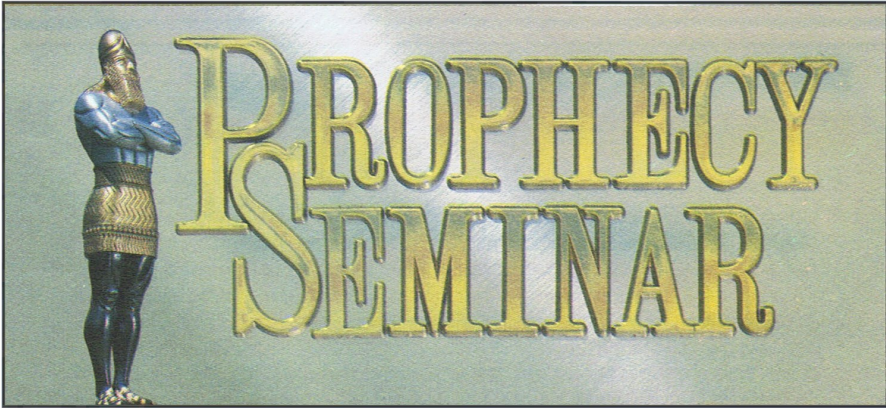


Notes, Questions & Prayer Requests

DS-022



LESSON TWENTY-TWO
DANIEL'S PEOPLE DELIVERED

QUIZ QUESTIONS

1. Daniel 10 reveals that there is a great controversy going on behind the scenes of human history. **True**
2. God, has to keep changing His plans because He's never certain what the various nations are going to do. **False**
3. Daniel 11 parallels Daniel 2, 7, 8 and 9, giving us the panorama of nations through which human history will pass. **True**
4. Daniel 11:31-39 reveals the papacy as the major oppressor of God's people in the Dark Ages. **True**
5. Daniel 11:40-45 presents one final power that seeks to dominate and destroy the people of God, but it will come to its end and God will deliver His people. **True**

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Things to Review:

1. The sequence of empires: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the papacy.
2. The fact that at the end of every one of these great outline prophecies God's people are finally delivered.

The Purpose of This Lesson is to establish clearly that the term “Israel” is a spiritual term and not an ethnic term. Thus the term “Israel” used in the New Testament refers not to the people living in the Middle East or to the ethnic descendants of Abraham, but to Christians.

The Importance of This Lesson. This is probably one of the most important lessons that you will present. As stated in the Teacher’s Helps in Lesson 1, the doctrine of the secret rapture is probably the most difficult doctrine for people to accept today.

This lesson hits directly at the foundation of the secret rapture. However, your success in dealing with the rapture in Lesson 23 will be determined by your success in dealing with the concept of Israel in this lesson.

Since you have already spent 21 lessons with your students you should find it much easier for people to accept the truth of the second coming and to discard the rapture theory. You have actually already undermined it through your study of such subjects as the judgment, the millennium, and the concept of outline prophecy. However, these next two lessons will bring it completely into the open.

While many of your students may not have sensed your direction when you covered the previous subjects, by the time you get through Lessons 22 and 23 you will have openly attacked the rapture theory and should have helped them to forever settle it in their minds.

In order for you to fully understand the importance of these next two lessons, it would be helpful for you to have a little background as to what the proponents of the secret rapture theory teach. Very briefly, secret rapturists believe that the scenario of last-day events will be something like this: One day thousands of people will suddenly disappear from planet earth.

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stand with God's Israel on the final day of deliverance when Michael stands up to deliver God's people.

Response Questions:

1. If it is clear to you from this lesson that the term "Israel" refers to spiritual people who have accepted Jesus Christ today, and not to the ethnic nation of Israel, place a check in Box #1.
2. If it is your desire to stand with God's people, the final Israel, when Michael stands up to deliver God's people, put a check in Box #2.

Airplanes will be flying through the sky; the pilot will be taken and the co-pilot left. Many people will wake up one morning to discover that their partner is missing, or their son, daughter, or other relatives. They will go out to the cemeteries and find holes in the ground where the righteous have suddenly been resurrected and disappeared. What has happened? The rapture has occurred.

Christ has come and the righteous have been taken. This plunges the world into a seven-year tribulation period during which the nation of Israel emerges as God's evangelizing agency to convert the world.

Animal sacrifices are reinstated in Jerusalem. Three and a half years into this tribulation period the antichrist suddenly appears in Jerusalem and stops the animal sacrifices. The tribulation continues for another three and a half years, at the end of which Christ returns visibly and sets up His millennial kingdom on the earth.

While there are various ramifications to this theory, this is the basic outline that most Christians today believe. Obviously, we recognize it as totally anti-Scriptural.

We must remember, however, that it has been well accepted by most evangelical Christians as well as many in the mainline denominations. Foundational to this theory is the concept of the nation of Israel. In fact, the whole reason for the rapture is that God has to remove the church so that He can use Israel as His evangelizing agency.

That's why the church is raptured out of the world. However, if Israel is the church and the literal nation of Jews are not going to be used as the evangelizing agency in the final crisis, then there is simply no need to rapture the church.

That's why rapturists will not accept the concept of spiritual Israel. To them, "Israel" always means the people of the Middle East. That's why, when this lesson is presented in clarity, there suddenly is no more reason for the rapture in the minds of your students. Once they have accepted this teaching, it will be much easier for them to accept the truth of the second coming of Christ.

This is why this lesson is so important, and why it is essential that you present it as clearly as possible. God bless you as you seek to lead your

students into the blessed truth of the advent of our Lord.

Question 1

The point here is that God is going to deliver a people in the time of the end. That people is called "Daniel's people." Thus it is legitimate to ask, Is God only going to deliver Jews, or does that include Christians? If we are to include all Christians, then the term "his people," referring to Daniel's people, must be a spiritual term and not merely a physical term.

Questions 2-4

The point of this section of the lesson is to show that even in the Old Testament the term "Israel" was a spiritual term given to a spiritual people. You need to make it clear that the promise of land and seed, while it focused on the heavenly Canaan and on Christ, also included the literal land of Canaan and a multitude of descendants.

The main point that is raised through these passages is that the "many seed" that Abraham received indicated that it was through his posterity that the ultimate seed, Christ, would come. This promise given to Abraham is the same promise given to Eve in Genesis 3:15. Emphasize here that these are spiritual promises given to spiritual people.

Question 5

The term "Israel" means "overcomer," "one who has prevailed with God." Again, stress the spiritual nature in the giving of the name "Israel." Remind your students that the name means "overcomers." Thus it can only refer to people who are overcomers.

Are the people in the Middle East at this time overcomers?

Are all the literal descendants of Abraham overcomers? This section then traces the fact that the term "Israel" applies to the literal descendants of Abraham, but not all: Esau and Ishmael, for example, were not part of

major discussion of the 144,000, but instead shows how to use the Biblical principle that Israel refers to the Christian church and to Christians who believe in Jesus. Therefore the 144,000 must not be literal Jews, but spiritual Jews.

Question 23

You should make very clear to your people that the 144,000 are not the only people who are going to be saved. Question 29 tries to make this very clear to the people, but you should clarify it.

In addition to the 144,000 there is the great multitude that no man can number. However, if you feel comfortable doing so, you might suggest that the 144,000 may be a symbolic number that refers to the complete people of God.

The point is that God's final Israel who are redeemed at the last day are Christians. To follow the Biblical interpretation of Israel as given throughout the New Testament means that we must apply these prophecies of the 144,000 not the literal people of the Middle East, but to those who are identified in the New Testament as Israel Christians!

Question 24

This question introduces the remnant as the final Israel.

The teacher should not take the time to try to identify this remnant or even to dwell upon their characteristics.

The point that you are raising here is that the people of Revelation 12:17 are the true Israel of God in the last days over whom earth's final battle will be fought. It is these people who will be delivered in the time of the end.

You will want to spend some time reviewing Points 1 through 7 so that your students will clearly see the issues that you have drawn in this lesson.

End your review with an appeal that centers on the deliverance of God's people. God will deliver His people and you, along with them, want to

Question 16

Make it clear that literal Jews can still be saved, not because they are ethnic Jews, but only because they became attached to Jesus Christ. They must become believers. Only believers in Jesus are saved.

Question 17

Most rapturists believe that there are two groups of people to be saved: Israel and the church. When people believe this, they totally deny the New Testament teaching of God having only one body, the church.

You need to make it very clear that there is only one plan of salvation, only one group of people, only one body of which both Jews and Gentiles are a part, and that is the church.

Question 18

This is probably the strongest text in the establishment of the new Israel. To belong to Jesus is to become Abraham's seed.

Those who belong to Jesus are Abraham's seed and are the inheritors of all the promises made to Abraham. Thus all Old Testament prophecy that is fulfilled after the cross now refers to these people who have become the inheritors of the promises made to Abraham.

This point needs to be very, very strongly emphasized. This is the major conclusion that you are drawing from this lesson. There is a new Israel in the New Testament, and that new Israel is the Christian church. They inherit all the promises of the Old Testament. Thus we must find fulfilment of the Old Testament promises not in the people of the Middle East, but in the Christian church.

Questions 19 to 22

These four questions deal with the 144,000. This is not meant to be a

Israel and yet they were literal descendants of Abraham.

The point is, they were not overcomers. The term is the covenant name for the people of God. Those who are faithful to God are called Israelites.

Question 6

Even in the Old Testament the Israelites were not strictly

ethnic descendants. Here are two examples of people who became

Israelites who were not born of Abraham. They were spiritual Israelites.

Question 7

This section seeks to make very clear the fact that prophecy is conditional upon obedience. Most rapturists do not believe in conditional prophecy. They emphatically state that all these promises of the Old Testament were given unconditionally. That's why this section of the lesson is very important to present.

Your students need to clearly understand the concept of conditional prophecy. However, remember that not every prophecy in Scripture is conditional. The great outline prophecies of Daniel and Revelation are not conditional. They are given by divine decree and as a result of God's foreknowledge. However, the prophecies involved in the nation of Israel and its glorious future are always given on condition of obedience.

We have tried to illustrate that by Question 8 where God unmistakably indicates that if nations or people are not faithful, these curses will come upon them, but if they are faithful, these are the blessings that would come. At the time of Israel's captivity Jeremiah restates this basic truth: that prophecy involving human choice is conditional upon obedience.

The point that needs to be raised here is that Israel did not meet the conditions. They did not remain the faithful covenant people of God. Therefore the predictions of the glorious future for Israel, the predictions of Ezekiel's rebuilt temple, will never take place through the literal descendants of Abraham.

God will fulfill His ultimate purpose through the new Israel.

Questions 8-9

Most secret rapturists look to the return of the Jews to the land of Palestine in 1948 as one of the greatest fulfillments of Bible prophecy. They use such texts as we have quoted in Question 9 and state that they are predictions of this return of the Jews to the land of Palestine in 1948. However, this section of the lesson tried to make clear that these texts are all in the context of the Babylonian captivity.

Jeremiah predicted that not only would the Jews go into captivity, but that they would return from captivity. To use these texts to refer to the modern-day restoration of Israel in the Middle East is therefore a great distortion of the context of these prophecies. The attempt in this lesson is to keep them in their context so folk clearly see that these prophecies refer to the return of the Jews from the Babylonian captivity. It would be well to state emphatically, as the lesson does, that these texts have no reference whatsoever to the return of the Jews in 1948.

Question 10

Here is a chance to review the 70 week prophecy. Just a little background again: The rapturists believe differently on the 70-week prophecy. They believe that 69 weeks indeed do stretch to the cross of Christ. Then the prophecy stops, a 2000-year gap is inserted, and then there is one final week, the 70th week of Daniel, that takes place at the time of the end.

This they designate as a seven-year tribulation period. This is called “the gap theory.” It is rightfully called a theory, for there is no Biblical warranty for inserting a 2000-year gap into the prophecy of the 70 weeks.

The prophecy says “seventy weeks are decreed for your people.” It does not say “seventy weeks plus two thousand years.” There is nothing in the text to indicate that there should be a gap.

The prophecy is composed of three parts: seven weeks, 62 weeks, and one week. If a gap is going to be inserted after the 69 weeks, then rightfully a

gap must be inserted after the first seven weeks. But no rapturist does that. It is an arbitrary decision by

the rapturists that has no basis whatever in Scripture.

If the rapturists accepted our teaching about the 70 weeks, there would be no seven-year tribulation and therefore no rapture. For this reason it is important to dwell on Question 10 and make certain that your students see clearly that a total of 490 years are allotted to the Jews and that these years ended in 34 A.D. with the stoning of Stephen.

It might even be well at this point to explain to your students that some people distort this prophecy by inserting a 2000-year gap, stating there is going to be a seven-year tribulation.

If you do not do this here, you should do so in the next lesson. It is important for your students to begin to see the foundations of the rapture theory crumbling so that they can begin building a framework of truth.

Questions 11-13

These four questions present with certainty Christ’s announcement to ancient Israel that they were no longer the chosen people. You are now building a New Testament case for the emergence of the new Israel, the spiritual people of God in the New Testament. Look up Matthew 21:33-35 in Question 13.

In fact, it would be well to read through the whole parable with your students so they catch the full significance of Christ’s announcement to the Jews that their time of probation had ended. Their privilege of being the chosen people of God would be taken from them and given to a people who would produce fruit.

Question 14

Here again give strong emphasis to the spiritual nature of the new Israel. What Christ has done and what Paul is doing is restoring the term “Israel” to its spiritual roots as it was at its inception in the Old Testament.