessings. Thus they were judged severely.

Then the same thing happened to the southern Kingdom of Judah. God sent His prophets to warn them to turn away from idolatry and sin, or else He would punish them, but they also refused to listen to God and listened to the false prophets, the sinful leaders and priests. And so God sent the Babylonians against them, and this Babylonian Holocaust was more severe as Judah was taken captive into Babylon, their nation was destroyed, and many perished by famine, the sword, and pestilence as warned by God through His holy prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, and others.

God's people were spared the next Holocaust when Alexander the Great came to destroy Jerusalem as he had done to many cities and people. The high priest in Jerusalem sacrificed and prayed with the people there, and God revealed in a dream how he was to go out to meet Alexander in his high priestly robes with many priests dressed in white, and they were not only spared, but given favor in order to keep their own laws as given by God. This was because Alexander was astounded when he saw the high priest of God dressed exactly as he had seen him in a dream many years before in which the high priest had appeared and exhorted him to not delay in going against the much larger Persian army, which he then did with amazing success. Now this godly high priest also showed Alexander the prophecies of Daniel that had foretold centuries before that a Greek leader would defeat the Persians (Daniel 8). Alexander took this as meaning himself and offered sacrifice in the temple according to the instructions of the high priest, and thus spared the temple and Jerusalem from a terrible Holocaust. (Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, Book XI, Ch. VIII)

The prophecies of Daniel also foretold the exact time the Messiah would be born, but that He would be killed as a holy sacrifice for the sins of the people (Daniel 9). Micah told them the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:1-2), and Isaiah told them He would be born of a virgin, and be called "Immanuel," meaning "God with us" (Isaiah 7:14). Isaiah also wrote

that the Messiah would give His life as a sacrifice and have “laid on Him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53). When the Messiah came, He did many miracles in the name of the Lord as prophesied. He healed the sick, cleansed the lepers, opened the eyes of the blind, and raised the dead. He also prophesied that for those who rejected God and His Holy Word, and Himself as God’s sacrifice for sin, there would come a terrible Holocaust upon Jerusalem (Matthew 24; Luke 21). This time the high priest and other Jewish leaders refused to believe the prophecies of Daniel and accept their Messiah, and in fact had the Romans put Him to death as Isaiah had predicted. Those Jews who had put their trust and faith in the Messiah, were told by Him that when they saw the armies surrounding Jerusalem, they were to flee for their lives unto the mountains, for destruction was determined because of the sin of rebellion and unbelief of their religion which had become empty, only ritualistic according to man made traditions, and in opposition to the truths of Almighty God and His Word. Those who listened and obeyed their Messiah fled, and their lives were spared. But then a horrific Roman Holocaust occurred in the siege of Jerusalem when over a million Jewish people were slaughtered and perished by famine, the sword, and pestilence, and the temple destroyed in 70 A.D. And Judaism was changed forever. But the New Covenant as prophesied by Jeremiah has flourished ever since (Jeremiah 31; Hebrews 8 & 10).

It is necessary to understand this history of the Jewish people and God’s dealing with them to then understand the German Holocaust that occurred many years later, which is commonly referred to as “The Holocaust” today. Many Jewish people came to know the Lord during that time, and turned from their sins and accepted the only blood sacrifice for their sin, the death of their Messiah, the Lord Jesus of Nazareth.

Now, it would be very beneficial to mention the next Holocaust prophesied in God’s Holy Word, that will be coming upon the entire world shortly. A One World Leader will arise known as “The Beast” and “The Lawless One” and “The Antichrist” who will require everyone in the world to worship him, and he will enter the newly built temple which will be built shortly in Jerusalem, and declare that he is God (2 Thessalonians). He will then execute the worst Holocaust the world has ever experienced, and many millions will be beheaded for persevering in worshipping only the true God, who “keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 13, 14, 20). They will have refused to take “the mark of the Beast” upon themselves, and will be martyred for their faith. But Praise be to God, they will be taken out of their bodies before they hit the ground, and they will be taken into the Holy presence of the Lord where they will be for all eternity – in the joy, and peace, and wonders of an eternity with the living God –with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and all the saints of the ages since Adam. Everyone who takes “the mark of the Beast” will lose their eternal soul, and be cast into the Lake of Fire and be tormented day and night for ever and ever, where the Beast will be cast when the Lord Jesus returns 3 ½ years after the Beast is allowed to rule the world and execute his Holocaust against the people of God. However, after the final 3 ½ year Holocaust occurs the Lord Jesus returns in a Flaming Holocaust of fire with a multitude of His angels from Heaven and destroys all those upon the earth who have opposed Him and worshipped the Beast and his image (Daniel 9:27; 12; Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 17 & 21; 2 Thessalonians 1 & 2; Revelation 12, 19, & 20).

My friend who is reading this, I beseech you to repent of your sins. To turn away from your unbelief, sin, and transgressions, and turn to the Lord God of Abraham for the forgiveness of your sins, be baptized in the name of Jesus for the remission of your sins, and ask God to fill you with His precious Holy Spirit which gives you eternal life forever in God’s glorious heaven and future that He has prepared for all those who love and serve Him according to His Word! Amen!!