



# **UNDERSTANDING PROPHECY:**

## **A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL WEEK 3**

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# OUTLINE & TENTATIVE DATES

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INTRODUCTION: AN UNFOLDING OF GOD'S  
STORY THROUGH AGES, TIMES, & MYSTERIES

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WHO ARE THE JEWS?  
PAST, PRESENT, &  
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WHO IS THE CHURCH?  
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GENTILES? BEGIN  
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## 03

# WHO IS THE CHURCH? PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE

## THE CHURCH

The church was a **mystery** to the Old Testament prophets as to what would come in between the sufferings and glory of Christ. Between the cross and the crown and without details of what it would be like, Jesus referred to this mystery as His church.

1 Peter 1:9-12, Ephesians 3:1-11,  
Romans 9:24-30, Matthew 16:13-20

That the Gentiles were to be saved was no mystery. The "Mystery" was, that God was going to form an entirely "new thing" composed of both Jew and Gentile, to be called - "the church."

Clarence Larkin





# THE CHURCH IS A BODY

"And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, 'Men and brethren, listen to me: Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles **to take out of them a people for His name**. And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written:

After this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up; so that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, says the LORD who does all these things.

Known to God from eternity are all His works." Acts 15:13-18

## THE BODY IS A TEMPLE

Read: Acts 1:4-8 & 2:1-4, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Ephesians 1:4-5 & 22-23

- What kind of baptism were the disciples instructed to wait for? When did it occur?
- What does the Spirit baptize individuals into? How many bodies are described? How many members? Describe the members.
- Similar to Israel (but distinctly different!), the church was chosen or elected by God as part of His divine plan. When did the church's election occur? Our previous study of the Jews taught that Israel would endure the Tribulation as their judgment, and at the end of that period is the judgment of nations where the good sheep are separated from the bad goats. Then, the millennial kingdom will be established. It is clear that Jesus is speaking about Israel in Matthew 25:34 since the church will have already been raptured. Therefore, what do we learn about the timing of Israel's election? How do the two elections differ?
- The church congregation is clearly described as a body. Who is the head?
- What does Jesus say in Revelation 1:18? Think about the metaphor given as the church body relates to the head. The head is alive and can never again die. Is there ever a dead body attached to a living head? What does this tell you about the church?

Read: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17, Ephesians 2:19-22

- Who is God's building? Who is the foundation of the building and chief Cornerstone? Who dwells inside? How is God's temple described? Does this change how you view your body?

Read: John 2:19-21 & 1:14

- What was the confusion over the destruction of the temple? How was the new temple raised in three days? Was the temple a physical building?
- Compare the shekinah glory of God dwelling in the Old Testament tabernacle with that of the church. How are they different?



# THE CHURCH IS A BRIDE

## OLD TESTAMENT PICTURES: A TALE OF TWO BRIDES

Read: Genesis 2:21-25, 2 Corinthians 11:2, Ephesians 5:27, 29-33

- What happened when the Lord caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam?
- From what was Eve made?
- Who presented Eve to Adam?
- How is the church to be presented to Christ?
- Explain the great mystery of the church being a bride.
- Just as the First Adam was put in a deep sleep and out of his wounded side came his bride, so is the bride for the Second or Last Adam, Jesus. Discuss the parallel between the two.
- Who presents the bride of Christ?

Read: Genesis 24:1-15, 61-67

- Who does Abraham send to find a bride for his son Isaac? Identify the types represented in this passage: God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Church.
- It would appear from Genesis 24:3 that the "type" above is flawed since Eliezer was instructed to find a relative, from their own people, as a bride. However, recall in Genesis 11:28 where Abraham's people came from. Were they "naturally" Israelites? How then does this complete the "type" that Christ's bride is to be the church composed mainly of Gentiles, and not Israel?
- How did Isaac feel about Rebekah? What picture does this reveal about Christ's affection for His church?

Read: Isaiah 54:5-8, Jeremiah 3:1-18, Hosea 3:1-5

- Who is Israel's husband?
- What has happened to the "wife" for a mere moment in the Isaiah passage? What is the promise to be fulfilled?



- According to Jeremiah, why was Israel cast off as a wife?
- Our previous study of the Jews shows that they will be gathered back. However, will Israel be considered a "virgin" after playing the harlot?

Read: 2 Corinthians 11:2

- How is Christ's bride described?
- Based on this passage, explain why the cast off wife of the Old Testament that God shall take back is NOT the same as the bride of Christ.

Read: Revelation 19:9, Matthew 22:1-14, Luke 14:16-23

- In Revelation, who are the "called" (also translated "invited") in the marriage supper of the Lamb? Is the Bride invited to her own wedding? Typically, who is the one who prepares an invitation list for the wedding?
- If the Bride of Christ, namely the Church, are those believers from Pentecost to the Rapture, then who would be representative of those the Bride invites? In other words, who else will resurrect with the Bride and be invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb?
- How does John the Baptist refer to himself in John 3:29.
- In the parable of the wedding feast, describe the behavior, excuses, and ultimate rejection of those invited. What happened to those who were originally invited to the wedding? (Hint: in Mt 22:7 the city burned correlates with the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70)
- Who was invited to the wedding instead? Were those guests who were gathered from the "streets" expected to be adorned in proper wedding attire? Who was to provide the proper wedding garments?
- Notice in Matthew 22:10 that the wedding hall was filled with guests. Describe them. What does this tell you about God's grace?
- If the King graciously provided wedding garments for His guests who freely accepted the invitation of the gospel of grace (Isaiah 61:10), explain why the man found not wearing them was such an offense and tossed out? Where was he sent?
- When confronted, what was the man's response?
- When comparing Matthew 22:14 with Revelation 22:16-17, how do you explain the difference between the calling and the choosing?



# THE CHURCH'S RAPTURE

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Read: Genesis 5:24, 2 Kings 2:11, Luke 9:28-31, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

- If we interpret Scripture knowing that the Old Testament is an account of actual events that happened while simultaneously being a Divinely inspired picturebook that foreshadows things to come, then how does the translation of Old Testament saints like Enoch and Elijah represent what is to come in the rapture?
- If the Mount of Transfiguration is a type or clue about the forthcoming rapture, then what populations do Moses and Elijah represent? Read also John 11:25-26.
- When Christ descends from Heaven, who will rise first? Who next?
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-57. Who are the corruptible putting on incorruption? Who are the mortal putting on immortality? Only those who haven't experienced death can say, "O death, where is your sting?"
- We see two groups being resurrected in these passages. Who are they?

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, Matthew 24:27, 36-39

- When and how will the rapture occur?
- Based on our study of the Jews and Jeremiah 30:7, why is the church raptured before the Tribulation? What is the purpose of the Tribulation? Is the Tribulation to "perfect" the saints?

Read: Zechariah 14:5, Colossians 3:4, 1 Thessalonians 3:13 & 4:14

- Who is WITH Christ when He returns?
- Describe the difference of Christ's coming "for" His saints and "with" His saints. At what two points do each of these occur?

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:52, Exodus 19:9-11 & 16-20, Matthew 24:30-31

- What sound triggers the moment we shall all be changed?
- What happened at Mt. Sinai when the trumpet sounded?
- In both instances of the rapture of the church and the coming of Christ with His saints for the judgment of nations and gathering His elect from the Tribulation, what sound is heard? Why do you think that is significant?
- Since we are told that no one can know the time or hour of the rapture of the church, we know that shall be a surprise. However, the rapture marks the beginning of the 7 year Tribulation in which the Jews will endure. While it can only be speculation, do you believe that the Feast of Trumpets could foreshadow Christ's second coming?



# THE CHURCH'S JUDGMENT

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:9-11, 1 Corinthians 3:10-15, Romans 14:8-12, Ephesians 2:8-10

- Who will endure the Judgment Seat of Christ? Therefore, does this judgment pertain to salvation? Rather, what is being judged?
- How is each one's work tested?
- What is given for those that endure?
- Paul gives us a clue as to what rewards may look like in 1 Corinthians 9:24-25. What is the prize? Can you name other instances where Scripture talks about believers receiving crowns?



# THE CHURCH'S WEDDING

Read: Revelation 19:7-8

- Whose marriage is in this passage?
- Traditionally, we think of a wedding in terms of "marriage of the bride." But this passage doesn't read that way. What can you glean from the particular wording in terms of anticipation and consummation?

After the Marriage, the Heavenly Bridegroom, having received His Kingdom, will return to this earth where He bled and died, and from whence He got His Bride, and the Lord God will give unto Him the "Throne of David," and He shall reign on the earth for a Thousand Years. What a sweet and delightful "Honey-Moon" that will be. But it will end, not for the Bridegroom and the Bride, but for the earth, by their return to the Father's House. Then after the earth has had its "Baptism of Fire," they will return with the descent of the "Holy City" to abide on the New Earth forever.

Clarence Larkin