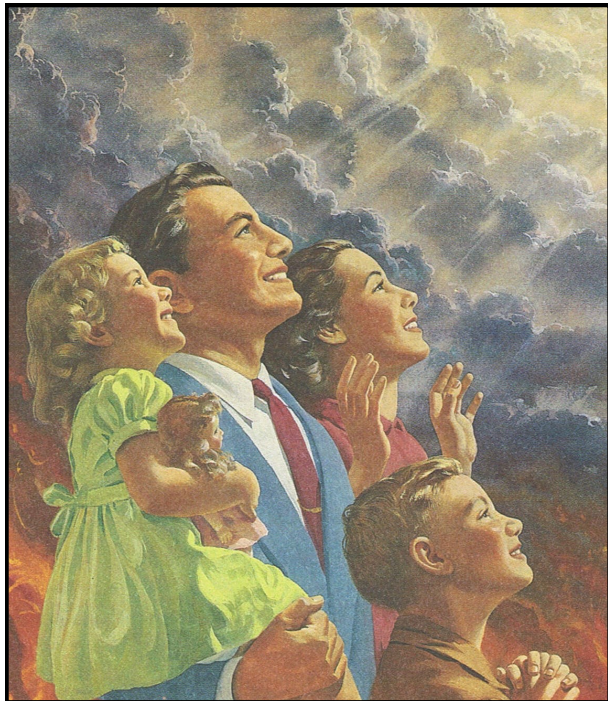


United States and Canada. These great celestial signs indicated the approach of the predicted time of the end. (See Exhibit 2.)

26. Since Christ Is coming soon, what should Christians do? Matthew 24:44

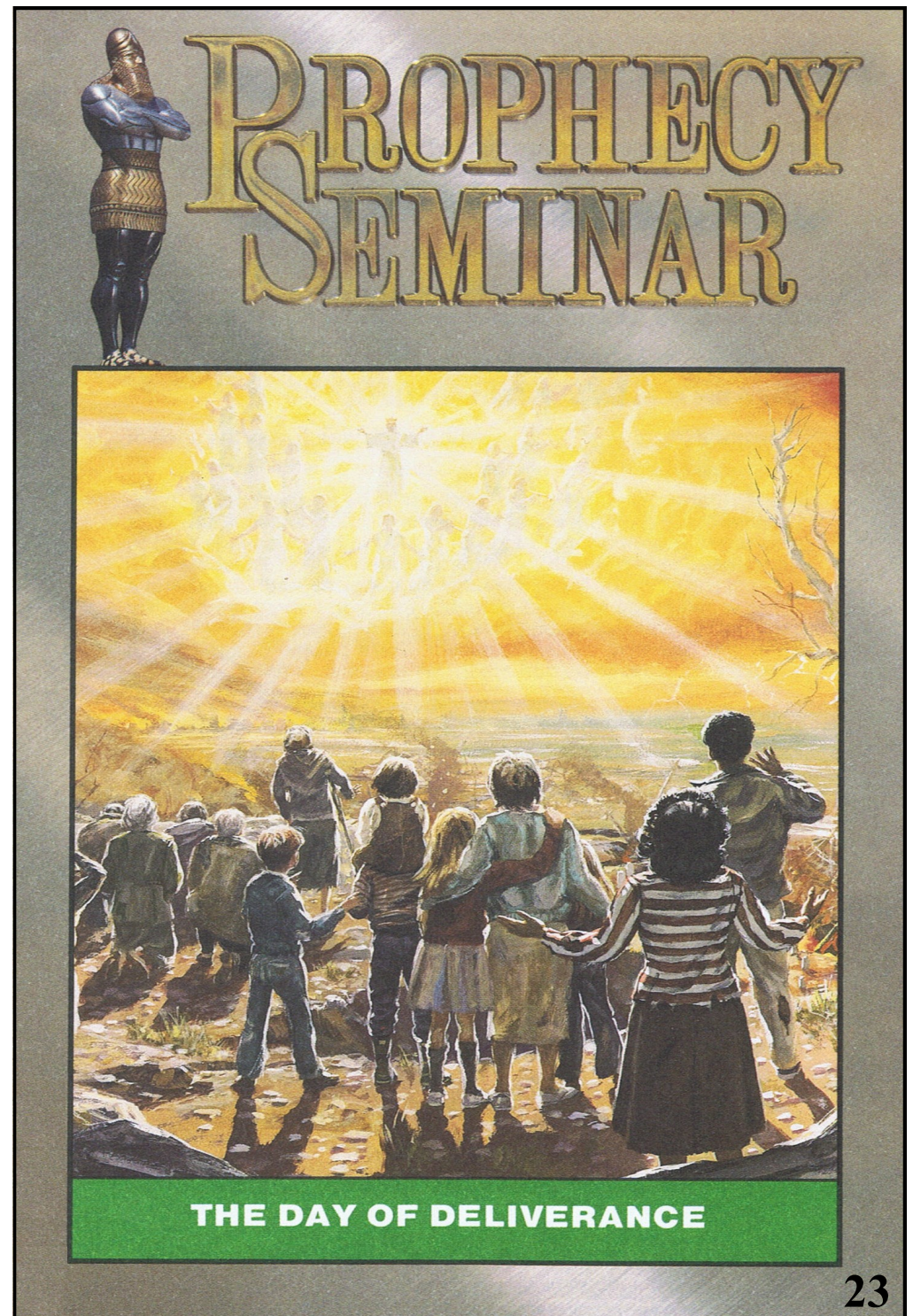
“Be _____.”



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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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

2. Who Is this Michael? Daniel 12:1

"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). Jesus is said to return the second time with the voice of the archangel (1 Thessalonians 4:16). 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

"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

"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

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

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

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

"Then a voice came from the throne, saying' _____
our _____, '....saying, ' _____!
For 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

"The _____ hope."

23. Can we know the exact time of the second coming of Christ? Matthew 24:36

_____. Only the _____ knows.

24. Can we know that the second coming Is near? Matthew 24:32, 33

_____. 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

"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

16. What promise does God give to His people while the plagues are being poured out during this time of trouble? Psalm 91:10

"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?

"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

"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

"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, "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

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

this time!

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

6. What event delivers God's people and resurrects the righteous? 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17

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

"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

"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

"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

"_____ 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

"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**

13. What words does Paul use to indicate that Christ will come with much noise? 1 Thessalonians 4:16

"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).

14. Where do the righteous meet Jesus? 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17

"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

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.