

1. Read Luke 21:20-24 Jesus gives a prophetic snapshot of Israel's history from 70AD to the end times before Christ's second coming. This prophecy is a brief summation of many Old Testament prophecies regarding Israel's history. The elements of the prophecy include:
 - Jerusalem destroyed & the Jewish people scattered worldwide
 - Jerusalem (Israel) possessed/dominated by the nations (Gentiles/non-Jews) for a long, undefined period
 - Regathering of the Jewish people & Jewish re-possession of Israel/Jerusalem before the return of Christ (vs. 24 "until")

How has the history of the Jewish people fulfilled this prophecy?

How does their unparalleled, foretold history impact your faith in God's word? What questions does their prophesied history raise for you?

2. Read Genesis 12:1-3 which depicts God's call of Abraham and the promises made to Abraham, father of the Jewish people.

What are the three key promises and how have they been fulfilled through Abraham's descendants?

Are there aspects of the promises yet to be fulfilled? What connections are there to Jesus' prophecy in Luke 21:20-24?

3. Read Luke 21:25-26 Joel 2:31, Isaiah 13:10 which indicate astronomical signs taking place just before the second coming of Christ. These cosmic phenomena indicate an apparent *disruption* in the divine order of the heavenly bodies. Read Psalm 19:1 along with the following quotes from founding "superheros" of science

The universe has been wrought for us by a supremely good and orderly Creator – Copernicus

The glory and greatness of Almighty God are marvelously discerned in all his works and divinely read in the open book of heaven – Galileo

Do you think we tend to take for granted the divine order & predictability of our created world? Explain.

How would you react if you experienced the cosmic signs & disruption spoken of by Jesus?

4. Read Matthew 24:21-22 What does Jesus say about the time just before His return (the period of the "Great Tribulation")? How does his description impact you?

5. Read Luke 21:27-28, Matthew 24:30-31 In your mind's eye, how do you picture the second coming of Christ from the vantage point of those living on earth at the time?

Christ's second coming is both a judgement ("nations will mourn") and a redemption/salvation ("your redemption is drawing near"). How is this so?

6. Read Daniel 7:13-14, Isaiah 11:6-10 ('root of Jesse', David's father, indicates *Son of David*), & Isaiah 2:4. What observations can you make about Christ's kingdom which he'll establish upon His coming? How should anticipation of His kingdom impact your faith, aspirations & way of life?

7. Read Luke 21:29-36 In view of Christ's promised second coming, how ought we to think & live?