

Briefing Document: The Fall of the World: Lesson 1

February 15, 2026

Executive Summary

The following briefing document synthesizes a theological analysis regarding the biblical destiny of "the nations"—defined as all people groups outside of Israel and the Church. The core premise posits that the world is currently in a state of "The Times of the Nations," a period of history characterized by Gentile dominion over Jerusalem and a pervasive rebellion against divine authority. This era, which began with the Babylonian captivity in approximately 605 BC, is marked by global turmoil, the rejection of scriptural solutions, and an eventual slide toward a deceptive one-world government. The document outlines the progression from current geopolitical unrest to a final world war (Armageddon), culminating in the return of Jesus Christ to establish an everlasting kingdom.

The Three Groups of Prophecy

In the study of eschatology [^1], the Bible categorizes humanity into three distinct groups. Understanding the different roles and timelines for these groups is essential to interpreting prophetic events:

- **The Jews:** The chosen people of God with whom He established a specific covenant.
- **The Church of God:** Comprised of believers who will be removed from the earth during the "Rapture," a catching away that occurs before the period of tribulation.
- **The Nations:** Often referred to as "Gentiles," this group includes everyone who is not part of the physical lineage of Israel or the spiritual body of the Church.

The current analysis focuses specifically on the nations and their "downhill slide" toward eventual destruction and judgment.

Global Turmoil: Symptoms vs. Source

The world is currently characterized by significant unrest, which manifests in several sectors of society. However, these are identified as symptoms of a deeper problem rather than the problem itself.

Observed Symptoms

- **Political and Social Unrest:** Ongoing conflicts between ideologies such as capitalism, communism, socialism, nationalism, and imperialism. This includes revolutions, wars, and the general inability of mankind to coexist peacefully.
- **Moral and Theological Revolution:** A shifting moral landscape and the rise of theological liberalism, which replaces a static faith based on the Word of God with an "ebbing and flowing" belief system.
- **Religious Shifts:** The rapid growth of non-Christian religious groups and sects within historically Western societies.

The Root Cause: Rebellion

The fundamental issue is defined as a rebellion against God. The nations have rejected the Word of God, which serves as the "anchor" for humanity. By rejecting divine solutions, the world has invited chaos. This state is described through the lens of Psalm 2:1-3:

Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us."

The consequence of this rebellion is a lack of peace, as noted in Isaiah 57:20-21:

But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

The Times of the Nations

The "Times of the Nations" (or "Times of the Gentiles") is a specific segment of history where Jerusalem is "trampled" or dominated by Gentile powers.

- **Commencement:** This period began around 605 BC when the Babylonians, under King Nebuchadnezzar, invaded Jerusalem and initiated the Babylonian captivity.
- **Duration:** This era has lasted approximately 2,600 years to date.
- **Characterization:** It is a time when the "Shekinah glory" (the manifest presence of God) has departed from Israel due to their persistent iniquity and idolatry. As recorded in Ezekiel 21:24:
- **Conclusion:** The Times of the Nations will only end when the Son of Man returns to reclaim the rule of the world and set His feet in Jerusalem.

The Prophetic Significance of Daniel

The book of Daniel serves as a "political science document" for understanding the history and future of the nations. Writing from captivity in Babylon, Daniel provided critical insights for the Jewish people who feared God had forsaken His covenant.

Purpose of Daniel's Prophecy

- To demonstrate that the dominion of the nations is temporary.
- To reassure Israel that God has not violated His promises and will eventually restore them to their land.
- To outline the sequence of Gentile empires—starting with the Babylonians, followed by the Medo-Persians, Greeks, and Romans.

The Dilemma of Nebuchadnezzar

The period of the nations began with Nebuchadnezzar, the "first great monarch" of this era. His reign was marked by a divine encounter involving a forgotten dream that troubled his spirit. His inability to remember the dream led to a decree to execute his wise men and Chaldeans unless

they could both describe and interpret the dream. This event set the stage for Daniel to demonstrate God's sovereignty over human history and the rulers of the nations.

The Future Sequence of Events

The destiny of the nations follows a specific chronological path toward judgment:

1. **Increased Chaos:** The world continues to experience turmoil and inability to maintain order.
2. **One-World Government:** To solve global chaos, a unified worldwide government will emerge, led by a single ruler who will "devour the whole earth." This will provide a superficial and temporary peace.
3. **Armageddon:** This unification will eventually deteriorate into the greatest war in human history, as the nations attempt to overthrow Jesus Christ.
4. **The Second Coming:** The war is ended by the return of Christ, who will destroy the rebellious nations and judge them for their sins.
5. **The Kingdom:** Christ will establish a true, everlasting union and peace.

Glossary of Terms

Term	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Eschatology es-kuh-tol-uh-jee		The branch of theology concerned with the final events in the history of the world or of humankind.

[^1]: See Glossary for phonetic pronunciation and definition.