

A Prophetic Deception

Lesson 1

Israel and Christ's Return Dennis Smith - Ministry Magazine - 1973

SATAN, the master deceiver, is especially adept at leading human beings to misapply Scripture. He used this technique at Christ's first advent. Old Testament prophecy was misapplied, many of God's people were deceived, and the Son of God was rejected by the majority. How did this occur? Many were expecting the appearance of the Messiah. However, "they interpreted prophecy in accordance with their selfish desires" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 30). They expected Him to set up a worldly kingdom and deliver them from their enemies. Jesus of Nazareth did not follow their pattern, so they rejected Him as the Messiah. Satan is perfectly capable of following a similar plan today.

Many Christians are now looking for the soon return of Christ, but as in the days of the first advent many of them are expecting Him to come in the wrong way. Thus the way is being prepared for them to accept a false coming.

Faulty Application of Scripture

Satan is not only bringing about a false spiritual awakening (described in *The Great Controversy*, p. 464), he is also employing a system of false prophetic interpretation, just as he did 2,000 years ago. This false system in interpretation, called Futurism, undermines the three angels' messages. It was developed by the Jesuit Ribera in 1591 in order to counteract the Reformation teaching that the beast and antichrist powers are the Papacy. (See L. E. Froom, *Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, vol. 2, p. 484.) Today a large proportion of the Protestant world has "wondered after the beast" (Rev. 13:3) by following this false system of interpretation.

The first angel's message includes the teaching that probation for the Jewish nation as God's covenant people expired in A.D. 34, at the close of the seventy prophetic weeks of Daniel 9. From that date forward the Christian church (spiritual Israel) became heirs of the Old Testament promises given to Israel (see Gal. 3:29).

Futurism denies this, teaching that the Old Testament prophecies will be fulfilled to the literal Jewish nation at the end of time. The Scofield Reference Bible (notes on Revelation 7, page 1337) says: [The great tribulation] involves the people of God [meaning literal Jews] who will have returned to Palestine in unbelief. Its duration is three and a half years, or the last half of the seventieth week of Daniel (Dan. 9:24-27, note; Rev. 11:2, 3). The elements of the tribulation are: (1) The cruel reign of the "beast out of the sea" (Rev. 13:1), who, at the beginning of the three and a half years, will break his covenant with the Jews (by virtue of which they will have re-established the temple worship, Dan. 9:27), and show himself in the temple, demanding that he be worshipped as God (Mt. 24.15; 2 Thes. 2.4).

The Establishment of the State of Israel

During the past few decades this deception has come to the front. On May 14, 1948, Israel was re-established as a nation in Palestine. This may have been an important step in the last great deception, which will culminate in the appearance of Satan impersonating Christ. In 1669, Increase Mather wrote a book entitled, *The Mystery of Israel's Salvation*. In this book he developed many of the Old Testament prophecies, applying them to the restoration of the Jews in Palestine.

Today the popular book, *The Late Great Planet Earth*, by Hal Lindsey, continues to advance the deception. "To be specific about Israel's great significance as a sign of the time, there are three things that were to happen. First, the Jewish nation would be reborn in the land of Palestine. Secondly, the Jews would repossess old Jerusalem and the sacred sites. Thirdly, they would rebuild their ancient temple of worship upon its historic site".—Pages 50, 51.

Notice that two of the three events listed have happened! On pages 53, 54, after quoting the parable of the fig tree (Matt. 24:32, 33), the author continues:

"But the most important sign in Matthew has to be the restoration of the Jews to the land in the rebirth of Israel. . . . When the Jewish people, after nearly 2,000 years of exile, under relentless persecution, became a nation on 14 May 1948 the 'fig tree' put forth its first leaves.

"Jesus said that this would indicate that He was 'at the door,' ready to return. Then He said, 'Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place' (Matt. 24:34, N.A.S.B.).

"What generation? Obviously, in con text, the generation that would see the signs—chief among them the rebirth of Israel. A generation in the Bible is something like forty years. If this is a correct deduction, then within forty years or so of 1948, all these things could take place. Many scholars who have studied Bible prophecy all their lives believe that this is so."

Lindsey goes on to misapply Zechariah 12-14 to the time of the second coming of Christ. He points to Zechariah 12:10 as applying to "the personal revelation of Jesus Christ as Messiah to a remnant of Jews in Jerusalem" (page 54). He then states:

"There remains but one more event to completely set the stage for Israel's part in the last great act of her historical drama. This is to rebuild the ancient Temple of worship upon its old site".—Pages 55, 56.

A Masterful Deception

What if the Temple were to be rebuilt? What a masterful misapplication of Scripture is here evident! By blinding Christianity to the fact that Old Testament prophecies no longer apply to the literal Jews, which is clearly pointed out in the first angel's message (especially as spelled out in Dan. 9:24-27), Satan has prepared the way to make his appearance as Christ. And what better place to make his initial appearance than in Jerusalem, where many Christians are looking for Him to come? Notice what the servant of the Lord has said:

As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Saviour's advent as the con summation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation. . . . This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion. — *The Great Controversy*, p. 624.

The times we live in demand our special attention. Are our people prepared to withstand this masterful deception?

Only those who have been diligent students of the scriptures and who have received the love of the truth will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive. . . . Are the people of God now so firmly established upon His word that they would not yield to the evidence of their senses? —*Ibid.*, p. 625.

We must not only prepare our people but we must warn the world of this great deception by clearly heralding the truth of the second coming of Jesus. We must proclaim the three angels' messages loud and clear.

ISRAEL IN PROPHECY
LESSON 1
A PROPHEPIC DECEPTION

A masterful prophetic deception repeated.

A. Christ's first advent

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____ Old Testament prophecy

Paul's warning

• **2Thessalonians. 2:7** –

For the _____ doth already work: only he who now letteth [will let], until he be taken out of the way.

B. Similar today as at first advent

1. _____
2. _____
3. Misinterpret _____ and _____ prophecy

Historically, prophetic interpretation and preaching is important.

A. Pre-reformation – Waldenses, Wyclifites, Hussites –

1. Protested against _____ as beast and _____ as apocalyptic Babylon.

B. Reformation – Foundation truths:

1. Saved by _____ in Christ alone
2. _____ is only authority for the Christian
3. Taught about the _____ and his _____
 - a. Martin Luther in 1520 wrote:
"I am practically cornered, and can hardly doubt anymore, that the pope is really the antichrist, whom the world expects according to a general belief, because everything so exactly corresponds to the way of his life, action, words and commandments." Shriften, Vol. 21a. Col. 234
 1. Used Daniel 7, 8 and 2Thes. 2
4. 1516 Fifth Lateran Council prohibited writing or preaching on subject of _____
4. Melancthon, Zwingli (Swiss), Tyndale (first English translation from Greek, John Calvin (French), John Knox (Scotland).
 - a. All taught _____ is antichrist.

- C. Papacy developed a _____
1. Ribera – Jesuit priest and scholar
 - a. 1590 – counter interpretation – _____
 1. Applied first few chapters of Revelation to ancient Rome, the rest he restricted to a literal 3 ½ year reign of an infidel antichrist who would oppose and persecute the saints just before second advent – Rev. 12
 2. _____ – single individual who would rebuild temple in Jerusalem, abolish Christian religion, be received by Jews, pretend to be God, conquer world.
 3. _____ application
 4. Goal – take sights off _____

Application of Old and New Testament Prophecy concerning Israel

- A. Reformers applied Old and New Testament prophecies to the _____, not _____.
- B. Amazing change happened - _____ began teaching Papal Futurism
 1. Increase Mather – 1669 Mystery of Israel's Salvation – applied prophecies to Israel's restoration.
 2. Dr. John Owen – 1673 “The Jews shall be gathered from all parts of the earth where they are now scattered and brought back into their own land.”
Isa 11:11-12 Eze 37:21-22
 3. Charles Spurgeon – 1864, predicted Israel's restoration.
 4. James Grant – 1866, English scholar: “The personal coming of Christ will not take place until the Jews are restored to their own land and the enemies of Christ and the Jews have gathered together their armies from all parts of the world and have commenced the siege of Jerusalem.”
Zechariah 14:2-4
- C. 1901, Sea Cliff, Long Island Bible Conference
 1. Combined _____ principles of Ribera and _____ application.
 - a. Known as _____
 - b. Reaction to liberalism questioning creation, miracles, authorship, historical accuracy of Bible.
Interpret Bible literally as it reads
 - c. _____ **Reference Bible** developed
Notes on Rev 7, p.1337

"[The great tribulation] involves the people of God [meaning literal Jews] who will have returned to Palestine in unbelief. Its duration is three and a half years, or the last half of the seventieth week of Daniel (Dan. 9:24-27, note; Rev. 11:2, 3). The elements of the tribulation are: (1) The cruel reign of the "beast out of the sea" (Rev. 13:1), who, at the beginning of the three and a half years, will break his covenant with the Jews (by virtue of which they will have re-established the temple worship, Dan. 9:27), and show himself in the temple, demanding that he be worshipped as God (Mt. 24.15; 2 Thes. 2.4)."

Dispensational

A direct attack on the _____
1st angel's message - probation for Jewish nation as God's covenant people ended in _____ with stoning of Stephen
Dan 9:24,, Acts 13:46, Gal 3:28-29

C. Today Book - **Late Great Planet Earth** by Hal Lindsay

1. Revelation 1-3: Church on _____.
Revelation 4-5: church in _____ after rapture
England – Irvingites church, mid 1800's (tongues), secret rapture by Margaret McDonald (Rev. 4.1)
2. Hal Lindsay's argument for literal Israel
 - a. **pp. 53-54** Jews return
 - b. **pp. 50-51** 3 predictions
 - c. **p. 55** one left
 - d. **p. 174** Christ's return, Russian Arab confederacy against Israel, Zechariah 14:1-4, Ezekiel, Daniel, Joel, Revelation
 - e. What if there is a war and Christ apparently appears in Jerusalem
Zechariah 14:1-4

Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, ...

For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; ...

Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives,

- f. False Assumption: **p. 176**

Protestantism has _____ from historic prophetic teachings

- Now following _____ teaching on last-day events -
"Wondering after beast"
- SDA Church - Teaching historic _____ prophetic view

Masterful Deception shaping up today

"As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, _____ himself will personate Christ... This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion." GC 629

"Only those who have been _____ students of the Scriptures and who have received the love of the truth will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive... Are the people of God now so _____ upon His word that they would not yield to the evidence of their senses?" GC 625

Importance of prophecy study

A. Correct interpretation of prophecy will _____ God's people from

B. EGW

1. "When we as a people understand what this book (Revelation) means to us, there will be seen among us a great revival." TM 113
2. "When the books of Daniel and Revelation are better understood, believers will have an entirely different religious experience. They will be given such glimpses of the open gates of heaven that heart and mind will be impressed with the character that all must develop in order to realize the blessedness which is to be the reward of the pure in heart." TM 114

ISRAEL IN PROPHECY
LESSON 2
PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION

Every science is based on principles. Physics, chemistry, mathematics, etc. all have underlying principles that are necessary to learn if one wants to understand that area of science. The Bible is no different. In this lesson we will study the principles of interpretation that enable us to correctly understand the Bible.

Introduction

1. What does Paul say concerning how we are to study the Bible? 2Tim. 2:15
“ _____ the word of truth.”

Note: To rightly divide means to properly interpret the Word of God.

2. Why were the Berean Christians called noble in Acts 17:11?
“they received the word with all _____ of _____, and _____
the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

Ten Principles of Interpretation

3. **Principle 1.** All scripture reveals Christ.

Whom did Jesus say the Scriptures testify of in John 5:39?

“...they are they which testify of _____.”

4. **Principle 2.** Compare scripture with scripture

How are we to study Bible subjects? 1Cor. 2:13

“the _____ teacheth; _____ spiritual things with _____”

5. In Daniel 7:3 Daniel saw four beasts come out of the sea. What did these beasts represent? Daniel 7:17

“These great beasts, which are four, are four _____, which shall arise out of earth.”

6. Read the following texts and determine the title on the cross of Christ.

Matt 27:37 _____

Mark 15:26 _____

Luke 23:38 _____

John 19:19 _____

What do you think the title probably said?

7. **Principle 3.** Observe the deep, spiritual meaning not just the literal meaning. Read the following verses and note how Jesus gave a deep, spiritual meaning to a physical item. John 6:48-51, 53-56
- A. "I am the _____ of life."
 "Your fathers did eat _____ in the wilderness..."
 "... the bread that I will give is my _____, which I will give for the life of the world."
 "Except ye eat the _____ of the son of man, and drink his _____, ye have no life in you."
- B. What did Jesus say brings life? John 6:63
 "...the _____ that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are _____."
- C. How did many disciples react to this teaching of Jesus? John 6:60, 66
 "Many therefore of his disciples, when they heard this, said, this is a _____; who can hear it?"
 "Many of his disciples went back and walked _____ with him."
8. **Principle 4.** The gospel in every passage of Scripture. 2Tim 3:15-16
 "...the holy scripture, which are able to make thee _____ unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."
9. Principle 5. The law of growth and development – repeat and enlarge
 How did Jesus illustrate this principle using an example from nature? Mark 4:28
 "For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself, first the _____, then the _____ after that the _____ in the ear."
10. Read the following verses in Genesis and list the first use of a symbol.
- A. Gen 3:1 "Now the _____ was more subtil than any beast of the field..."
 What does the serpent represent in other Scriptures? Rev 12:9 _____
- B. Gen 3:15 "...and I will put enmity between thee and the _____, and between thy seed and _____ seed..."
 What does the woman refer to in other Bible verses?
 Jer 6:2; Isa 51:16; Rev 12:1, 17 _____
11. **Principle 6.** The law of significant Bible names
 Names in the Bible have meaning. What is the meaning of the following names?
- A. Gen 3:20 "and Adam called his wife's name _____; because she was mother of all _____."
- B. Matt 1:21 "...thou shalt call his name _____; for he shall _____ his people from their sins."
- C. Matt 1:23 "...and they shall call his name _____; which being interpreted is, _____."

12. **Principle 7.** The things of Israel belong to the church

A. How does one become a descendent of Abraham and inherit promises given to Abraham and his descendents? Gal 3:28-29

“If ye be _____ then are ye _____ and _____ according to the promise.”

B. Read Ex 19:5-6 and 1Pet 2:9 and list the terms that originally applied to the literal nation of Israel but now applies to the church today.

13. **Principle 8.** Worldwide events symbolized by local events.

A. What local event is used to symbolize the end of the world in Jude 7?

B. The fall of what Old Testament nation and city is referred to in Rev 18:2-5?

14. **Principle 9.** Day-Year principle: A day in prophecy represents a year in actual time.

How did God use this principle in prophesying Israel’s wilderness sojourn?

Num 14:34 “After the number of days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each _____ for a _____ shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years.”

15. **Principle 10** Three fold application: Many prophecies have three applications; a literal Old Testament Israel application, a spiritual Israel worldwide (church) application and a literal worldwide in glory application.

Read the following verses and indicate which application applies to the term “holy city”. Place the appropriate letter (A,B,C) next to the verse.

Matt 4:5 _____

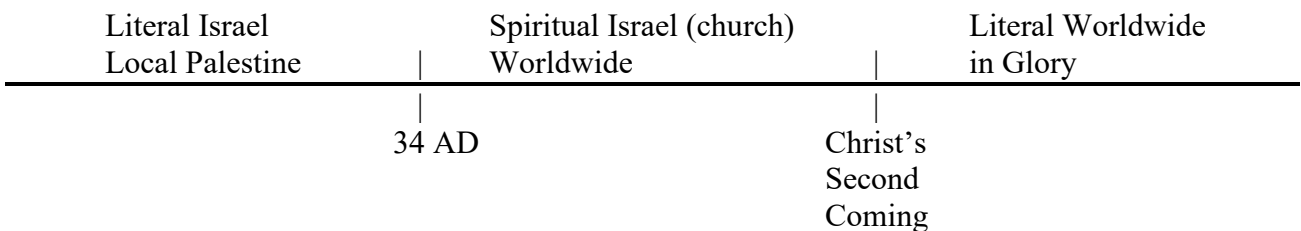
A. Spiritual Worldwide

Rev 11:2 _____

B. Literal Worldwide in Glory

Rev 21:2 _____

C. Literal Israel



16 When we do not correctly interpret Scripture what are we actually doing and what will be the result? 2Pet 3:15-16

“.. they that are unlearned and unstable _____, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own _____.”

ISRAEL IN PROPHECY
LESSON 3
GOD'S ISRAEL TODAY

There is much confusion in the Christian world concerning the role of the modern nation of Israel in prophecy. In this lesson you will learn the concept of Israel in the Old and New Testaments. You will see that the literal nation of Israel was God's chosen people in the Old Testament. However, when the nation and her leaders rejected their Messiah, Jesus Christ, they ceased to be God's special people and the Christian church took the role of Israel in the New Testament.

Promises To Israel Conditional

1. What does Jeremiah say about God's promise of blessing or judgment?
Jeremiah 18:7-10

2. What did God say was the condition of Israel being and continuing a special people and nation of God?
 - A. Exodus 19:5-6 "Now therefore, if you will _____ my voice indeed, and _____ my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine."
 - B. Deuteronomy 28:1 "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt _____ diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to _____ and to _____ all his Commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth."
3. What did God say would happen to Israel if they disobeyed His commandments?
 - A. Deuteronomy 28:15

 - B. Deuteronomy 8:19-20

Israel Rejected Because of Unfaithfulness

4. Answer the following questions in Isaiah's prophecy about Israel's failure to be faithful to God.
 - A. What does the vineyard refer to?
Isaiah 5:7 _____
 - B. Instead of good grapes what kind of fruit did the vineyard bring forth?
Isaiah 5:2-4 _____
 - C. What did God prophecy would happen to His vineyard, Israel?
Isaiah 5:5-6 _____

5. What did Jesus say about how the son of the owner of the vineyard would be treated?
 A. Matthew 21:37-39 _____
 B. Who do you think the son referred to in Jesus' parable of the vineyard?

6. What did Jesus say would happen to Israel and God's kingdom? Matthew 21:43
 A. "The kingdom of God shall be _____,
 and _____ to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof."
7. Did the Jewish leaders know who Jesus was referring to in His parable?
 Matthew 21:45
 _____ "...they perceived that he spoke of _____."
8. What condition did Jesus say the house of Israel would become because of their refusal to come to Him? Matthew 23:37-38

9. In what words did the Jewish people and leaders reject Jesus, their Messiah?
 A. Matthew 27:25 _____
 B. John 19:15 _____
10. To whom did the apostles begin preaching the gospel to because of Israel's rejection of Christ? Acts 13:46

11. Does the literal nation of Israel's failure mean that God's prophetic word will fail?
 A. Rom 9:6 _____
 B. Why? "For they are not all _____, which are of Israel:" (vs6)
 C. Are all blood descendents of Abraham truly Israelites?
 _____ Rom 9:6-8
 "...they which are the children of the _____, these are _____
 the children of God; but children of the _____ are counted for
 the seed."
 Note: Children of flesh refers to blood descendents of Abraham.
 Children of promise refers to those who have faith in Christ.
12. Why did the nation of Israel fail to continue as God's people? Romans 9:30-33
 Because they sought righteousness in the wrong way. "They sought it
 _____ by _____, but as it were by the _____ of the
 law."

The New Spiritual Israel Is The Church

13. In closing his letter to the Galatian Christian church how did Paul address them?
 Galatians 6:16
 "And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy,
 and upon the _____ of _____."

14. How does a person today become a descendent of Abraham and inherit the promises to Abraham's seed? Galatians 3:29

"And if ye be _____ then are ye _____ seed and _____ according to the promise."

Note: The believer in Jesus Christ has inherited the promises and prophecies originally given to Abraham and his seed.

15. According to the New Testament is there any distinction between a Jew and other peoples? Galatians 3:28

_____ "There is neither _____ nor Greek..... for ye are all _____ in Christ."

16 According to Paul who is the true Jew in the New Testament? Romans 2:28-29

"He is not a _____ who is one _____...."

"But he is a _____ who is one _____...."

Note: "Inwardly" refers to the inner faith of the person.

"Outwardly" refers to the physical, blood lineage to Abraham.

17. How does Peter describe God's people in the New Testament? 1Peter 2:9-10

Note the similar description used in Ex 19:5-6 describing the nation of Israel.

18. In James' general letter to all Christians how does he address them? James 1:1

"James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the _____
_____ which are scattered abroad, greeting."

The New Testament Church Has Inherited Old Testament Prophecies

19. Joel 2:28-29 is a prophecy given to Old Testament Israel. How did Peter apply this prophecy? Acts 2:1-18

Verse 16 Peter applies Joel's prophecy to the _____

Note: Peter applied Joel's prophecy to the church at Pentecost.

20. Isaiah 42:6 prophesied that Israel was to be the light to the gentiles. How did Paul and Barnabas apply this Old Testament prophecy? Acts 13:46-47

"For so hath the Lord commanded _____...."

Note: Paul and Barnabas applied Isaiah's prophecy to the New Testament church.

21. All Christians are living under the new covenant. Who is this new covenant made with?

Hebrews 8:8-10 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of _____"

Note: All New Testament believers are saved under the new covenant and are considered the house of Israel by God.

Conclusion

In this lesson we learned that God's promise that the Old Testament nation of Israel would be His special people was conditional on their continued faithfulness to Him. The Jewish nation rejected Jesus, their Messiah, and sought to be righteous by keeping God's law. Because of this they were rejected by God, which Isaiah had foretold in his parable of the vineyard.

In the New Testament God's people is the church, the believers in Jesus Christ. The church has therefore inherited the covenant, promises and prophecies originally given to Abraham and his descendants (seed). The individual who believes in Jesus Christ as their Saviour is God's true Israelite today. The church is God's spiritual Israel nation today.

Lesson 3 A **Israel, the Olive Tree** **Romans 11**

Dispensationalists use Romans 11 to support their view

- Literal, modern-day Israel will someday be saved as a nation.

Romans 11

Vs 1-5

- All the early Christians were Jewish
 - They are the “*remnant*” vs 5 refers to

Vs 6-7

- Elect of vs 7 are the Jews who accepted Christ
 - Salvation by Faith, not works

Vs 11-14

- “*save some*” vs 14 refers to Jews who would accept Christ

Vs 17-24

Wild Olive Tree vs Cultivated Olive Tree

Cultivated Olive Tree = Israel of all ages

- From Abraham to Christ’s 2nd coming

Wild Olive Tree = Gentiles

Vs 17

- “*Some of the branches (of cultivated Olive Tree) broken off*”
 - Jews who rejected Christ
- Gentiles “*grafted in among them*”
 - Gentiles who accept Christ
 - Are grafted into Cultivated Olive Tree
 - Become part of Israel

Vs 20

- “*Because of unbelief they were broken off*”
 - Jews who rejected Christ were “broken off” from Cultivated Olive Tree

Vs 24

- “*natural branches*”
 - Jews who accept Christ
 - “grafted into their own olive tree”
 - Become once again part of Israel – God’s saved people

Vs 25

- “blindness” of many Israelites
 - Those who reject Christ
- Blindness continues until “*fullness of the Gentiles has come in*”
 - “**fullness of Gentiles**” = Church age
 - **Luke 21:24**

*And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the **times of the Gentiles** be fulfilled.*

- **Times of the Gentiles** = Church age
 - **Rev 11:1-2**

And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.

*But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the **Gentiles**: and the **holy city** shall they **tread under foot forty [and] two months**.*

- Measure temple = investigated judgment
- Holy city = church
- Tread under foot 42 months = 1260 year persecution

Vs 26

- “*so all Israel will be saved*”
 - Only those who have the spiritual experience with God that Jacob had
 - Will be counted by God as an Israelite,
 - Will be considered part of the cultivated olive tree
 - Whether they be literal Jew or Gentile.

In short, what Paul said was this:

- The cultivated olive tree represents God’s saved people of all generations, Israel (Old and New Testament).
- All who are part of the cultivated olive tree and fall into unbelief will be broken off.
- All who choose to believe in Christ will be grafted into it whether of the Jewish race or a non-Jew (Gentile).
- All who are part of this cultivated olive tree, which represents Israel throughout the ages, will be saved.

The tragedy, as Paul taught, is that spiritual blindness has come into a major portion of literal Israel (Romans 11:25). This blindness will continue throughout the church age, “until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in,” which concludes with Christ’s second coming. Paul did not say the literal nation of Israel will someday miraculously accept Christ. In fact, his words said the very opposite. This national blindness will continue until the very end of time even though individual Jews who accept Christ will be saved.

ISRAEL IN PROPHECY
LESSON 4
THE GATHERING OF ISRAEL

Many Christians are greatly interested today in the nation of Israel in the middle east. They see Israel's return to Palestine in 1948 as the fulfillment of prophecy. The Old Testament prophecies, which foretell of God gathering Israel back to their land from the many countries where they had been scattered, are pointed to as having been fulfilled in the 1948 re-establishment of the nation of Israel in their former homeland. In this lesson we will study the gathering prophecies on the Old Testament and see that they do not apply to the modern nation of Israel at all. Rather they initially applied to the gathering of Israel from the Babylonian captivity. We will also see that Christ, the great I AM, is the One who does the gathering and to Whom Israel is to gather. The application of the gathering prophecies to the modern nation of Israel in Palestine is a "Christless" application and therefore unbiblical. Christ must be the focus and center of all Scriptural interpretations.

In this lesson we will see that the gathering prophecies continue to be fulfilled today, but not to the nation of Israel. Rather they are being fulfilled as Christ gather's individuals into His church, spiritual Israel. This spiritual gathering will continue until Jesus returns to literally gather His people to Himself in glory.

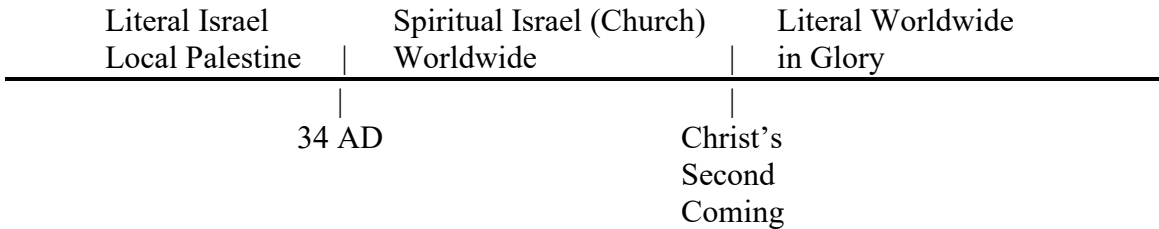
The One Who Gathers

1. According to the Ezekiel how did God describe the gathering of His people?
Eze. 34:11-13, 23-24
Vs. 12 "As a _____ seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his _____ that are scattered; so will I seek out my _____, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day."
2. How did Jesus describe Himself when He spoke of gathering His people?
John 10:14-16
"I am the good _____, and know my _____, and am known of mine."
"And other _____ I have which are not of this fold: them also I must _____, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one _____."

Note: Jesus is the shepherd that is prophesied in the Old Testament as gathering His people. Christ is the One Who does the gathering in both the Old and New Testament. All the gathering prophesies are Christ centered.

Three Fold Application

In this lesson we will see the three fold application applied to the gathering promises of the Old Testament.



Old Testament Gathering Promises

Literal Israel – Local Palestine Application

3. How did Moses describe Israel’s future prosperity, captivity and their gathering back to their homeland? Deut. 30:1-5

“And it shall come to pass when all these things are come upon thee, the _____ and the _____, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee, And shalt _____ unto the LORD thy God, and shalt _____ his voice according to all that I command thee this day,.....”

“That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return, and _____ thee from all the nations, whither the LORD hath scattered thee.”

Note: The blessing referred to Israel’s prosperous years culminating during king David’s reign. The curse referred to Israel’s Assyrian and Judah’s Babylonian captivity. The gathering referred to God restoring Israel back to their homeland following the Babylonian captivity. We will see that all the Old Testament gathering promises apply to the same restoration back to Palestine following the Babylonian captivity.

4. How did Isaiah describe the gathering out of captivity and whom did he include in the gathering other than Israel? Isaiah 11:10-12, 16

“And in that day there shall be a _____, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the _____ seek: and his rest shall be glorious.”

“And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the _____ time to recover the remnant of his people.....”

Note: The first time God gathered His people was out of Egypt (see verse 16). The second recovery referred to here was the gathering after the Babylonian captivity. This gathering was to be extended to include Gentiles, which is being fulfilled today.

5. Paul referred to Isaiah's prophecy in Romans 15:12. How did Paul apply this Old Testament gathering prophecy? Rom. 15:7, 13

"Wherefore receive ye one another, as _____ also _____ us to the glory of God."

"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in _____, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the _____."

Note: Paul applied Isaiah's gathering promise to the believer coming to Christ and being received by Him by the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul did not apply this prophecy to the nation of Israel being gathered to Palestine at some future time.

6. Jeremiah and Ezekiel were contemporaries living and prophesying during the time of the Babylonian captivity. Hence, their gathering prophecies were designed to bring hope to their people Israel who were being led away into captivity by the Babylonians. Notice how these two prophets foretell that Israel would someday return to their homeland in Palestine following their captivity in Babylon.

A. Eze. 37:21-22 "And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will _____ them on every side, and bring them into their own _____: "And I will make them _____ in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all....."

B. Who was to be their "shepherd" and "prince" or king? Eze. 34:23-24
"And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant _____; he shall feed them, and he shall be their _____.
"And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant _____ a _____ among them; I the LORD have spoken it."

C. How does Jeremiah describe this same gathering of Israel from the Babylonian captivity? Jer. 23:5-6
"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a _____ shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth."
"In his day Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, _____."

D. How did Jesus indicate that He was this "shepherd" referred to by Ezekiel and Jeremiah? John 10:14-16
"I am the good _____, and know my sheep, and am known of mine."
"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must _____ and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be _____ fold and _____ shepherd."

Note: Jesus is the shepherd and prince David referred to in Jeremiah and Ezekiel's prophecies (David was a "type" of Christ, Christ is the second David). Jesus knew this and applied the Old Testament gathering prophecies to Himself. Jesus is the "Lord Our Righteousness" for all who believe in Him.

7. These prophecies were partially fulfilled to literal Israel in local Palestine and Jerusalem following the Babylonian captivity. However, because of their rejection of Jesus Christ, the one Who gathers, these prophecies did not and will not meet a complete fulfillment to literal Israel. How did Jesus and Paul indicate literal Israel's rejection by God and their forfeiting of God's prophecies and promises to them?

A. Jesus:

Matt. 21:43 "Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be _____ from you, and _____ to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof."

Matt. 23:37-38 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have _____ thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye _____! Behold, your house is left unto you _____."

B. Paul:

Acts 13:46 "Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye _____, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the _____."

Gal. 3:28-29 "There is neither _____ nor _____, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all _____ in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye _____, and _____ according to the promise."

Note: The believer in Jesus Christ is the true seed of Abraham today, the true Israelite, and has inherited the prophecies and promises given to Abraham and his descendants.

Spiritual Israel - Worldwide Application

8. How did Jesus describe Himself in reference to the God of the Old Testament?

John 8:58

"Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, _____."

Note: Jesus was claiming to be the I Am of the Old Testament. (see Ex. 3:14) This means Jesus, before His incarnation, was the One who gave Israel the gathering promises. He is the One who gathers Israel.

9. How did Jesus describe His desire to gather Israel? Matt. 23:37

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have _____ thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye _____."

10. How did Jesus describe Himself and His plans concerning His people?

John 10:14-16

“I am the good _____, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.”

“And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must _____, and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.”

11. When planning the death of Jesus, in what words did God inspire Caiaphas the high priest to speak concerning the work of Christ for His people? John 11:47-53 vs. 51-52 “And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; And not for that nation only, but that also he should _____ together in one the children of God that are _____ abroad.”

12. How did Paul describe Gentiles becoming a part of God’s Israel today?

Eph. 2:12-13, 19-22

“That at that time ye were without Christ, being _____ from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are _____ by the blood of Christ.”

“Now therefore ye are not more _____ and _____, but _____ with the saints, and of the household of God;”

13. How does Paul in Hebrews describe the individual who accepts Christ? Heb.12:22-24

“But ye are come unto _____, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly _____, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and _____ of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to _____ the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to _____ the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.”

Note: When an individual becomes a Christian he is pictured as coming to Mt. Zion, to Jerusalem, to the church and to Christ. Hence, Christians in the New Testament are described as Israel living on Mt. Zion in Jerusalem with Jesus.

Literal - Worldwide in Glory Application

14. How did Matthew describe the gathering that takes place when Jesus returns?

Matt. 24:30-31

“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall _____ together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

15. How did Paul describe this same event? 1Thes. 4:16-17

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be _____ with them in the clouds, to _____ the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

Note: Jesus’ second coming to gather His people is the Literal – Worldwide in Glory Application of the Old Testament gathering promises given to Israel.

Summary

Three-Fold Application of the Gathering of Israel

| <u>Literal – Local</u> | <u>Spiritual – Worldwide</u> | <u>Literal – Worldwide in Glory</u> |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Literal Israel | Spiritual Israel (church) | God Literally gathers Israel |
| Gathered to Jesus | Gathered to Jesus | of all ages to Jesus at His |
| To local Jerusalem | To spiritual Jerusalem | second coming. This is a |
| In Palestine | Worldwide | Worldwide event |
| | | |
| | 34 AD | Christ’s |
| | | Second |
| | | Coming |

Note: Worldwide means an event that happens throughout the world.

ISRAEL IN PROPHECY
LESSON 5
GOG AND MAGOG BATTLE ISRAEL

The “latter days” battle against Israel described in Ezekiel is applied to a coming battle against the modern nation of Israel in Palestine. The majority of popular Bible commentators try to map out this battle and even name nations that will take part in it. In this lesson we will see that this prophecy in Ezekiel chapters 36 and 37 do not apply to the modern nation of Israel at all. We will study how the book of Revelation gives us insights into how this prophecy will be applied to God’s people, spiritual Israel (the church) in the last days. We will see a clear parallel between the events described in Ezekiel’s prophecy and John’s description of the seven last plagues in Revelation.

This prophecy of Ezekiel gives us another opportunity to see how the “Three Fold Application” applies to Old Testament prophecy. We will learn in this lesson that this prophecy was originally given to the literal nation of Israel at the time of the Babylonian captivity and would have met a victorious fulfillment if they had remained faithful to God and accepted their Messiah, Jesus Christ. However, because of Israel’s failure this prophecy is being fulfilled today to “spiritual Israel”, the church in a worldwide setting. The battle of Ezekiel describes Satan’s last efforts to destroy God’s remnant people. It will intensify as we near the second coming of Christ. Ezekiel’s battle will culminate and reach it’s “literal worldwide in glory” fulfillment at the end of the 1000 years as described in Revelation chapter 20.

Literal Israel - Local Palestine Application

1. Ezekiel was writing at the time of the Babylonian captivity. What were the reasons for the coming captivity? Ezekiel 36:17-19
“Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they _____ it by their own ways and by their doings;... Wherefore I poured my fury upon them for the _____ that they had shed upon the land, and for their _____ wherewith they had polluted it:”
2. God brought hope to Israel during this difficult time with a promise of restoration. How did God describe this restoration of Israel following the Babylonian captivity? Ezekiel 36:21-24
Vs. 24 “For I will take you from among the heathen, and _____ you out of all countries, and will _____ you into your own _____.”
3. What was God’s plan for Israel after they returned to Palestine following the Babylonian captivity? Ezekiel 36:25-27
“Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your _____, and from all your _____, will I cleanse you. A _____ also will I give you, and a _____ will I put within you.... And I will put my _____ within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall _____ my judgments, and _____ them.”

4. What else did God promise if Israel remained faithful to Him? Ezekiel 36:28-38
 “And ye shall dwell in the _____ that I gave to your fathers, and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.... And I will call for the _____, and lay no _____ upon you. And I will multiply the _____ of the tree, and the _____ of the field,...”
 “And the _____ land shall be tilled... And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the _____ of _____, and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited.”
5. God showed Ezekiel a vision of the valley of dry bones.
- A. What did the bones represent? Ezekiel 37:11
 “Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of _____”
- B. What did God promise to do to the dry bones? Ezekiel 37:10
 “So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the _____ came into them, and they _____, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great _____.”
- C. How impossible did this promise of restoration seem to Israel in the face of the Babylonian captivity? Ezekiel 37:11
 “Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold they say, Our bones are dried, and our _____ is lost: we are cut off for our parts.”
- D. Where did God promise to return Israel to after the Babylonian captivity? Ezekiel 37:21
 “And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will _____ them on every side, and _____ them into their own _____:”
- E. What did God promise concerning a divided Israel? Ezekiel 37:22
 “And I will make them _____ in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more _____ nations, neither shall they be _____ into two kingdoms any more at all.”
6. God gave Ezekiel a prophecy of Israel’s future greatness and of the final conflict that would take place against her. Ezekiel 38-39
- A. Who would come against Israel for battle? Ezekiel 38:1-3
 “Son of man, set thy face against _____, the land of _____, the chief prince of Mechech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,”
- B. When would this final battle take place? Ezekiel 38:8, 16
 “After many days thou shalt be visited: in the _____ thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel,...”
 “And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the _____....”

- C. How would God fight for His people Israel? Ezekiel 38:20-22; 39:4, 6.
 "...all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall _____ at my presence, and the mountains shall be _____, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall _____ to the ground."
 "And I will plead against him with _____ and with _____; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great _____, _____ and _____."
 "Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous _____ of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured."
 "And I will send a _____ on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD."

7. Ezekiel describes how events would have transpired for Israel after their return from the Babylonian captivity if they had remained faithful to God. What did Jesus say regarding Israel's unfaithfulness? Matt. 21:43; 23:37-38
 "Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be _____ from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof."
 Behold, your house is left unto you _____."
8. Who has inherited these unfulfilled Old Testament prophecies? Gal. 3:29
 "And if ye be _____, then are ye Abraham's seed, and _____ according to the promise."

Spiritual Worldwide Application

9. The Christian has inherited the unfulfilled Old Testament prophecies originally given to the nation of Israel in Jerusalem. Where does the New Testament describe the Christian as dwelling? Heb. 12:22
 "But ye are come unto _____, and unto the _____ of the living God, the heavenly _____, and to an innumerable company of angels,"
 Note: God's people, spiritual Israel, today do not literally go to the heavenly Jerusalem when Christ gathers them to Himself. They are spiritually gathered and symbolically pictured as dwelling on Mount Zion in Jerusalem. Hence, Ezekiel 36:24 is being fulfilled to the church today.

10. In the Old Testament God promised to gather His people, Israel, back to Jerusalem. In the New testament who is described as gathering God's children that are scattered throughout the world? John 11:51-52

"...he prophesied that _____ should die for that nation; And not for that nation only, but that also he should _____ together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad."

Note: As we have studied in a previous lesson, Jesus was the God of the Old Testament Who had promised to gather Israel. Since Israel rejected the One who gathers, it is unbiblical to apply these prophecies to the modern nation of Israel today. The gathering continues today. Jesus is gathering His people, spiritual Israel, to Himself. And they are pictured as coming to the "heavenly Jerusalem". Hence the Old Testament prophecy of Ezekiel describing the enemies coming against Israel in the "latter years" now applies to Satan's attacks on the church, spiritual Israel, dwelling in spiritual Jerusalem.

11. What did God promise through Ezekiel to do for Israel? Ezekiel 36:25

"Then will I sprinkle clean _____ upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you."

12. How does Paul apply this promise in Ezekiel? Eph. 5:26

"That he might sanctify and _____ it (church) with the washing of _____ by the word."

Note: Paul applies Ezekiel's prophecy to the church, spiritual Israel.

13. What else did God promise to do for His people in Ezekiel? Ezekiel 36:26-27

"A _____ also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

"And I will put my _____ within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them."

Note: God promised to put his statutes (commandments) in the heart of His people by the Holy Spirit.

14. How does Paul apply this promise in Ezekiel to the church? 2Cor. 3:3

"Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ minister by us, written not with ink, but with the _____ of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the _____."

15. God was also prophesying through Jeremiah during Ezekiel's time just prior to the Babylonian captivity. In what words did God promise to bring a sanctifying experience to Israel? Jer. 31:31-33

"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a _____ with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:... I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their _____..."

Note: Paul quotes this new covenant promise in Hebrews 8:8-10 and applies it to the ministry of Christ to the church today.

16. In the “latter years” Satan will attack the church and try to destroy it. The book of Revelation describes his attacks and God’s deliverance of His people through the seven last plagues. Compare Ezekiel 38 and 39 with Revelation 6, 16, 17 and 19 and list the similar events described in both Ezekiel and Revelation.

Eze. 38:20; Rev. 6:12; 16:18-20 _____

Eze. 38:22; Rev. 16:2 _____

Eze. 38:22; Rev. 16:3-7 _____

Eze. 38:22; Rev. 16:21 _____

Eze. 38:22; 39:6; Rev. 16:8; 17:16; 19:20 _____

Eze. 39:4, 17-18; Rev. 19:17-18, 21 _____

Note: Revelation is the inspired commentary on how the events of Ezekiel’s prophecy will be fulfilled to the church. Revelation 13 and 17 describe the great last day spiritual battle. The Revelation Seminar covers these issues in detail and will not be covered in this lesson.

Literal Worldwide in Glory Application

17. Ezekiel’s prophecy has a third fulfillment, which is called the Literal Worldwide in Glory Application. This fulfillment takes place at the end of the 1000 year prophecy of Revelation chapter 20. Answer the following questions in relation to this third application.

A. The believers in Jesus Christ are resurrected at Christ’s second coming (1Thes. 4:16-17. When are the wicked of all ages resurrected? Rev. 20:5

“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were _____.”

B. What does Satan do after the wicked dead are resurrected and what are they called? Rev. 20:7-8

“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to _____ the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, _____ and _____, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.”

Note: Gog and Magog are the same names used to describe the enemies that attack Israel in Ezekiel’s prophecy, Eze. 38:2

C. What is Satan’s plan of attack against God’s Israel of all ages and what is the outcome? Rev. 20:9

“And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved _____, and _____ came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.”

D. What is the name of the “beloved city” that Satan attacks where Israel of all ages is located? Rev. 21:2

“And I John saw the holy city, _____, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

Three Fold Application

Literal-Local

Literal Israel in
Local Jerusalem
Attacked by enemies
Of God, called Gog
& Magog

Spiritual-Worldwide

Spiritual Israel (church)
In spiritual Jerusalem
Attacked by enemies of
God

Literal Worldwide in Glory

Israel of all ages
In literal new Jerusalem
attacked by enemies of
God, called Gog &
Magog at end of 1000 years

34 AD

Christ's
Second
Coming

ISRAEL IN PROPHECY
LESSON 5A
THE MILLENNIUM

1. Where is Satan during the millennium, 1000 years, and what is he unable to do?

- **Revelation 20:1-3**

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the _____ and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should _____ the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

2. Why is Satan unable to deceive anyone?

- **1Thessalonians 4:16-17**

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the _____ shall rise first: Then we which are _____ [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the _____ and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

- **2Thessalonians 2:8**

And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall _____ with the brightness of his coming:

- **Revelation 20:5**

But the _____ lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This [is] the first resurrection.

Note: At Christ's second coming those believers who have died are resurrected and the living believers are all "caught up" to meet Jesus in the air. The "wicked" living are killed by the brightness of Christ's coming and the "wicked" dead stay dead. Therefore, Satan has no one on earth to deceive.

3. Where does Jesus take the believers at His second coming?

- **John 14:1-3**

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my _____ are many mansions: if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that _____, [there] ye may be also.

- **Note:** Jesus will take the believers back to heaven (His Father's house)

4. What are the believers doing in heaven during the 1000 years?

- **Revelation 20:4**

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and _____ was given unto them: and [I saw] the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received [his] mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5. Who will the believers be judging during the 1000 years?

- **1Corinthians 6:2-3**

Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the _____? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge _____? how much more things that pertain to this life?

6. What condition is the earth in during the 1000 years?

- **Jeremiah 4:23-27**

I beheld the earth, and, lo, [it was] without form, and void; and the heavens, and they [had] no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, [there was] _____, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place [was] a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, [and] by his fierce anger. For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be _____; yet will I not make a full end.

7. Where does Jesus and the believers return to after the 1000 years?

- **Zechariah 14:4-5**

And his feet shall stand in that day upon the _____, which [is] before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, [and there shall be] a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. And ye shall flee [to] the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, [and] all the saints with thee.

- **Note:** Jesus and believers of all ages return to the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, which is the final fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham and his seed.

8. What else comes down to this earth after the 1000 years?

- **Revelation 21:2**

And I John saw the holy city, _____, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

9. When are the "wicked" dead resurrected?

- **Revelation 20:5**

But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were _____. This [is] the first resurrection.

10. What does Satan and all the "wicked" dead do after they are resurrected and what happens to them?

- **Revelation 20:7-9**

And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom [is] as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and _____ the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and _____ them.

11. How complete is the destruction of the “wicked?”

- **Malachai 4:1-3**

For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall _____, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be _____ under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do [this], saith the LORD of hosts.

12. How complete is the destruction of Satan?

- **Ezekiel 28:14-15, 18-19**

Thou [art] the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee [so]: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

Thou [wast] perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to _____ upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never [shalt] thou [be] any more.

13. What happens to the earth after the 1000 years?

- **2Peter 3:10-13**

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be _____. [Seeing] then [that] all these things shall be dissolved, what manner [of persons] ought ye to be in [all] holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

THE NEW EARTH

14. How does the Bible describe animals and God’s people in the New Earth?

- **Isaiah 65:17, 21-25**

For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be _____, nor come into mind.

And they shall _____, and inhabit [them]; and they shall _____, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree [are] the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the _____ of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they [are] the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. The _____ and the _____ shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust [shall be] the serpent’s meat. They shall not _____ nor _____ in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.

- **Isaiah 66:22-23**

For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, [that] from one new moon to another, and from one _____ to another, shall all flesh come to _____ before me, saith the LORD.

- **Isaiah 35:5-6**

Then the eyes of the _____ shall be opened, and the ears of the _____ shall be unstopped. Then shall the _____ [man] leap as an hart, and the tongue of the _____ sing: for in the _____ shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

15. How does Revelation describe the blessings of the New Jerusalem and New Earth?

- **Revelation 21:1-5**

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and _____ shall be with them, [and be] their God. And God shall _____ all tears from their eyes; and there shall be _____, neither _____, nor _____ neither shall there be any more _____: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

- **Revelation 22:1-5**

And he showed me a pure river of _____, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, [was there] the _____, which bare twelve [manner of] fruits, [and] yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree [were] for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his _____ [shall be] in their foreheads. And there shall be _____ there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

- **Revelation 22:7**

Behold, I come quickly: blessed [is] he that _____ the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

16. What is God's appeal to all people?

- **Revelation 22:14, 17**

Blessed [are] they that do his _____, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

And the Spirit and the bride say, _____. And let him that heareth say, _____. And let him that is athirst _____. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life _____

ISRAEL IN PROPHECY
LESSON 6
COMING OF THE KINGS OF THE EAST

During the past two centuries Christians have had numerous interpretations of the “kings of the East” described in Revelation chapter 16. In the 1800’s the popular view was that it applied to Turkey. As mankind moved into the 20th century and world war I and II came upon the scene of history Bible scholars began looking to China and Japan for the fulfillment of this prophecy. The problem in these interpretations is that these expositors of Scripture looked at events prevalent in the world at the time and tried to fit those events and nations into the prophecy.

The key to interpreting all prophecy is to let the Bible interpret its own symbols. If the interpretation is correct, Christ will be seen as the center of the Scripture under study. This is the approach we will take in this lesson. We will see that, as with other Old Testament terms, the term “East” loses its “literal – local” application and takes on a “spiritual – worldwide” meaning. We will also see that the “kings” coming from the “East” have great significance for God’s people and that Jesus is at the very heart of this prophecy.

This prophecy of the “kings of the East” is found in the chapter of Revelation describing the seven last plagues. These plagues are connected to the fall of mystical Babylon and the deliverance of God’s people when Christ returns.

Introduction

1. How does John describe the heavenly sanctuary at the time of the seven last plagues? Rev 15:5-6, 8

“And after that I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was _____: And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the _____,…”

“And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and _____ was able to _____ into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.”

Note: Today man can enter the temple in heaven through faith having Christ as our intercessor. When the seven last plagues fall the work of Christ as man’s mediator will be complete. Hence, the temple is “open” and “no man” can “enter” into the temple.

2. What condition is mankind in after probation closes when the investigative judgment is complete and the seven last plagues begin to fall upon this earth? Rev 22:11-12

“He that is _____, let him be _____ still: and he which is _____, let him be _____ still: and he that is _____, let him be _____ still: and he that is _____, let him be _____ still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give _____ according as his work shall be.

Note: When the plagues begin to fall every case will have been decided in the judgment. No man will change spiritually. Christ will then soon come with His reward for “every man” according to their (work) faith and life lived.

3. What are the seven last plagues called in Rev. 16:1?
“..the vials of the _____..”

4. How does John in Revelation chapter 14 describe this “wrath of God” or seven last plagues? Rev. 14:10
“The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out _____ into the cup of indignation...”
Note: “Without mixture” refers to the fact that these plagues are not mixed with mercy, the blood of Christ. All of God’s judgments in this earth have in the past been mixed with mercy. At the time of the seven last plagues Christ’s intercessory work is complete. Hence, the mercy of God no longer pleads for sinful man.

5. According to Daniel what happens to God’s people at the conclusion of the “time of trouble” or seven last plagues? Dan. 12:1
“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be _____, every one that shall be found written in the book.”
Note: Michael standing up refers Christ ending His intercessory work in the heavenly sanctuary. The seven last plagues are then immediately poured out on the earth, which Daniel describes as the “time of trouble”. Following this time of trouble Christ returns and delivers His people.

6. Who are the seven last plagues directed at? Rev. 14:9-10
“...If any man _____ the beast and his image, and receive his _____ in his forehead or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God (seven last plagues),..”

7. In what city are those who receive the mark of the beast and receive the seven last plagues pictured as living in? Rev. 18:2, 4
“And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, _____ the great is fallen,...”

8. What call does God make to those in Babylon, and why does He make this call? Rev. 18:4
“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, _____ of her, my people, that ye be not _____ of her _____, and that ye receive not of her _____.”

The Seven Last Plagues

9. What did John hear that indicates that every plague does not fall universally throughout the earth? Rev. 16:1
“And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your _____, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.”
Note: The first four plagues fall on different parts of the earth. The last three plagues fall universally throughout the earth and are closely connected to the second coming of Christ.

10. What is the first plague? Rev. 16:2
 “and there fell a noisome and grievous _____ upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.”
11. What does the second plague affect? Rev. 16:3
 “And the second angel poured out his vial upon the _____; and it became as the _____ of a dead man: and every living soul died I the sea.”
12. How does the third plague affect the fresh waters where it falls? Rev 16:4-7
 “And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became _____.”
13. What does the fourth plague cause? Rev 16:8-9
 “And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the _____; and power was given unto him to scorch men with _____.”
14. What does God promise to provide for His people during this time of trouble?
 Isa. 33:14-16
 Vs. 16 “..._____ shall be given him; his _____ shall be sure.”
15. Do the seven last plagues cause any of the unrighteous to repent of their sin?
 Rev. 16:9, 11
 Answer: _____
 “...they repented _____ to give him glory.”
 “And _____ the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented _____ of their deeds.”
 Note: Previously we learned that when the investigative judgment is complete and Jesus intercession ceases no man will change regarding their relationship with God. The unrighteous remain unrighteous, Rev. 22:11
16. What promise does God give his people in the book of Psalms? Ps 91:1-4
 “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the _____ of the Almighty..... Surely he shall _____ thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.”
17. When the fifth plague falls on the seat of the beast what happens to his kingdom?
 Rev. 16:10-11
 “...his kingdom was full of _____;..”
 Note: The kingdom of the beast at the time of this plague is the entire world. When this plague falls the whole earth is covered with darkness. This is the first of the last three plagues that are worldwide in their effect and occur in rapid succession one after another. These last three plagues are closely connected with the second coming of Christ to deliver His people from Babylon’s power.
 When this fifth plague falls the beast power and his followers realize they are lost. They sense their spiritual darkness.
18. What call does God make to those in Babylon before He pours out the seven last plagues? Rev. 18:2-4
 “...Babylon the great is _____..”
 “..Come _____ of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”

19. Will there come a time when it will be too late to heed God's call? Zech. 7:11-13

Answer _____

"Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would _____ hear; so they cry and I would _____ hear, saith the LORD of hosts:"

20. What will the sinners in Babylon realize? Jer 8:20

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are _____ saved."

21. What happens when the sixth plague is poured out? Rev. 16:12

"And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river _____; and the water thereof was _____ up, that the way of the kings of the _____ might be prepared."

22. How did God describe the literal city of Babylon in Jeremiah? Jer. 51:12-13

"O thou that _____ upon many _____..."

Note: The Old Testament city of Babylon was located with the Euphrates river running through it.

23. How does God describe spiritual Babylon in Revelation? Rev. 17:1,5

"...I will shew unto the judgment of the great whore that _____ upon many _____."

24. What does the water represent that spiritual Babylon is said to be sitting upon?

Rev. 17:15

"And he said unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are _____, and _____, and _____, and _____."

Note: Using the principle that worldwide events are symbolized by local event, the waters described in Revelation where the whore, spiritual Babylon, sits would be the spiritual Euphrates river. These waters represent the people that support Babylon and her persecution of God's people. This sixth plague "dries up" this support for Babylon. The persecution power of Babylon is broken under this plague.

25. What does this "drying up of the river Euphrates" prepare the way for? Rev. 16:12

Answer _____

26. What direction is used to describe the second coming of Christ? Matt. 24:27

"For as lightening cometh out of the _____, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

27. What is said to come from the East in Ezekiel? Eze. 43:1-4

"And, behold, the _____ of the God of Israel came from the way of the east..."

Note: In the Old Testament a direction such as "East" is interpreted literally. In the New Testament a direction is interpreted symbolically or spiritually when interpreting an unfulfilled Old Testament prophecy or a New Testament prophecy.

28. How does Matthew describe the second coming of Jesus? Matt 16:27

"For the Son of man shall come in the _____ of his Father with his _____;"

29. Since Christ and His angels are described in the Bible as coming from the East, whom do you think the "kings of the East" represent?

Answer _____

30. What happens when the seventh plague is poured out? Rev. 16:17-21

Answer _____

Note: The earthquake, hail and voice of God occurs just prior to Christ's second coming.

31. What wonderful promise does God give his people concerning the plagues?

Ps 91:5-10

Vs. 10 "There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any _____ come nigh thy dwelling."

Conclusion

The seven last plagues are poured out on this earth after the close of the investigative judgment. Christ's intercessory work in the heavenly sanctuary is complete. The plagues fall on all who have rejected Christ and the truths of His Word, especially related to the warning messages of the three angels' of Revelation chapter 14. The plagues do not touch any one of God's children. They will be protected by God while the wicked are suffering the devastating affects of the plagues. The first four plagues are not worldwide, but fall on various places on the earth. The last three plagues are worldwide in effect and are closely connected to the second coming of Christ and His angels, who are depicted as the "kings of the East". The seven last plagues are God's means of delivering His people from the persecuting power of spiritual Babylon and are the New Testament fulfillment of Ezekiel's chapter 38 and 39 prophecy (see Lesson 5, Gog & Magog Battle Israel). Though the sinners of earth will be suffering great want during these plagues, God's people will be protected from them and their necessities will be provided for by God.

ISRAEL IN PROPHECY
LESSON 7
THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON

There has been much speculation about the battle of Armageddon described in Revelation chapter 16. The majority of Christians today believe that this famous last day battle will occur in the Middle East and will involve a Russian – Arab confederacy attacking the modern nation of Israel. They apply Ezekiel's chapter 38 and 39 prophecy, which refers to God and Magog attacking Israel (see lesson five for a correct interpretation of Ezekiel's prophecy).

In our lesson today we will learn that the battle of Armageddon is a description of the last great conflict between Christ and Satan. In an effort to counter Christ's work in calling men and women out of spiritual Babylon Satan will work very vigorously through the teaching of falsehood, miracles and finally persecution to bring individuals to his side. Christ on the other hand, uses the preaching of the gospel in the context of the three angel's messages found in Revelation chapter fourteen. This spiritual battle intensifies greatly as this earth approaches the close of probation and enters the period of the tribulation or time of trouble. The second coming of Christ ends the first phase of this battle which results in the destruction of Satan's earthly army (the wicked) and the victorious deliverance of Christ's army (the righteous).

At the end of the 1000 years of Revelation chapter 20 the battle of Armageddon is once again taken up. Satan leads the resurrected wicked in an attack on the holy city, new Jerusalem. Again he and his armies are defeated and this time eternally destroyed by the fire that falls from heaven. This fire creates a great lake of fire that covers the whole earth and consumes it. Then God creates a new heaven and earth, which becomes the home of His redeemed children. Sin and Satan are eternally destroyed.

Hence, we will learn that every individual, believer and non-believer takes part in the battle of Armageddon. It is important we understand the issues of the battle and be sure we are on Christ's side by receiving Him as our Savior, experience the saving power of the gospel and accepting the truths of God's Word, especially the three angel's message.

The verses on the battle of Armageddon are found in the chapter describing the seven last plagues, Revelation 16. The description is placed between the sixth and seventh plague. Some have concluded that the gathering and the battle takes place at that time. It is true that the battle will be in progress then. However, the gathering described in these verses, Rev. 16:13-16, takes place long before the seven last plagues are poured out. The verses describing this battle are placed in the midst of the description of the plagues in order to answer the question; How and why individuals come to receive the seven last plagues and how to avoid them. It is a parenthetical insert giving an important perspective. The same literary style occurs in Revelation chapter 12. The description of the "war in heaven", Rev 12:6-7, follows a description of the 1260 year persecution of the woman or church, Rev 12:5. This parenthetical insert lets us know where the conflict in this earth between Christ, His church and Satan began.

Satan Gathers

1. Who are the unclean spirits that go out to gather individuals to Satan's side?
Rev 16:14
"For they are the spirits of _____,..."
2. Where do these unclean spirits come from to gather to Satan? Rev 16:13
"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the _____,
and out of the mouth of the _____, and out of the mouth of the _____."

Note: The dragon refers to spiritualism or paganism, the beast refers to the Roman Catholic Church, and the false prophet refers to apostate Protestantism. See the Revelation Seminar lessons for a complete study of these symbols.
3. What method does the unclean spirits use to gather individuals to Satan? Rev 16:14
"For they are the spirits of devils, working _____,..."
4. What warning did Jesus give us about miracles? Matt 24:24
"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great _____
and _____; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the
very elect."
5. What kind of people did Jesus say seeks signs and miracles in order to believe?
Matt 16:1-4
"A _____ and _____ generation seeketh after a sign;..."
6. What kind of activities will many have been involved in that are lost when Jesus returns? Matt 7:22
"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not _____ in thy
name? And in thy name have _____ devils? And in thy name done
many _____ works?"
Note: Here we see a partial list of apparent "gifts" of the Spirit. It seems many who are lost will have been deceived by the miracles of the unclean spirits and have become involved in performing these miracles unknowingly under Satan's power.
7. How could professed Christians become so deceived by Satan? 2Thes 2:9-12
"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they
received not the _____ of the _____, that they might be saved."
"That they all might be damned who _____ the truth, but had
pleasure in _____."
A. What does God allow to happen to those who reject the truths of His Word?
Vs. 11 "And for this cause God shall send them strong _____, that
they should believe a lie:"
8. Whom did Jesus say would enter the kingdom of heaven? Matt 7:21
"...he that _____ the will of my Father which is in heaven."

9. Are the gifts or fruits of the Spirit to be the real test if something is of God? Matt 7:20
Answer _____ “Wherefore by their _____ ye shall know them.”

Note: The Bible indicates that in the last days just prior to Christ’s return many apparent miracles will be occurring in the Christian world. Many professed Christians will drawn to these miracles and will be deceived.

10. What did the disciple John say was the real test of our relationship with God?

1John 2:3-4

“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we _____ his commandments. He that saith, I know him and keepeth _____ his commandments, is a _____, and the truth is not in him.”

11. Where does Revelation describe those deceived as being gathered to? Rev 16:16

“And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue _____.”

Note: The Hebrew word Armageddon is composed of two words, “mount” and “Megiddo”. Hence, Armageddon means Mt. Megiddo. There is no Mt. Megiddo, only a valley of Megiddo. Thus Mt. Megiddo is to be interpreted as having symbolic meaning. It is the symbolic mountain that the wicked are gathered to by Satan’s deceptions.

12. One of the principles of interpretation is that “worldwide” New Testament events are symbolized by “local” Old Testament events. Using this principle, what happened at Megiddo in the Old Testament? Judges 5:19-21; 4:16

“The kings came and fought, then fought the kings of Canaan in Taanach by the waters of _____; ...”

“...and all the host of Sisera _____ by the edges of the sword; and there was not a man left.”

Note: Sun worshipping Canaanites led by Sisera fought against Israel at Megiddo. The result of the battle was the destruction of all the enemies of Israel. Hence, the New Testament “Armageddon” refers to the place where all the enemies of spiritual Israel, the church, will be destroyed at Christ second coming. Armageddon or Mt. Megiddo could be translated “Mt. Of Slaughter”.

13. Why does Satan gather individuals to Armageddon? Rev 16:14; 17:12-14; 19:19

“.. to gather them to the _____ of that great day of God Almighty.”

“These shall make _____ with the Lamb..”

Note: Those who are gathered by Satan war against Christ and his people. This will finally lead to the persecution of God’s people described in Revelation 13.

14. What are the characteristics of those gathered by Satan to Armageddon?

A. Rev 18:4 They stay in the symbolic city of _____

B. Rev 13:16-17 They receive the _____

C. Rev 17:1-2 They are made drunk with the _____

Christ Gathers

15. How does Christ gather His children to Himself? John 1:12

“But as many as _____ him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even them that _____ on his name:”

16. What special messages does Christ use to gather? Rev 14:6-10

First angel's message _____

Second angel's message _____

Third angel's message _____

17. Where does Christ gather His children to? Heb 12:22; Rev 14:1

“But ye are come unto _____, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly _____, and to an innumerable company of angels.”

18. Why does Christ gather His children? Rev 18:4

“... that ye be not partakers of her _____, and that ye receive not of her _____.”

19. What are the characteristics of those Christ gathers to Mt. Zion?

Heb 12:22 They are in the heavenly city _____

Rev 18:4 They have come out of _____

Rev 14:4 They are not defiled by _____

Note: The women refer to Babylon and her daughters.

Rev 14:1 They have the Father's _____ in their forehead

20. What does the Father's “name” refer to that is in the forehead of His people?

Ex 33:18-19

“And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy _____.”

“And he said, I will make all my _____ pass before thee, and I will proclaim the _____ of the LORD before thee;”

Note: These verses indicate that God's name, glory and character are synonymous.

21. Where is the Father's “name” on His children? Rev 14:1

“...having the Father's name written in their _____.”

22. What else is also said to be placed in the mind or forehead of God's children?

Heb 8:10 and Rev 7:1-4

“... I will put my _____ into their mind...”

“Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have _____ the servants of our God in their foreheads.”

Note: Comparing the Scriptures in questions 20 – 22 we learn that God's name, glory, character, seal, and law are synonymous. Hence those gathered by Christ to Mt. Zion have obedience to God's law in their mind, which has been written there by the Holy Spirit, 2Cor 3:3. This is contrasted with the followers of Satan who have been gathered to Armageddon (Mt. Megiddo), which have the “mark of the beast” or disobedience to God's law in their minds.

23. What happens to those who are gathered by Satan to Armageddon? Rev 14:9-10
 “The same shall drink of the wine of the _____ of God,..”
 Note: The wine of the wrath of God is the seven last plagues, Rev 16:1.
24. How does the Bible describe what happens to those who are gathered by Satan to Armageddon when Christ returns? Jer 25:33
 “And the _____ of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth...”
25. Where is the great “winepress of the wrath of God” trodden? Rev 14:19-20
 “And the winepress was trodden _____ the city...”
 Note: The wrath of God, seven last plagues, fall outside the city (spiritual Jerusalem). Christ suffered the wrath of God at His crucifixion, which took place outside the city of old Jerusalem, Heb 13:12. Hence, all gathered by Christ to spiritual Jerusalem will be protected from the seven last plagues and the destruction of the wicked at the second coming of Christ.
26. Where does Joel say protection and deliverance is found? Joel 2:32
 “... for in _____ and in _____ shall be deliverance...”
27. What will be the experience of those gathered by Christ to Mt. Zion? Rev 16:15
 “..Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his _____, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.”
 Note: All gathered by Christ will have experienced “righteousness by faith” in Christ. They will be clothed with the garment of His righteousness.
28. What is the church’s present condition and what must we do to have a saving relationship with God? Rev 3:16-21
 “So then because thou art _____...”
 “Because thou sayest, I am _____, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest _____ that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:”
 “I counsel thee to buy of me _____ tired in the fire,
 and _____ that thou mayest be clothed,
 And anoint thy eyes with _____...”
 Note: The gold refers to the character of faith and love, the white raiment refers to Christ’s righteousness, and the eyesalve refers to the Holy Spirit enlightening our understanding.

ISRAEL IN PROPHECY
LESSON 8
DANIEL 2, 7, 8 – AN OVERVIEW

An important principle in understanding prophecy is “repeat and enlarge” or the law of “growth and development”. The prophecies of Daniel give a good example of this principle. In today’s lesson we will study the prophecies of Daniel chapters 2, 7 and 8 and see how the same historical events are being referred to using different symbols. Also each chapter further develops the themes of the previous prophecy and adds new information. This lesson is very important in preparation for our next study, which will be Daniel chapter 11 and 12, the King of the North.

Daniel Chapter 2

(The questions for this section is taken from Good News For Today Bible study guides)

In chapter two of Daniel, king Nebuchadnezzar had a dream but could not remember it when he awoke. Through a number of occurrences God led Daniel to be the one to tell the king his dream and interpret it for him.

1. With what time period of earth’s history is this dream especially concerned? Dan 2:28
Ans. _____

2. What did Daniel tell the king that he had seen in his dream? Dan 2:29-31
Ans. _____

3. List the various metals that made up the parts of the image. Dan 2:32-33
Head _____
Chest and arms _____
Belly and thighs _____
Legs _____
Feet _____

4. What happened when the great stone hit the image? Dan 2:34-35
Ans. _____

5. What did the head of gold represent? Dan 2:36-38
Ans. _____

6. What nation would arise after the Babylonian kingdom? Dan 2:39
Ans. _____

Note: The second world empire was Medo-Persia, which was inferior to the golden kingdom of Babylon.

7. According to the prophecy, what was predicted after the reign of the Medo-Persians? Dan 2:39

Ans. _____

Note: The third world empire was Greece. It is interesting to notice that much of the armor worn by the Grecians was made of brass! Alexander the Great and his army, in the battle of Arbela in 331 B.C., “settled the fate of the Persian Empire, and established the wide domination of the Greeks” (The Divine Programme of the World’s History, p. 308).

8. How did Daniel describe the fourth world empire – Rome? Dan 2:40

Ans. _____

9. What was to happen to Rome, the fourth world empire? Dan 2:41

Ans. _____

Note: Barbarian invasions of Rome divided the empire. These divisions, ten in number, represented by the ten toes of iron and clay, formed the foundations of the nations located in Europe today. These barbaric tribes are listed as follows by most historians: Alemanni, Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Franks, Vandals, Suevi, Burgundians, Heruli, Anglo – Saxons, and Lombards.

10. What prediction by God assures us that there will never be any more world empires to unite all of Europe? Dan 2:43

Ans. _____

11. Who will set up the next world empire? Dan 2:44-45

Ans. _____

Daniel 7

12. What did Daniel see in this vision? Dan 7:3

Ans. _____

13. What did these four beasts represent? Dan 7:17

Ans. _____

14. What was the first beast Daniel saw in vision? Dan 7:4

Ans. _____

Note: The lion with wings represented the nation Babylon, which was one of the symbols of ancient Babylon.

15. What beast did God use to describe the dual empire of Medo-Persia? Dan 7:5

Ans. _____

16. The third world empire of Greece was symbolized by what beast? Dan 7:6

Ans. _____

Note: The four heads represent the four generals who succeeded Alexander the Great after his untimely death; Ptolemy, Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus.

17. How was the iron monarchy of Rome described? Dan 7:7

Ans. _____

18. What did Daniel see next in his vision? Dan 7:8

Ans. _____

Note: The little horn represents the Papacy. The three nations uprooted in the rise of the Papacy to power were; Heruli, Vandals, Ostrogoths. The year the Papacy was in power without opposition was 538 A.D.

19. What did this little horn do? Dan 7:21

Ans. _____

20. What four things did Daniel describe the little horn would do? Dan 7:25

Ans. 1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Note: Applying the “day – year principle” the time, times, and dividing of time represents 3 ½ prophetic years or 1260 prophetic days, which is 1260 actual years. This prophetic time period began in 538 A.D. and ended in 1798.

21. What did Daniel see after the vision of the little horn? Dan 7:9-10, 13-14, 26-27

Ans. _____

- _____

- _____

Note: Daniel saw in vision the great judgment in heaven. According to the sequence of events it was to occur some time after the 1260 year period, which ended in 1798. In Daniel chapter 8 we will learn that the judgment did begin shortly after 1798. It began in 1844.

Daniel 8

22. What was the first animal Daniel saw in this vision and what nation did it represent?

Dan 8: 3-4, 20

Ans. _____

23. What was the second animal and what empire did it represent? Dan 8:5-8, 21-22

Ans. _____

- _____

Note: These four horns represent the four generals who succeeded Alexander the Great; Ptolemy, Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus.

24. The third symbol of a “little horn” has a double application in this prophecy. It represent both the Pagan Roman Empire and the Papal Roman Empire, since both did a similar work in relation to Christ and His church. What does Daniel describe this little horn doing? Dan 8:9-12

Ans. _____

- _____

- _____

Note: The word “daily” refers to the permanent features of the sanctuary. Under the influence of the Papal Roman power the truths of the heavenly sanctuary were lost and false teachings were brought in to replace them. See the chart below describing the true and the false teachings about the heavenly sanctuary.

| True | False |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Christ as priest | Human priest |
| 2. Christ as sacrifice | Mass |
| 3. Shew bread = Bible | Tradition |
| 4. Altar of incense = Christ’s Righteousness | Prayers to saints |
| 5. Ark – 10 commandments | Changed Commandments |
| 6. Mercy seat – Christ as mediator | Mary as mediatrix |
| 7. Salvation by faith | Salvation by works |

25. What two questions did Daniel hear asked? Dan 8:13

Ans. 1. _____

2. _____

26. What was the answer to the question about the sanctuary? Dan 8:14

Ans. _____

Note: The answer indicates that the truths about the heavenly sanctuary would be brought back to view in 1844, which is the end of the 2300 day – year prophetic time period. The judgment described in Daniel chapter 7 would also take place at that time. For a complete study on the 2300 day prophecy see the Revelation Seminar lessons.

Summary

| Event | Daniel 2 | Daniel 7 | Daniel 8 |
|---|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Babylon | Gold head | Lion | |
| Medo-Persia | Silver arms & chest | Bear | Ram |
| Greece | Brass stomach & thighs | Leopard | Goat |
| Rome | Iron legs | Terrible beast | little horn |
| Europe | Iron & clay feet | Ten horns | |
| Papal Rome | Iron & clay feet | little horn | little horn |
| Judgment | | Judgment set | Sanctuary cleansed |
| Christ's 2nd Advent | Stone | Kingdom given to saints | Little horn broken |

ISRAEL IN PROPHECY
LESSON 9
THE KING OF THE NORTH

Daniel chapter 11 and the "king of the North" has been interpreted in numerous ways during the past hundred years by both Adventists and non-Adventists. James White and Uriah Smith had divergent views on the subject and even ran opposing articles in the Review.

Today the popular dispensational view is to apply the king of the North to Russia. Daniel eleven's description of a last day conflict is applied to the last day battle with Israel in Palestine, which they do with the other Old Testament prophecies that were never fulfilled to literal Israel before the time of Christ.

In this lesson we will once again see that the last part of Daniel's prophecy in chapter 11 applies to the same little horn power described in Daniel chapter 7 and 8. We will see the principle of "repeat and enlarge" once again illustrated. We will also follow the Biblical principle of letting the Bible define its own terms such as North, East, king of the South, etc., which the teachers of dispensationalism fail to do.

In our study today we will once again see that the last section of Daniel 11 describes the last great conflict between Christ and Satan, Christ's followers and Satan's followers. We will see that God's last day remnant people are in the very midst of the conflict. We will see that Christ and His people are at the very center of this prophecy, which follows the principle that all scripture and prophecy is "Christ centered". The dispensational view of an un-Godly Russia attacking a non-believing modern nation of Israel is certainly not Christ centered. The dispensational view also does not prepare God's last day people to face the issues of this last day conflict.

Introduction

The first 30 verses on Daniel chapter 11 apply to events transpiring around the literal Old Testament nation of Israel before 34 AD. These verses give a detailed account of the nations of Egypt (the king of the south), Syria (the king of the north), Medo Persia, Greece and Rome. Since literal Israel in Palestine were God's people before 34 AD this application is consistent with the principles of interpretation. For a detailed discussion of these verses the [SDA Bible Commentary](#) and [Daniel & Revelation](#) by Uriah Smith are recommended.

The prophecy makes a transition to a New Testament church application in verse 31. Hence we will focus our study today on verses 31 - 45 and Daniel 12:1. We see this same kind of transition in application from literal Old Testament Israel to spiritual New Testament Israel (the church) in Daniel chapters 2, 7 and 8. Daniel 7 and 8 clearly delineates the work of the last day antichrist or Papal power and attack on God's truth and church. The last part of Daniel 11 will continue to describe the work of the papacy and how it affects God's remnant church.

Application to the Roman Catholic Papal power

1. What did Daniel prophecy the papal power would do to the sanctuary and "daily sacrifice"? Dan 11:31

Ans. _____

Note: Polluting the sanctuary means to make something common that is sacred.

In the last lesson we learned that the taking away of the "daily" referred to the papal effort to do away with the elements of the heavenly sanctuary such as Christ as our priest and sacrifice, the shew bread representing the Bible, etc. The papacy brought in a substitute for every aspect of the work of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary.

2. Paul also described the work of the antichrist power. What did he say the antichrist would do in relation to God's temple? 2Thes 2:4

Ans. _____

Note: Paul clearly indicates there would be a last day power that would exalt himself against God and seek to establish himself in God's church (the temple) and direct worship according to his dictates.

3. What did Daniel say about the "people that do know their God"? Dan 11:32

Ans. _____

Note: There were faithful followers of God who resisted the work of the papacy such as the Waldenses, Albigenses, Hugenots, etc.

4. What would this antichrist power do to God's people? Dan 11:33

Ans. _____

Note: This verse describes especially the 1260 year persecution of God's people by the papal power from 538 - 1798.

5. What did God promise to provide His people with? Dan 11:34

Ans. _____

Note: God rose up leaders for His people during this difficult time of persecution.

6. What effect would the persecution have on the faithful follower of Christ? Dan 11:35

Ans. _____

Note: Persecution brought purification of character to those who remained true to God.

When would this time of persecution end?

Ans. "...even to the _____"

Note: In previous lessons we learned that the 1260 year persecution ended in 1798. Hence 1798 marks the beginning of the "time of the end".

7. What eight things did Daniel say this antichrist power would do? Dan 11:36-37

Ans.1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

8. What god would this power honor? Dan 11:38

Ans. _____

Note: The "God of forces" has two applications; (1) Papal Rome's alliance with civil powers and her efforts to get them to do her bidding and (2) prayers to the saints and virgin Mary.. This verse also describes the costly ornamentation placed on images of Mary and saints.

9. What did Daniel predict this power would do to the land? Dan 11:39

Ans. _____

Note: This has reference to Papal domination over temporal rulers and the Pope receiving revenue from them. Also in 1493 Pope Alexander VI divided the New World between Spain and Portugal.

10. Answer the following questions related to Dan 11:40.

What would the king of the south do to the Papal power?

Ans. _____

What would the king of the north, Papal power, do in return to the king of the south?

Ans. _____

11. According to the first part of Daniel chapter 11 the king of the south was Egypt.

What happened to the "two witnesses" in spiritual Egypt in the New Testament?

Rev 11:3, 8.

Ans. _____

Note: The Revelation Seminar lessons point out that the spiritual or symbolic New Testament meaning of Egypt was the atheism of the nation of France. "...the great city' in whose streets the witness was slain, and where their dead bodies lie, is 'spiritually Egypt'... This is atheism, and the nation (France) represented by Egypt would give voice to a similar denial of the claims of the living God..." Great Controversy, 269

Hence Daniel 11:40 describes atheistic France, the king of the south, pushing at the king of the north, the papacy. This occurred in 1798 when Napoleon sent his General Berthier to take the pope prisoner. Revelation 13:3 describes this event as a deadly wound being inflicted.

12. In this lesson "king of the north" has been applied to the papal power. Answer the following questions in reference to this application.

Where is God and His city, Zion, described as being located? Ps 48:2

Ans. _____

When Lucifer wanted to exalt his throne above God's throne and the angels where were they described as being located? Isa 14:12-14

Ans. _____

Note: God is the true king of the north. However, the Bible indicated Satan has tried to usurp His authority in this earth and is therefore the counterfeit king of the north.

Where did God say He would bring His people from when He delivered them out of the Babylonian captivity? Jer 3:18; 31:8.

Ans. _____

Where does God describe Nebuchadrezzar, the king of Babylon, as being from? Eze 26:7

Ans. _____

Note: The Old Testament describes the king of literal Babylon as the king of the north. The New Testament uses the Babylonian imagery when describing the great antichrist power in Revelation. Hence, the New Testament antichrist, papal, power is the spiritual king of the north.

13. When the king of the north, the papacy, re-emerges to power and comes "against" the king of the south (atheism) how does the Bible describe his growth in power?

Dan 11:40-43

"...and he shall enter into the _____, and shall overflow and pass over."

"He shall enter also into the _____, and many _____ shall be overthrown;..."

"the land of _____ shall not escape."

14. Tidings from two directions are said to trouble the king of the north. From what two directions do these tidings come? Dan 11:44

Ans. _____

15 Answer the following questions to determine what tidings out of the "east" and "north" refer to.

East:

What is described as coming from the "east"? Eze 43:2

Ans. _____

From what direction does the sealing angel come from? Rev 7:2

Ans. _____

What is the earth lighted with as a result of the sealing angel's work? Rev 18:1

Ans. _____

Note: In a previous lesson we learned that God's glory refers to His character. The work of the sealing angel described as coming from the "east" causes God's remnant people to reflect God's character. This occurs as they experience righteousness by faith in Christ. As part of this work God's law, which is a transcript of His character, is written in their hearts (Heb 8:8, 10) and they live His law out in their lives. This causes Satan's rage to be kindled against God's remnant people (Rev 12:17). The first of the three angel's message calls us to give "glory" to God and worship Him as creator (Sabbath worship). Hence this sealing message, pictured as coming from the "east" troubles the papal power.

North:

From what direction did God describe His judgments on Judah as coming from?

Jer 1:13-16; 4:6

Ans. _____

We have previously seen that God's throne is described as being in the "north". In Jeremiah we see God's judgments as coming from the "north". Hence His judgments as described in the Bible as coming from His throne. Where does Revelation describe the seven last plagues as coming from? Rev 15:6

Ans. _____

Note: God's throne is in the temple. Therefore, the seven last plagues, which are His judgments upon a sinful world, are described as coming from God's throne.

What warning of judgment or punishment does God give to those who receive the mark of the beast? Rev 14:9-10; 18:4

"the same shall drink of the wine of the _____"

"...come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her _____."

Note: The three angels message of judgment upon spiritual Babylon is pictured as coming out of the "north".

15. What do these tidings out of the east and north cause the king of the north to do?

Dan 11:44

"...he shall go forth with great fury to _____"

Note: This phrase is interpreted by numerous Bible scholars as describing a "boycott". We know that Revelation 13 describes this boycott as a time when no one can "buy or sell" except those who receive the mark of the beast.

16. Where does Daniel describe the antichrist as planting the tabernacles of his palace?

Dan 11:45

Ans. _____

Note: The glorious holy mountain refers to God's people. This is the same events as described by Paul in 2Thes 2:4

17. What three things are described as happening when the king of the north (the papacy) begins severely persecuting God's remnant people? Dan 12:1

Answer:

1. _____
Note: Michael standing up refers to Christ completing the work of judgment in the heavenly sanctuary.
2. _____
3. _____

Summary

The last part of Daniel chapter eleven describes the work of the great antichrist power (the papacy). Just prior to the close of probation (end of judgment) when Michael stands up, the loud cry will go forth in the powerful proclamation of the three angels messages under the latter rain, described as tidings out of the east and north. When this occurs the papal power is enraged and persecution of God's remnant people begins with the little time of trouble and continues as the time of trouble after the judgment ends. The spirit of prophecy describes these events as follows:

"I was pointed down to the time when the third angel's message was closing. The power of God had rested upon His people.. The last great warning had been sounded everywhere, and it had stirred up and enraged the inhabitants of the earth who would not receive the message." Early Writings, 279

ISRAEL IN PROPHECY
LESSON 10
COMING BATTLE IN THE VALLEY OF JEHOSHAPHAT

The prophet Joel described a last day battle in the valley of Jehoshaphat in the middle east. As with the other unfulfilled Old Testament prophecies the majority of Christians apply Joel's prophecy to the modern nation of Israel. They expect there to be a literal battle during which the enemies of Israel attack her and God intervenes to deliver Israel.

If Israel had remained faithful to God and accepted their Messiah, Jesus Christ, this prophecy along with all other Old Testament prophecies would be fulfilled to the literal nation of Israel. In this lesson we will learn how Joel's prophecy also applies to the church (spiritual Israel) in the last days. Joel's prophecy of a last day battle parallels Ezekiel's chapters 38 and 39 Gog and Magog war prophecy and the battle of Armageddon prophecy. All three prophecies describe the same last day. Each one gives us further insights into the details of the battle and issues of the conflict.

A Call To Prayer

1. What does God ask His people to do in preparation for their final victory in this earth? Joel 2:12-17
"Therefore also now, saith the LORD, _____ ye even to me with all your heart..."

2. What threat are God's people facing in the last days? Joel 2:17
"... that the heathen should _____ over them..."

What are the heathen saying about God's people?

"Where is their _____?"

Note: Just prior to Christ second coming God's Spirit will move upon His people and call them to prayer and revival. They will be facing difficult times. The enemies of the church will be attacking her. Things will become so bad that it will appear that the church will be destroyed. The enemies taunt the church by asking, "Where is their God?" It appears He has left them to be destroyed.

3. In Ezekiel's vision what was placed on the foreheads of those who earnestly prayed to God with sighs and cries? Eze 9:4

Ans. _____

Note: Ezekiel 9:1-6 describes the sealing and shaking of God's remnant church. Those who respond to God's call for prayer and revival receive the seal of God. Those who refuse God's call are shaken out (slain).

4. What does God give His people in response to their prayer? Joel 2:23
"...he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain and the _____ rain in the first month."

Note: The latter rain refers to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon God's people just prior to Christ's second coming.

5. How does Joel further describe the last day revival of God's people? Joel 2:28
"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my _____ upon all
flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophecy, your old men shall dream
dreams, your young men shall see visions."
Note: This prophecy describes the work of God's Spirit during the early and latter rain. The early
rain fell at pentecost (see Acts 2:16-21). A similar event will happen when the Holy Spirit is
poured out in the latter rain just prior to Christ's second coming.

6. How does Joel describe the final result of victory by God and His people? Joel 2:21-
27
Ans. _____

Gathering For Battle

7. Where does God gather the enemies of His people? Joel 3:2
Ans. _____
Note: The word "Jehoshaphat" means Jehovah has judged or judges.

8. How does God describe the millions who are in the valley of Jehoshaphat? Joel 3:14
Ans. _____
Note: The word "decision" means "threshing". It describes the destruction of the wicked in the
valley of Jehoshaphat.

9. Where does Revelation describe the enemies of God's people being gathered to?
Rev. 16:16
Ans. _____
Note: The battle of Armageddon and the battle in the valley of Jehoshaphat describe the same last
day conflict between God's people (spiritual Israel, the church) and here enemies.

10. What happens to the enemies of God's people who are gathered to Armageddon and
the valley of Jehoshaphat? Jer 25:33
Ans. _____

11. What challenge does God make to the heathen (enemies of His people)? Joel 3:9-12
Ans. _____
Note: Gentiles refers to the non-spiritual Israelites. Revelation 17:12-14; 19:19 describe this same
war against Christ and His people. In Rev 16:14 they are described as being gathered for the
battle of the great day of God Almighty.

God's People Delivered

12. According to Joel where only is deliverance found? Joel 2:32
Ans. _____
13. In the New Testament where is spiritual Israel (the church) described as dwelling?
Heb. 12:22-23
Ans. _____

14. What are the characteristics of the "remnant" Joel described as being delivered from their enemies? Rev 12:17

Ans. _____

15. What does God say about the captivity of His people? Joel 3:1

Ans. _____

Note: To "bring again the captivity" means to end the captivity of God's people. During the time of trouble spiritual Israel (the church) is captive of spiritual Babylon and is being persecuted by her, Rev 13:16-17. This captivity ends when Jesus returns.

16. How does Joel describe the condition of the wicked just prior to Christ's second coming? Joel 3:13

Ans. _____

17. How does Revelation describe this same harvest (destruction) of the wicked?

Rev. 14:17-20

Ans. _____

18. Where is the winepress of the wicked trodden? Rev 14:20

Ans. _____

Note: The "city" referred to is spiritual "Jerusalem" where God's people, spiritual Israel are pictured as dwelling (Heb 12:22-23). God's wrath falls outside spiritual Jerusalem where the wicked are dwelling. Only in spiritual Jerusalem is deliverance found, Joel 2:32.

19. What events occur when God fights for His people in the valley of Jehoshaphat?

Joel 2:1 _____

Joel 2:2; 3:15 _____

Joel 2:10 _____

Joel 2:11;3:16 _____

20. What similar events are described in the New Testament that are connected with the second coming of Christ?

1Thes 4:16; Matt 24:30-31; 1Cor 15:52 _____

Rev 16:10 _____

Rev 6:14; 16:18 _____

Rev 16:17 _____

Note: The New Testament and Joel describe the same events that are connected with the second coming of Christ.

21. In Joel and Revelation the wicked ask a similar question. What is that question?

Joel 2:11 and Rev 6:17

Ans. _____

22. Who only is the hope and strength of spiritual Israel when Christ returns and destroys the wicked? Joel 3:16

Ans. _____

Note: Only those who have accepted Christ as their savior and have by His grace allowed His Spirit to write His law upon their hearts will be saved from the great destruction that takes place in the valley of Jehoshaphat.

23. How does Joel describe the final restored home of Israel of all ages? Joel 3:18, 20-21

Ans. _____

23. What appeal does God make to His people that they will be able to stand in the great day of His wrath when the wicked are destroyed at Christ's second coming?

Joel 2:12-13

Ans. _____

ISRAEL IN PROPHECY
LESSON 11
THE TEMPLE RESTORED

In this lesson we will study the Old Testament prophecy in Ezekiel that describes the restoration of the temple. Based on Ezekiel's prophecy Christians have been predicting for many years that the modern Jewish nation, Israel, would rebuild the temple on its ancient site in Jerusalem. Entire books have been written on the subject.

Four events have been pointed to as important last day signs of Christ's soon return by the dispensationalists. First, Israel was to return to Palestine and be re-established as a nation. Secondly, Israel was to take possession of Jerusalem. And thirdly, the temple was to be rebuilt. The last event just prior to Christ's return is a war around Jerusalem with God intervening to deliver Israel from her enemies. Two of the four have occurred.

In this study series, Israel in Prophecy, we have considered three of the four events from several perspectives. As we have seen, Satan has been developing a master deception of prophetic misinterpretation, which is preparing the world for his appearing as Christ in Jerusalem. As a part of his plan a temple could very well be built. However, such an event would not be a fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecy. It would only be a part of Satan's great last day deception called "dispensationalism", which has taken the minds of the vast majority of Christians today.

As with the other unfulfilled Old Testament prophecies we will see that this temple restoration prophecy in Ezekiel applies to spiritual Israel (the church) and not the modern nation of Israel in Palestine.

Overview

Ezekiel 36:24-27 describes a promised revival and reformation to take place in Israel following the Babylonian captivity. Here we find the New Covenant promise, which was partially fulfilled to literal Old Testament Israel. However, because of Israel's failure this promise will be fulfilled to New Testament spiritual Israel, the church.

In Ezekiel chapter 37 we read of the "valley of dry bones", which contains God's promise to restore Israel to Palestine. Again the gathering promises met a partial fulfillment in Old Testament Israel, but will find their final, complete fulfillment in New Testament spiritual Israel, the church.

Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 describe the great last day conflict between Israel and her enemies. The enemies of Israel attack her and God intervenes to deliver Israel. This prophecy was never fulfilled to Old Testament Israel. The last day war prophecies of Ezekiel and the other Old Testament prophets will find their fulfillment to spiritual Israel, the church in both a "Spiritual Worldwide" application during the time of trouble, and a "Literal Worldwide in Glory" application after the 1000 years of Revelation chapter 20.

Literal Israel Rejected - Spiritual Israel Instituted

1. What did Jesus say that indicated that the literal nation of Israel would forfeit the right to the Old Testament promises and prophecies? Matt 21:43
Ans. _____
2. What did Jesus say about the city of Jerusalem and Israel continuing as God's city and people? Matt 23:37-38
Ans. _____
3. Who did Paul say has inherited the unfulfilled Old Testament promises and prophecies originally given to the literal nation of Israel? Gal 3:28-29
Ans. _____
Note: The believers in Jesus Christ, the church, is the true Israel of God today and has inherited all the unfulfilled promises and prophecies originally given to the literal nation of Israel.

Spiritual Worldwide Application

4. What does the "temple" apply to in the New Testament? 1Cor 3:16
Ans. _____
Note: The church composed of believers in Jesus Christ is the New Testament temple of God.
5. How does Peter describe the New Testament temple or spiritual house? 1Pet 2:5
Ans. _____
6. What does Ezekiel describe happening at the temple? Eze 40:3-5
Ans. _____
7. What was John told to do to the temple but not the court? Rev 11:1-2
Ans. _____
Note: The measuring of the temple refers to the investigative judgment, which began in 1844. The investigative judgment involves only the believers in Jesus Christ, spiritual Israel. The Gentiles (non-spiritual Israelites) are not included.
8. What did Peter say about this investigative judgment of believers? 1Pet 4:17
Ans. _____
Note: Here we see Peter making the same application. The "house of God" or temple is where the judgment begins.
9. What does Ezekiel describe coming out of the house of God, or temple? Eze 47:1
Ans. _____
10. What happened to this river flowing from God's temple? Eze 47:3-5
Ans. _____
11. What happens to everything this river comes into contact with? Eze 47:8-9
Ans. _____
Note: Ezekiel's prophecy pictures a river of water of life flowing out of God's temple, which brings life wherever it flows.

12. How did Jesus describe Himself? John 2:19-21

Ans. _____
Note: Jesus was the embodiment of the temple. He was the temple of God living amongst men.

13. What did Jesus say He had for individuals? John 4:14

Ans. _____
Note: Christ is the water of life, which brings eternal life to all who receive it.

14. What did Jesus say about those who believe on Him in relation to this water of life?
John 7:38

Ans. _____
Note: Here we see the same symbolism. The water of life flows from the believer, who is the New Testament temple.

15. How is the water of life offered? Rev 22:17

Ans. _____

16. What was the purpose of Christ coming to earth? John 10:10

Ans. _____

17. What does John say man beheld in the life and ministry of Christ? John 1:14

Ans. _____

18. How did Jesus reveal God's glory? Acts 10:38

Ans. _____
Note: Christ's ministry of healing was an essential element in revealing God's glory.

19. What does John say the earth is lighted with in the last days? Rev 18:1

Ans. _____
Note: Since healing is an essential part of revealing God's glory, this text indicates a work of physical and spiritual healing that will take place on earth just prior to Christ's second coming. This work of healing will be carried on by the Holy Spirit working through God's church, which is His spiritual house or temple on earth. This is the same work described symbolically as the river of healing flowing from the temple in Ezekiel.

Summary of Spiritual Worldwide Application:

We previously saw that Ezekiel began his prophecy of the temple in chapter 40 with the measuring of the temple, which applies to the investigative judgment beginning in 1844. Hence, the work of healing symbolized by the water coming from the temple would take place especially during the time of the investigative judgment from 1844 onwards until Christ's second coming. This work of healing will be carried on by Christ's church (spiritual Israel) and will be an important part of the three angels message of Revelation 14 in preparing people for Christ's second coming.

Literal Worldwide in Glory Application

20. Where does the river of healing or life in Ezekiel's prophecy flow from? Eze 47:1

Ans. _____
Note: This river of life flows from the very presence of God, which is in the "house" or "temple" of God.

21. What grows along side this river of life? Eze 47:12

Ans. _____

22. What similar description does John give in Revelation? Rev 22:1-2

Ans. _____

Note: John saw the river of life flowing from the throne of God in the New Jerusalem in the new earth. The tree of life grew on both sides of the river. The similar language with Ezekiel's prophecy is unmistakable. John is describing the literal worldwide in glory application of Ezekiel's prophecy.

23. What does John say about the temple in the New Jerusalem and new earth? Rev 21:22

Ans. _____

Note: Jesus Christ, the embodiment of God's temple, is there (see question 12).

Conclusion

In our study today we learned that the church bringing physical and spiritual healing to the world through the power of the Holy Spirit is the "Spiritual Worldwide" application of Ezekiel's temple prophecy. John's prophecy in Revelation describes the "Literal Worldwide in Glory" application. Christ is at the very heart of both these applications.

The popular dispensational application of Ezekiel's prophecy to the building of a literal temple in Palestine is not only a false interpretation, it is a Christless application. This Christless, false interpretation is a counterfeit inspired by Satan to take away from the great work of healing by Christ through His church and an effort to set up his final great deception centering around the modern nation of Israel.

The vast majority of Christians are looking to the nation of Israel for the fulfillment of Old and New Testament prophecy. Satan will see to it that their expectations are met. However, sad to say, their misinterpretation will lead them to accept Satan's last masterful deception of impersonating Christ just prior to Christ's second advent.

History is repeating itself. The majority of professed believers in the true God were lead astray in Christ's day. They misinterpreted Old Testament prophecies and rejected their Messiah, Jesus Christ. As a result the vast majority of Israel in Christ's day were lost.

Satan is following the same method today. He has led the vast majority of professed believers in God to misinterpret Old and New Testament prophecies, which will set them up to accept a counterfeit second coming of Christ (Satan himself). The majority of professed believers will be lost because they choose to believe a lie and reject the truth.

Paul states:

"And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." 2Thes. 2:11-12