

Study Guide: The Fall of the World: Lesson 1

February 15, 2026

This study guide is designed to facilitate a deep understanding of the biblical timeline concerning the nations of the world as presented in the lesson "The Fall of the World." It explores the transition from God's dealings with Israel and the Church to His prophetic plan for the Gentile nations.

Part I: Short-Answer Quiz

1. Based on the review of the Olivet Discourse, what is the primary warning Jesus Christ gives regarding His return and the subsequent judgment?
2. Identify the three distinct groups of people represented in the Bible and specify which group is the primary focus of this new series of study.
3. According to the lesson, what are the primary "symptoms" of the world's problems that are frequently seen in the news today?
4. What is the actual "root problem" of the world as described in Psalm 2, and how does the transcript define this problem?
5. Define the "times of the nations" (or "times of the Gentiles") and explain when this period began.
6. What specific event in approximately 600 BC marked the start of the "times of the nations," and which world power was responsible?
7. Explain the significance of the "Shekinah Glory" as it relates to Ezekiel chapters 10 and 11 and the fate of Israel.
8. Why did God use the prophet Daniel to reveal the future of the Gentile nations to the Jewish people while they were in captivity?
9. Describe the internal struggle King Nebuchadnezzar faced regarding his dream and the ultimatum he gave to his wise men.
10. Summarize the "panorama of the future" for the nations, starting from their current turmoil and ending with the return of Jesus Christ.

Part II: Answer Key

1. Jesus Christ warns that no one knows the exact moment of His return, necessitating that men remain ready at all times. His judgment will be irreversible, resulting in a final separation where the "sheep" are welcomed into His kingdom and the "goats" are sent to eternal punishment.
2. The three groups are the Jews, the Church of God, and the nations (Gentiles). This study focuses specifically on the nations, comprising everyone who is not part of Israel or the Church.
3. The symptoms include political unrest, wars, revolutions, and conflicts between different ideologies like capitalism and communism. Additionally, the world experiences social unrest, rising crime, moral revolutions, and theological shifts toward liberalism.
4. The root problem is rebellion against God and His Anointed. The nations live as "practical atheists," rejecting God's standards and His Word, which results in a loss of the "anchor" for humanity and allows Satan greater freedom to influence the world.
5. The "times of the nations" is a specific segment of history during which Jerusalem is "trampled" or downtrodden by Gentile powers. It represents a period where God has withdrawn His direct rule from Israel and allowed the nations to have dominion.
6. This period began around 605–600 BC when the Babylonians, led by King Nebuchadnezzar, invaded Jerusalem. They destroyed the Jewish state and took the people into captivity in three successive stages.
7. The "Shekinah Glory" represents the physical presence of God. In Ezekiel, God's Glory departed from the temple because of Israel's extreme sin and idolatry, signifying that He would no longer tolerate their blasphemy and would allow the Gentiles to sweep in and remove them from the land.
8. God wanted to reassure the Jews that their status as His chosen people was not permanently revoked despite their loss of the promised land. Daniel's prophecies showed that the "times of the nations" were only temporary and that God would eventually fulfill His covenant by restoring Israel and bringing the Messiah.
9. King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that troubled his spirit so much he could not sleep, yet he could not remember the details of the dream. He demanded that his magicians and Chaldeans tell him both the dream itself and its interpretation, threatening to cut them into pieces if they failed.
10. The future begins with escalating global chaos that will lead the world to embrace a "one world government" led by a single ruler who brings a superficial peace. This peace will last only a few years before ending in the war of Armageddon, which is ultimately stopped by the return of Jesus Christ to set up His everlasting kingdom.

Part III: Essay Questions

1. Analyze the concept of "Practical Atheism." How does the lesson distinguish between those who deny the existence of God ideologically and those who live as if He does not exist?
2. Discuss the biblical requirement for "readiness" in light of the irreversible nature of the coming judgment. How does the metaphor of the sheep and the goats clarify the results of an individual's choice?
3. Contrast the human solutions for world peace (such as one world government) with the biblical solution for peace as described in the context of Isaiah 57 and the return of Jesus Christ.
4. Evaluate the historical and prophetic significance of the Babylonian captivity. Why is King Nebuchadnezzar considered the "first monarch" of the times of the nations?
5. Explore the relationship between the rejection of the Word of God and the rise of satanic influence in society. According to the lesson, how does the "ship of humanity" lose its anchor?

Part IV: Comprehensive Glossary

- **Armageddon:** The greatest war the world will ever witness, involving all nations, which occurs at the end of the one world government's reign and is halted by the return of Jesus Christ.
- **Babylonian Captivity:** The period starting around 600 BC when the people of Israel were removed from their land and held captive by Nebuchadnezzar's empire.
- **Chaldeans:** A group of people noted for their intelligence and progress in the sciences, often serving as wise men or astrologers in the Babylonian court.
- **Church of God:** One of the three biblical groups; the lesson notes that God plans to take the Church out of the world in the "Rapture" before the time of Tribulation.
- **Eschatology:** The study of prophecy and the final events in the history of the world or the ultimate destiny of humanity.
- **Gentiles:** A term used to describe those of "the nations," referring to any person or group that is not Jewish.
- **Islam:** Identified in the transcript as the fastest-growing religious group or sect in America, cited as an example of current theological unrest.
- **Nations:** The group consisting of everyone other than Israel and the Church; in prophecy, they face a "downhill slide" toward destruction.
- **One World Government:** A future, short-lived global unification intended to end chaos through a single ruler, which the Bible predicts will eventually devour the earth.
- **Practical Atheists:** Individuals who may or may not deny God's existence intellectually but live their daily lives apart from His standards and as if He does not exist.

- **Shekinah Glory:** The visible manifestation of the presence of God that once resided with Israel but departed due to their sin.
- **Times of the Nations:** The historical period (approximately 2,600 years long so far) where Jerusalem is under Gentile dominion, lasting until the return of Jesus Christ.
- **Tribulation:** A future period of great trouble and judgment on the earth, during which God deals specifically with the nations and Israel.

Part V: Greek Language Reference¹

English Term	Greek Origin	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Eschatology	<i>eschatos</i>	es-ka-tol-o-gee	The study of the "last things" or the end of the world.
Gentiles	<i>ethnos</i>	eth-nos	The nations, people groups, or those who are not of Jewish descent.

¹ **Footnote:** While the primary language of the transcript is English, the theological terms "Eschatology" (derived from *eschatos*) and "Gentiles" (referring to the *ethnos*) are used to categorize the prophetic study of the nations. All scripture references used are from the **NKJV**.