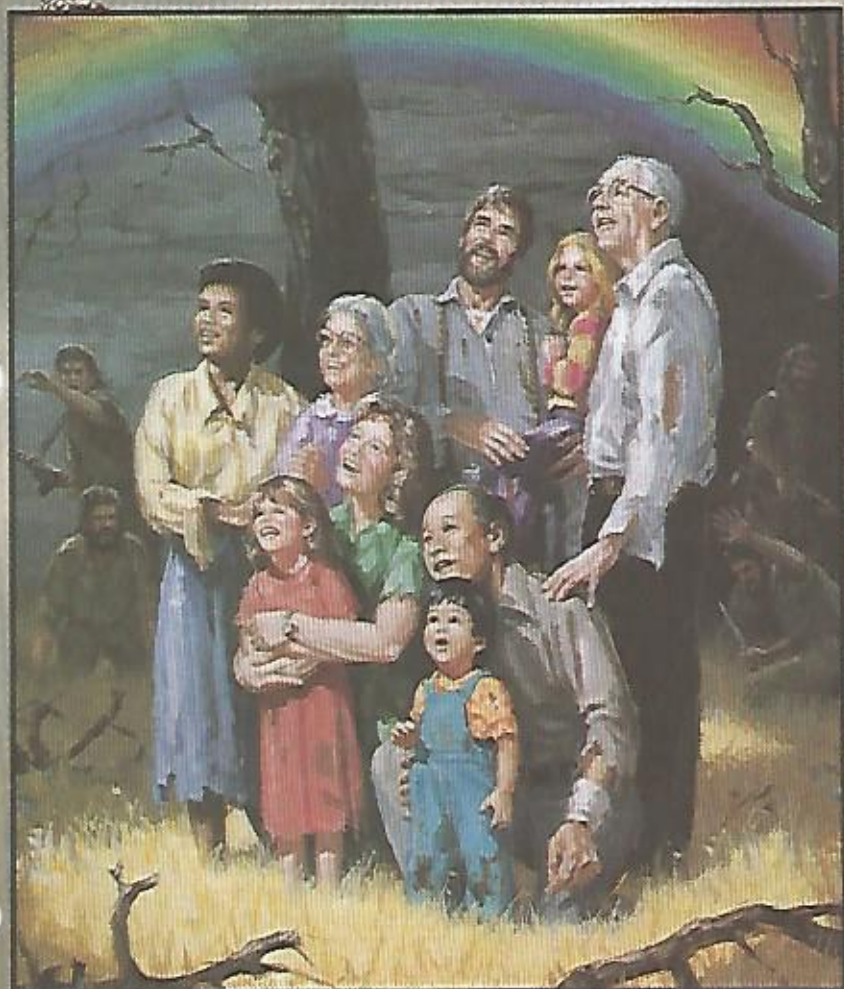




PROPHECY SEMINAR



DANIEL'S PEOPLE DELIVERED



Conflict after conflict has occurred throughout the book of Daniel. What happened in ancient Babylon is a foretaste of what will happen to God's people in the time of the end. The good news of the book of Daniel is that God ultimately will win this conflict. God's people may be threatened, imprisoned, or even face death, but ultimately, they will be delivered. What wonderful assurance! What glorious good news for the people of God!

THE DAY OF DELIVERANCE

1. What three things happen concerning God's people at the "time of the end"? Daniel 12:1 (871) [871].

1. "At that time _____ shall stand up."
2. "There shall be a time of _____."
3. "Your _____ shall be delivered."

NOTE: This message of assurance was addressed to Daniel. His people would be the Jewish people, since Daniel was a Jew. Does this mean that only Jewish people will be delivered in the final conflict? Is Daniel 12:1 talking about the Israelites living in the Middle East, New York, or anywhere else? To whom does the term "Israel" (Daniel's people) apply in the last days? In order to fathom fully the meaning of this prophecy, we need to carefully examine the term "Israel" as it appears throughout Scripture. In our search, we will discover that the term "Israel" changes meaning depending upon who the people of God are at that particular time. The term "Israel" is the covenant name for the people of God.

ISRAEL IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

2. What two things did God promise Abraham when He called him out of the land of Ur? Genesis 13:14-16 (11) [11].

1. _____
2. _____ (or "seed")

3. Who is the seed promised to Abraham? Galatians 3:16 (1121) [1151].

4. What is the land promised to Abraham? Hebrews 11:10,16 (1155) [1190].

"Now they desire a better, that is, a _____ country."

NOTE: Notice that the promises made to Abraham of land and seed were very special promises. They did not refer just to having many descendants and to inheriting the earthly Canaan. These promises were also spiritual promises to be the progenitor of the Messiah and to inherit the heavenly kingdom. Since these were spiritual promises

given to a spiritual person, not all the descendants of Abraham received the promises. Isaac received them, but Ishmael did not. Jacob received them, but Esau did not. Since they were spiritual promises, they could only be given to a spiritual people.

- 5. What was to be Jacob's new name after he had wrestled with the angel? Genesis 32:27, 28 (32) [33].**

NOTE: This is the first time that the name "Israel" appears in Scripture. It means, "one who has prevailed with God—an overcomer". Note that it is a spiritual term applied to a spiritual person who has entered into covenant relationship with God.

As time progressed, the name "Israel" became the name for the covenant people of God who were mainly the ethnic descendants of Abraham in the Old Testament. Thus, the people who came out of Egypt under Moses were called the Israelites when they entered into covenant with God at Mount Sinai and became the covenant people. Under David and Solomon, they became a mighty nation. As long as they were faithful to God, the term "Israel" applied to them. Later, however, the ten northern tribes seceded from the united kingdom and took the name, "Israel," but became unfaithful to God. God then called them a harlot because they professed to be Israelites but they were not. The southern kingdom took the name, "Judah" and as long as they were faithful, they, too, could be called Israelites. As we will see even more clearly in the New Testament, the term "Israel" refers to the faithful covenant people of God, whoever and wherever they might be.

- 6. Name two individuals who were not children of Abraham who became Israelites and even progenitors of the promised seed, Christ. Joshua 6:25; Ruth 4:13-22; Matthew 1:5 (207; 255, 256; 935) [223; 274; 943].**

NOTE: Boaz was the descendent of Rahab. He married Ruth and was the grandfather of David. Both of these noble women became progenitors of Christ and appear in His genealogy. Thus, it was possible in Old Testament times to become an Israelite even though one was not born an Israelite.

CONDITIONAL PROPHECY

- 7. If God predicts evil about a nation or people and they repent, will God bring the evil to pass, or if God predicts good about a nation and they refuse to obey Him, will God bring the good to pass? Jeremiah 18:7-10 (748) [749].**
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NOTE: There are two types of prophecy in Scripture – prophecies given by divine decree and prophecies that involve human choice. Jeremiah is declaring in this passage that all prophecies involving human choice are always conditional. The great outline prophecies of Daniel and Revelation that give us God's foreknowledge of human events are not conditional. However, the prophecies involving the choices of men and nations, such as given in Jeremiah, are conditional upon man's obedience. For example, when Jonah preached to the Ninevites, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown" (Jonah 3:4) (898) [897], Nineveh was not destroyed in forty days. Was Jonah a false prophet? No. Conditions changed. The people repented and God did not bring the evil to pass. When God predicted a glorious future for the ethnic nation of Israel, it would have happened if the ethnic nation of Israel had remained true to God. Since they did not remain true to God, the glorious predicted future never happened because such prophecy is always conditional upon man's choice to obey God's will.

8. What did God predict would happen to Israel if they were disobedient and under what conditions would they be able to return to their land? Deuteronomy 4:27-30 (170) [184].

"The LORD will _____ you among the peoples."

"You will _____ the LORD your God. . . when you turn to the LORD your God and _____ His voice."

NOTE: Note the conditions stated for their return from captivity. Only if they sought the Lord and were obedient to Him could they ever return to their land. As a result of their apostasy, the Israelites were taken into Babylonian captivity. Daniel lived at this time of captivity and knew that it was the sins of his people that had caused this terrible calamity to come.

9. Jeremiah had predicted the Babylonian captivity. Does Jeremiah also give a prediction about their return to the land of Palestine? Jeremiah 30:3, 11 (761) [762].

"I will cause them to _____ to the land."

NOTE: Jeremiah not only foresaw the seventy years of captivity in Babylon, but also predicted that a great company of Jews would return to the land of Palestine when the captivity was over. See Jeremiah 31:8,9 (763) [763]. It is interesting to note that the texts that are sometimes misused to refer to the return of the Jews to Palestine in 1948 are actually predictions of their return from the Babylonian captivity. These prophecies have nothing to do with the 1948 establishment of the nation of Israel.

10. When the Jews returned from Babylonian captivity, how much time did God give them? Daniel 9:24 (868) [867].

"_____ weeks."

NOTE: As we have previously studied (see Lesson 13), this seventy weeks refers to the 490 years that the Jews were given to make things fully right as the covenant people. When God allowed the Jews to return from the Babylonian captivity, He gave them this final opportunity for 490 years. At the end of it, they had rejected the Messiah, crucified Him and begun a systematic persecution of His followers by stoning Stephen. The nation that once had been the honored depository of the truth of God now had killed the Son of God. Therefore, the spiritual term "Israel" could no longer be applied to them. They were no longer "overcomers".

CHRIST'S MESSAGE TO ISRAEL

- 11. The grape vine and the fig tree were symbols of the nation of Israel (Isaiah 5:1-7) (657) [667, 668]. What did Jesus say would happen to the fig tree if it did not bear fruit? Luke 13:6-9 (1009) [1026].**

"Cut it _____."

- 12. Why was Jesus unable to gather Israel to Himself, and what was to happen if they refused to be gathered to Christ? Luke 13:34, 35 (1010) [1027].**

"But you were _____."

"Your house is left to you _____."

NOTE: God's presence would be withdrawn and no longer would Israel have the privilege of being the chosen people of God.

- 13. What would happen to ethnic Israel's privilege of being the chosen people? Matthew 21:43-45 (957, 958) [968].**

"The kingdom of God will be _____ from you and given to a nation bearing the _____ of it."

NOTE: What a stunning announcement! The privilege of being God's chosen people would be taken away from the Jews and given to someone else who would produce fruit.

THE NEW TESTAMENT ISRAEL

- 14. According to the apostle Paul, who is the real Jew after the cross? Romans 2:28, 29 (1086) [1112].**

"For he is not a Jew who is one _____, . . . but he is a Jew who is one _____."

NOTE: Paul makes it clear that, after the cross, the real Jew is no longer the ethnic Jew, but rather the one who has accepted Jesus Christ. Paul clearly indicates that the term "Israel" is a spiritual term applied to a spiritual people.

- 15. Who are the real children of God in the New Testament? The children of the flesh or the children of the promise? Romans 9:6-8 (1091,1092) [1117].**

"But the _____ of the _____ are counted as the seed."

- 16. How only, then, can an ethnic Jew become a spiritual Jew, according to the New Testament? Romans 11:14, 15, 19-21, 23 (1094) [1120].**

"If they do not continue in _____."

NOTE: The only way an ethnic Jew can become a true Israelite after the cross is by accepting Jesus Christ and becoming a believer. The New Testament is very clear that the term "Israel" no longer refers to an ethnic nation, but to a spiritual people who have accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour.

- 17. Is there any longer a division between Jews and non-Jews in the New Testament? Ephesians 2:14, 16, 19-22 (1125) [1155].**

"That He might _____ them both to God in _____ body through the cross."

NOTE: No longer are there two separate groups, Jews and Gentiles. Paul affirms that all believers, regardless of ethnic origin, are now part of one body - the Christian church. According to the apostle Paul, this one body is now the new Israel.

- 18. If a person belongs to Jesus Christ, what does Paul call him? Galatians 3:28, 29 (1122) [1151].**

"If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's _____, and _____ according to the promise."

NOTE: Paul states an emphatic truth: If you belong to Christ, you are Abraham's seed. Abraham's seed was called Israel. Thus, all faithful Christians are true Israelites. Paul further states that this new Israel, the Christian church, is the heir to the promises made to Abraham. Thus, all Old Testament promises made to the nation of Israel and finding fulfillment after the cross are fulfilled in the new Israel that has come into existence—the Christian church.

Any reference, therefore, to Israel in the end time must refer, not to the nation of ethnic Jews, but to the new Israel brought into existence by the cross—the Christian church. To apply any prophecy in the Bible to the ethnic nation of Israel in the Middle East today is to deny totally the New Testament teaching on the nation of Israel.

THE FINAL ISRAEL

- 19. The 144,000 are said to be sealed and ready for Jesus to come. From whom do the 144,000 come? Revelation 7:4 (1179) [1219].**

"Of all the tribes of the children of _____."



NOTE: Since this is a reference to the last days, the 144,000, made up of children of all the tribes of Israel, must refer to spiritual Jews and not ethnic Jews.

20. Who do the 144,000 follow? Revelation 14:4 (1183) [1224].

"These are the ones who follow the _____ wherever He goes."

NOTE: The "Lamb" refers to Jesus Christ (John 1:29) (1025) [1044]. The 144,000 follow Jesus. Obviously, they are not an ethnic Jewish group, but they are Christians.

21. Where does John see the 144,000 standing? Revelation 14:1 (1183) [1224].

"Mount _____."

NOTE: Amazingly, John sees these spiritual Israelites standing on Mount Zion. The very place that symbolized national Israel now symbolizes spiritual Israel. Here stand God's last-day people who are ready to meet Jesus.

22. What events are happening on the earth when the 144,000 are sealed? Revelation 7:1-4 (1179) [1219].

"Do not _____ the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

NOTE: The final great time of trouble is about to begin. But before it comes, God seals his final Israel. Then, at the end, He delivers them.

23. Who does Daniel say is delivered in the final time of trouble? Daniel 12:1 (871) [871].

_____ people.

NOTE: Daniel indicates that it is his people who are to be delivered in the end time. John the Revelator tells us it is the 144,000 who are to be delivered. (In addition to the 144,000, John saw a great multitude that no one could number Revelation 7:9. Obviously, out of earth's billions, more than a literal 144,000 will be saved.) Daniel's people and the 144,000 are the same basic people.

24. What does the dragon seek to do to the rest (or remnant) of the people of God? Revelation 12:17 (1182) [1223].

To make _____.

NOTE: Revelation 12:17 (1182) [1223] describes the final battle that seeks to destroy God's remnant people that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. It is the final battle foretold in Daniel 11-12 (869, 872) [869, 871]. It is Satan's final attempt to conquer God's Israel.

Let's review several points that we have learned in this lesson:

1. The term "Israel" is a spiritual term referring to a spiritual people.
2. The term "Israel" originally referred to the ethnic descendants of Abraham in the Old Testament. However, even then non-Jews could become Israelites if they accepted the God of heaven.
3. All prophecies involving the choices of men and nations are conditional; thus the prophecies of Israel's glorious future were conditional upon obedience. Since they were not obedient, the predictions are not fulfilled through ethnic Israel but are, instead, fulfilled through the new spiritual Israel.
4. Jesus warned that the privilege of being God's chosen people, the Israel of God, would be taken from the Jews and given to another people that would produce fruit. The apostle Paul verifies that this new entity has come into existence. He declares it to be the Christian church.
5. After the Cross, the term "Israel" refers only to those people who have accepted Jesus Christ.
6. The term "Israel" today refers to God's final people who are preparing to meet Jesus when He comes, and not to a nation in the Middle East.
7. The battle of Daniel 11:45 (871) [871] refers, not to a battle in the Middle East, but to Satan's final attempt to destroy the remnant people of God described in Revelation 12:17 (1182) [1223].

25. Is it your desire to stand with God's true Israel on the final Mount Zion?

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