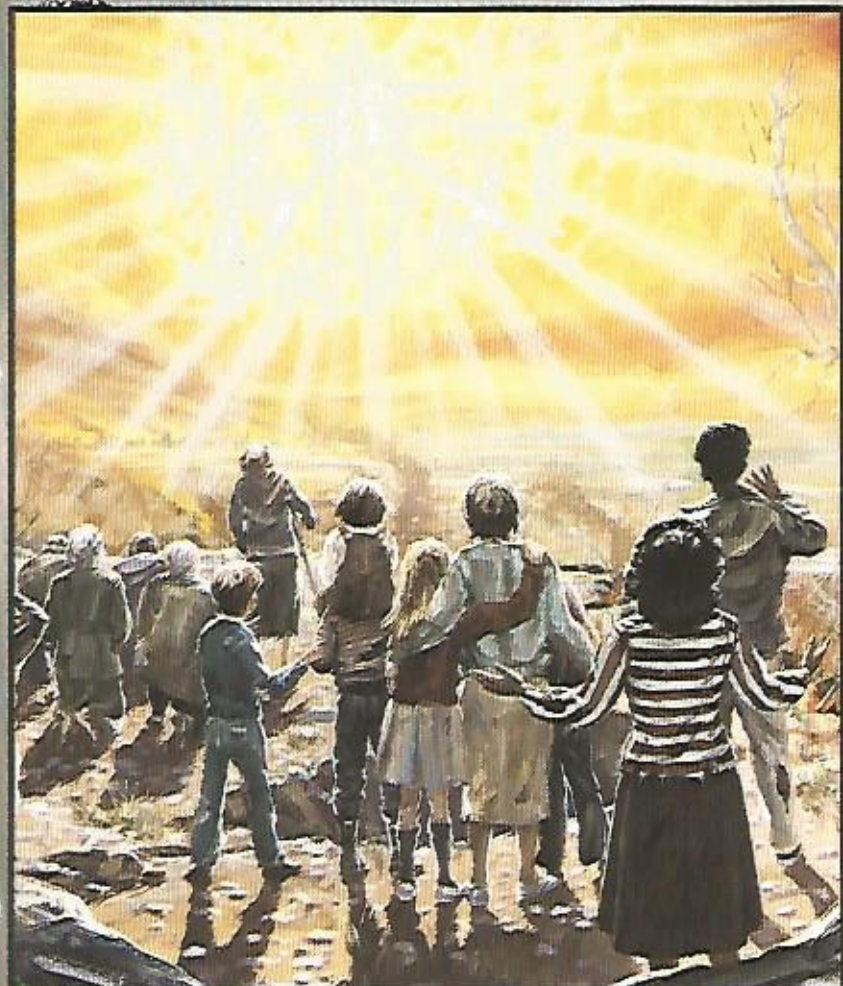




PROPHECY SEMINAR



THE DAY OF DELIVERANCE



The book of Daniel begins with a defeat for the people of God, and ends in Chapter 12 with a mighty deliverance for His people. This great day of deliverance will be marked by the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. This lesson will unlock the glorious truth of the second coming of Jesus Christ.

THE FINAL EVENTS OF DANIEL 12

1. Who stands up for God's people? Daniel 12:1 (871) [871].

_____.

2. Who is this Michael? Daniel 12:1 (871) [871].

"The great _____ who stands watch over the sons of your people."

NOTE: Many have understood "Michael" to be a reference to Christ. Christ is the great Prince that stands for God's people. "Michael" is also called the archangel (Jude 9) (1173) [1212]. Jesus is said to return the second time with the voice of the archangel (1 Thessalonians 4:16) (1137) [1169]. Thus, it would seem logical that "Michael" is a possible reference to Christ Himself. However, it must remain very clear that Christ, even though He is called Michael, is still fully God. Thus, the one who comes to deliver God's people at this time of apparent defeat is none other than Jesus Christ Himself.

3. What happens when Michael attempts to deliver God's people? Daniel 12:1 (871) [871].

"There shall be a time of _____, such as never was."

NOTE: As Christ prepares to come to deliver His people and destroy the final great apostate, the world is plunged into the greatest time of trouble there ever has been.

4. What happens to God's people at the end of this time of trouble? Daniel 12:1 (871) [871].

"Your people shall be _____."

NOTE: God's people go through this climactic time of trouble, but they are delivered.

5. While those who are alive at this time are delivered, what happens to those who are dead? Daniel 12:2 (871) [871].

"Those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall _____."

NOTE: Praise God, there will be a glorious resurrection of the righteous at this time!

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

6. What event delivers God's people and resurrects the righteous? 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17 (1137) [1169].

The _____ coming of _____.

NOTE: When Christ comes, the righteous dead are resurrected. Those who are alive are delivered and caught up to meet Christ in the air. The second coming of Christ is one of the most glorious truths in the entire Bible. Numerous passages of the New Testament speak of this momentous event.

7. What did Jesus promise to His disciples? John 14:1-3 (1042) [1063].

"I will come _____."

NOTE: The second coming of Christ is based upon the sure promise of Jesus Christ, who declared that He would come again.

8. How will Christ come again? Acts 1:9-11 (1051) [1073].

"This same Jesus... will so come in _____ manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

NOTE: Jesus will return in the same way that He ascended. His ascent was visible and personal; therefore, His descent will be visible and personal.

9. How many people on earth will see Christ come the second time? Matthew 24:30 (961) [971].

"Then _____ the tribes of earth will mourn, and they will _____ the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven."

NOTE: The second coming of Christ will be a world-encircling event. Not only the righteous, but all the wicked will see Him. The wicked will mourn His coming, but the righteous will rejoice.

10. How many eyes will see Christ come? Revelation 1:7 (1174) [1214].

"_____ eye will see Him."

NOTE: Both the wicked and the righteous will see Christ return the second time.

11. What are Christians to do when somebody tells them that Christ is coming secretly? Matthew 24:26 (961) [971].

"Do _____ believe it."

NOTE: The Scripture is clear. There is nothing secret about the second coming of Christ. Anyone who says that Christ is coming secretly is completely mistaken and the Christian is not to believe him.

12. What does Jesus use to describe the visibility of His second coming? Matthew 24:27 (961) [971].

“For the Lord Himself will descend . . . with a _____, with the _____ of an archangel, and with the _____ of God.”

NOTE: There is no silent trumpet! The trumpet pierces the ear to announce the glad tidings that Jesus has returned (See also Psalm 50:3) (542) [563].

14. Where do the righteous meet Jesus? 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17 (1137) [1169].

“In the _____.”

NOTE: Note carefully that Jesus does not touch the earth when He comes back the second time. The righteous living and those resurrected from the dead are caught up to meet Him in the air. At the end of the thousand years, Jesus returns and touches the earth (see Lesson 16), but not when He comes back the second time.

The Scriptures use very strong words to indicate that the second coming will be accompanied by much noise and visibility. For centuries, it has seemed that God has been silent, but now, suddenly, at the Second Coming, God speaks; and the whole world will know it.

IS THERE A SECRET RAPTURE?

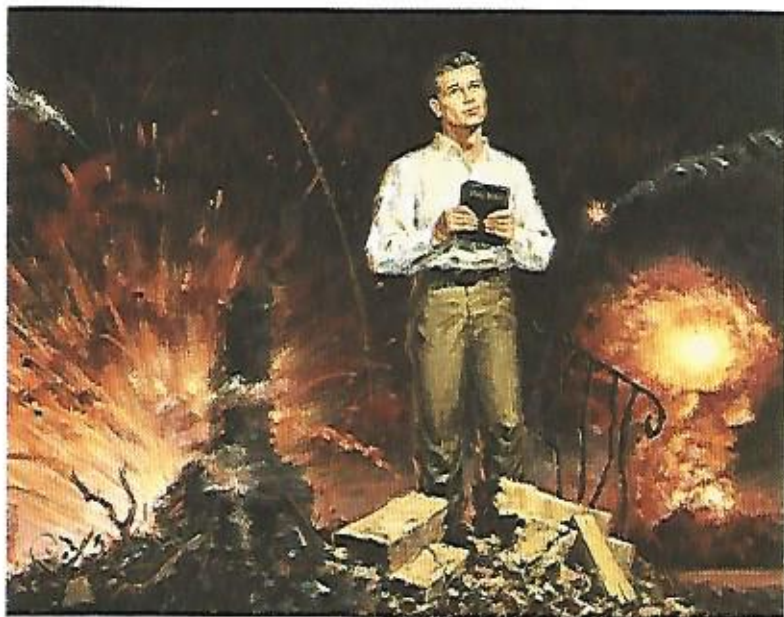
One of the major distortions of Biblical truth in the world today is the doctrine of the secret rapture. This doctrine asserts that Christ will come secretly: one morning several of us will wake up to discover that many people are missing. What has happened to them? Christ has come and raptured them! This is presented as the second coming of Christ. Those who are left will then be plunged into a deep time of trouble when the mark of the beast will be inflicted and the anti-Christ will appear.

This seems strange in view of the clear Bible teaching that Christ will come visibly and personally. The Scriptures make it very plain that the righteous will not be secretly raptured out of the world before this final time of trouble comes. They will remain here during the time of trouble but, as they pass through it, they will be protected by the angels of God.

Why has such a doctrine been propounded? The advocates of the doctrine of the secret rapture believe that God is going to use the literal nation of Israel in a special way in the last days. Since God is going

to use the ethnic nation of Israel as His final evangelizing agency, there is no longer any need for the Church. Therefore, God raptures the Church out of the way so He can use Israel to evangelize the world. In Lesson 22, we discovered that, in New Testament times, "Israel" refers to the Christian Church. The Bible is clear that the Church is God's evangelizing agency to the very end of time. Therefore, there is no need of a rapture to get rid of the Church so that God can use Israel. The foundation of the secret rapture doctrine is, therefore, built on shifting sand.

We have examined the many clear texts of Scripture that indicate that the coming of Christ will be visible and personal. Let us now examine another major premise of the rapture doctrine; namely, that the saints will not be here during the time of trouble, or the final great tribulation, and that the anti-Christ does not appear until after the so-called "rapture".



- 15. Does the book of Daniel indicate that the saints will be delivered before, or during, the time of trouble? Daniel 12:1 (871) [871].**

NOTE: Daniel is very clear. It is while this great tribulation is going on for God's people that they are delivered. The deliverance does not come before the time of trouble, but during, just as it did to Daniel in the lions' den and to the three worthies in the fiery furnace.

- 16. What promise does God give to His people while the plagues are being poured out during this time of trouble? Psalm 91:10 (570) [588].**

"Nor shall any _____ come near your dwelling."

NOTE: God does not promise deliverance from the plagues, but deliverance in the midst of the plagues. Troubles will fall all around, but they will not come upon God's people.

17. What event is Paul talking about in 2 Thessalonians 2:1? (1138) [1170].

"The _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ and our _____ together to Him."

NOTE: In this passage, Paul is talking about the second coming of Christ, when the righteous are gathered with Jesus.

18. According to Paul, what must happen before this day of the second coming and our gathering to Christ occurs? 2 Thessalonians 2:2, 3 (1138) [1170].

"That Day _____ unless the falling away comes _____, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition."

NOTE: Those who teach the secret rapture doctrine state that the man of sin, the antichrist, will come after the second coming, when the righteous are gathered to Christ. Paul's point is in direct contradiction to the rapturists. Paul states unequivocally that the day that we are gathered to Christ will not come unless the man of sin, the antichrist, comes first.

19. What will destroy the man of sin? 2 Thessalonians 2:8 (1138) [1170].

"The _____ of His coming."

NOTE: It would seem very strange for the man of sin, the antichrist, to be destroyed by the brightness of Christ's second coming if he doesn't appear until after the second coming. It is obvious from Scripture that the antichrist is fully revealed before the second coming of Christ to gather His saints. (For an understanding of Luke 17:34-37 (1014) [1031], "one shall be taken and the other left," see Exhibit 1.)

JESUS IS COMING

20. Why do the great men of earth cry to the rocks and mountains to fall on them at the second coming of Christ? Revelation 6:15, 16 (1178, 1179) [1219].

To "hide us from the _____ of Him who sits on the throne and from the _____ of the _____!"

NOTE: To the wicked, the second coming of Christ is a day of bitter despair and gloom.



- 21. In contrast to the wicked, how do the righteous respond to the second coming of Christ? Revelation 19:5, 6 (1187) [1228].**

"Then a voice came from the throne, saying ` _____
our _____, '... saying, ` _____!
the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

NOTE: What a contrast! The wicked call for the rocks and mountains to fall on them, and the righteous praise and exalt God because Jesus has come.

- 22. What does the Scripture call the second coming of Christ? Titus 2:13 (1146) [1179].**

"The _____ hope."

- 23. Can we know the exact time of the second coming of Christ? Matthew 24:36 (961) [972].**

_____. Only the _____ knows.

- 24. Can we know that the second coming is near? Matthew 24:32, 33 (961) [971].**

_____. We can "know that it is near at the _____!"

NOTE: While we do not know the exact day of Christ's return, we can know that it is near.

- 25. What celestial signs did Jesus give to indicate that mankind has arrived at the last days? Matthew 24:29 (961) [971].**

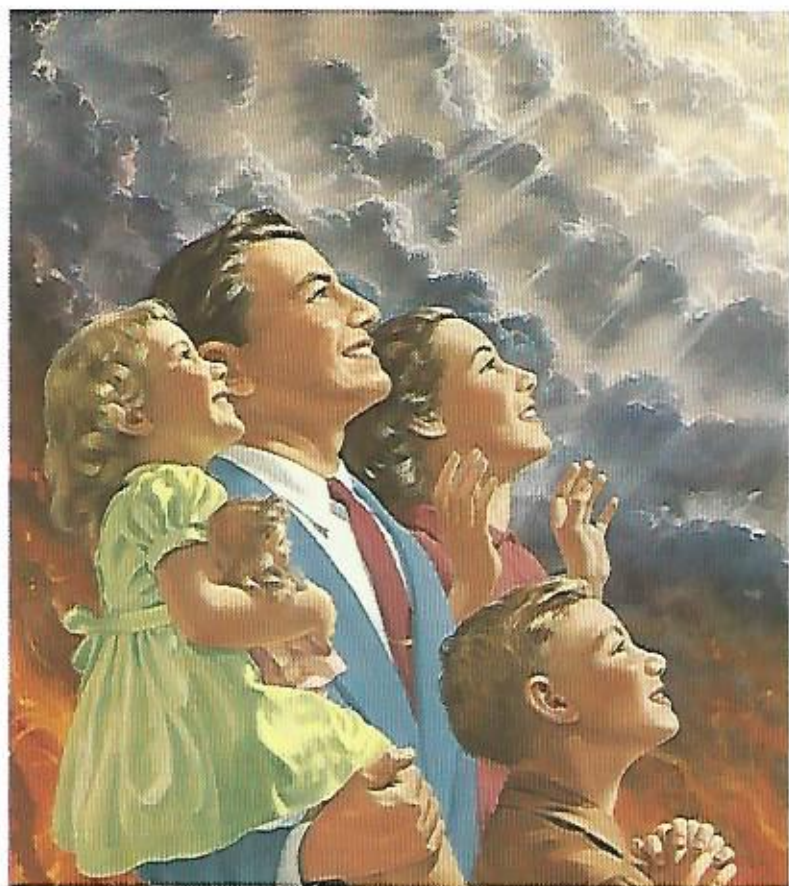
"The sun will be _____, . . . the _____ will fall from heaven."

NOTE: Immediately after the tribulation of the Dark Ages, there occurred these two great celestial signs to indicate that we have come to the time of the end. On May 19, 1780, the great dark day took place. On this particular day, an inky black darkness crept across the land. John Greenleaf Whittier, the famous poet, wrote the poem, "Abraham Davenport", in which he described the great dark day. In some places, the darkness was so great that people could not read print in the open air at midday.

Likewise, on November 13, 1833, there occurred the greatest meteoric shower in history, in which an estimated billion shooting stars fell over the United States and Canada. These great celestial signs indicated the approach of the predicted time of the end. (See Exhibit 2.)

- 26. Since Christ is coming soon, what should Christians do? Matthew 24:44 (961) [972].**

"Be _____."



27. Is it your desire to be ready for this momentous event of history, when Jesus Christ comes to fulfill Daniel 12:1 and deliver His people by His second coming?

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EXHIBIT 2

For Daniel Lesson 23

SIGNS OF CHRIST'S COMING

The Dark Day

The great dark day of May 19, 1780, is well attested to by history:

"In some places, the darkness was so great, that persons could not see to read common print in the open air, for several hours together: but I believe this was not generally the case. The extent of this darkness was very remarkable." Samuel Williams, "An Account of a Very Uncommon Darkness in the States of New England, May 19, 1780," in **Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences: to the End of the Year 1783** (Boston: Adams and Nourse, 1785), Vol. 1, pp. 234, 235.

"The darkness of the following evening was probably as gross as ever has been observed since the Almighty fiat gave birth to light. It wanted only palpability to render it as extraordinary, as that which overspread the land of Egypt in the days of Moses If every luminous body in the universe had been shrouded in impenetrable shades, or struck out of existence, the darkness could not have been more complete. A sheet of white paper held within a few inches of the eyes was equally invisible with the blackest velvet. Considering the small quantity of light that was transmitted by the clouds, by day, it is not surprising that, by night, a sufficient quantity of rays should not be able to penetrate the same strata, brought back by the shifting of the winds, to afford the most obscure prospect even of the best reflecting bodies." Letter of Samuel Tenney (an eye-witness of Rowley, [Mass.?), dated Exeter [N.H.?), Dec., 1785, in **Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society**, Vol. 1, 1792 (Boston: Belknap and Hall, 1792), pp. 97, 98.

"The 19th of May, 1780, was a remarkable dark day. Candles were lighted in many houses; the birds were silent and disappeared, and the fowls retired to roost. The legislature of Connecticut was then in session at Hartford. A very general opinion prevailed, that the day of judgment was at hand. The House of Representatives, being unable to transact their business, adjourned. A proposal to adjourn the Council was under consideration. When the opinion of Colonel [Abraham] Davenport was asked, he answered, 'I am against an adjournment. The day of judgment is either approaching, or it is not. If it is not, there is no cause of an adjournment: if it is, I choose to be found doing my duty. I wish therefore that candles may be brought.'" Timothy Dwight, quoted in **Connecticut Historical Collections**, compiled by John Warner Barber (2d ed.; New Haven: Durrie & Peck and J. W. Barber, 1836), p. 403.

"Twas on a May-day of the far old year
Seventeen hundred eighty, that there fell
Over the bloom and sweet life of the Spring
Over the fresh earth and the heaven of noon,
A horror of great darkness.

Men prayed, and women wept; all ears grew sharp
To hear the doom-blast of the trumpet shatter
The black sky, that the dreadful face of Christ
Might look from the rent clouds, not as he looked
A loving guest at Bethany, but stern
As Justice and inexorable Law.

Meanwhile in the old State House, dim as ghosts,
Sat the lawgivers of Connecticut,
Trembling beneath their legislative robes.
'It is the Lord's Great Day! Let us adjourn,'
Some said; and then, as if with one accord,
All eyes were turned to Abraham Davenport.
He rose, slow cleaving with his steady voice
The intolerable hush. 'This well may be
The Day of Judgment which the world awaits;
But be it so or not, I only know
My present duty, and my Lord's command
To occupy till He come. So at the post
Where He hath set me in His providence,
I chose, for one, to meet Him face to face,—
No faithless servant frightened from my task,
But ready when the Lord of the harvest calls;
And therefore, with all reverence, I would say,
Let God do His work, we will see to ours.
Bring in the candles."

—John Greenleaf Whittier, "Abraham Davenport," in his **Complete Poetical Works** (Cambridge ed.; Boston: Houghton, 1894), p. 260.

The Falling of the Stars

"The morning of November 13th, 1833, was rendered memorable by an exhibition of the phenomenon called SHOOTING STARS, which was probably more extensive and magnificent than any similar one hitherto recorded

"Probably no celestial phenomenon has ever occurred in this country, since its first settlement, which was viewed with so much admiration and delight by one class of spectators, or with so much astonishment and fear by another class . . ." Denison Olmsted, "Observations on the Meteors of November 13th, 1833," **The American Journal of Science and the Arts**, 25 ([Jan. ?] 1834), p. 363.

"For nearly four hours the sky was literally ablaze [Careful scientific accounts indicate that] more than a billion shooting stars appeared over the United States and Canada alone." Peter M. Millman, "The Falling of the Stars," **The Telescope**, 7 (May-June, 1940), 57.

These great celestial signs inaugurated the day of last things that began that period of time known as "the time of the end." Since the fulfillment of these signs we have been living in the projected time of the end. The Bible predicted what conditions in our world would be like during this time of the end. Please note the 28 signs of Christ's coming listed below. Just a casual reading of them indicates that we are living in that projected time of the end today and that soon our Lord will come again.

28 SIGNS OF THE APPROACHING END AND THE RETURN OF JESUS

In the Physical World:

Earthquakes, calamities, and disasters. (Luke 21:11, 25) (1535, 1536) [1041, 1042]
Signs in the heavens, the sun, moon, and stars. (Matthew 24:29; Revelation 6:12, 13) (1440; 1807) [976; 1222]
Famine (Population explosion). (Matthew 24:7) (1439) [975]
Pestilences (disease). (Matthew 24:7) (1439) [975]

In the Business World:

A rapid accumulation of wealth. (James 5:1-3) (1778) [1203]
Labor troubles. (James 5:4) (1778) [1203]
An increase of knowledge (Daniel 12:4) (1320) [895]

In the Political World:

Fear, distress, and perplexity everywhere. (Luke 21:25, 26) (1536) [1042]
Trouble and uprisings throughout the earth. (Luke 21: 25, 26) (1536) [1042]
Disregard for justice. (Isaiah 59:14; James 5:6) (1096; 1778) [743; 1203]
Increasing pressure for religious legislation. (Revelation 13:12-17) (1814) [1227]
Growing prestige for the Catholic power. (Revelation 13:3, 14, 17) (1814) [1227]
Nations angry, have power to destroy the earth. (Revelation 11:18) (1812) [1226]

In the Social World:

- A moral collapse. (2 Timothy 3:1-5) (1749) [1185]
- An increase of crime. (Genesis 6:13; Matthew 24:37) (9; 1440) [6; 976]
- A craze for pleasure. (2 Timothy 3:4) (1749) [1185]
- Laxity in the marriage tie. (Genesis 6:2; Matthew 24:37, 38) (8; 1440) [6; 976]
- Sexual Perversion, a tide of immorality. (Genesis 19:1-9; Luke 17:26-30; 2 Timothy 3:3) (25; 1528; 1749) [17; 1036; 1185]—"without natural affection"
- Disobedience by youth; rebellion. (2 Timothy 3:2, 3) (1749) [1185] — "disobedient to parents, incontinent [no self-control]"

In the Religious World:

- A decline of real spirituality. (2 Timothy 3:5; Matthew 24:12) (1749; 1439) [1185; 976]
- A general disregard of the will of God, yet doing religious works. (Matthew 7:21-23) (1407) [953]
- Widespread scoffing against the message of the nearness of the coming of Christ. (2 Peter 3:3-5) (1788) [1210]
- A rebellion against the straight truth of God's word. (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12) (1739) [1178]
- A demand for the preaching of smooth things. (2 Timothy 4:3, 4; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3) (1750; 1736) [1186; 1176]
- A restoration of neglected truths. (Isaiah 58:12-14) (1095) [743]
- A widespread turning to spiritism. (1 Timothy 4:1; Revelation 16:14) (1743; 1817) [1181; 1230]
- A worldwide movement for proclaiming the message of Christ's soon coming. (Revelation 14:6-14; Matthew 24:14) (1815; 1439) [1228; 976]
- A calling out by this message of God's remnant, who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus. (Revelation 12:17; 14:12) (1813; 1815) [1227; 1228]