

Summary Handout

“He Will Dwell with Them and They Shall Be His People”

Lesson

46

Summary

Revelation 5–6; 19–22

Scripture Summary:

Rev. 5: John sees the book sealed with seven seals and those redeemed out of every nation—He hears every creature praising God and the Lamb. Rev. 6: Christ opens the six seals, and John sees the events therein—In the fifth seal he sees the Christian martyrs, and in the sixth the signs of the times. Rev. 19: The marriage supper of the Lamb is made ready—The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy—Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords. Rev. 20: Satan is bound during the Millennium—The saints shall then live and reign with Christ—The dead stand before God and are judged out of the books according to their works. Rev. 21: Those who overcome shall be sons of God—The earth attains its celestial glory. Rev. 22: The saints shall reign in celestial splendor—Christ shall come and men shall be judged—Blessed are they who do his commandments.

Supplemental Holy Land and Jewish insights:

Israel Dwelling as a Temple Society: In close to three decades of being a tour guide in Israel, one of many vivid experiences that stands out in my mind is seeing the Lord’s people as a “temple society,” a “Zion” as they lived in the wilderness with three “circles” of the camp. Eleven tribes of the camp were on the outside circle. Each tribe had stakes with identifying banners. They circled one more tribe, the priestly Levites, who made a ring around the Lord’s “presence,” his tabernacle.

The tabernacle, the “Holy of Holies” and center part of the camp of Israel, was likewise identified by stakes that were draped with curtains because of its very holy and high priestly state. Israel’s dwelling centered on the Lord.

Temple Reduced to a Holy Place with Three Courtyards: Israel began to wander from unity that a temple society required. So, a system of cities and of capital cities began to develop. The capital city had the tabernacle with temple courtyards large enough to handle tens of thousands of worthy Israelites to teach and remind them of ordinances that still applied to the whole Zion society. There still was an outer ring for the multitude that circled a center ring that was under the priestly Levite administration. Only worthy members were able to be brought through the priestly courtyard to participate in ordinances and sacrifices that occurred in the higher priestly part of the temple with its altar in front of the “Holy of Holies”

Temple Courtyards Changed to Sacred Temple Buildings: They kept a telestial, terrestrial, and celestial identity and instructions are given to prepare the people to become a Zion society again. Its priestly environment band ordinances are designed to bring us back into the Lord’s presence not only in the life to come but in the present.

A Return to Temple Cities and a Temple Society: We will once again have two capital cities, the Lord’s cities of new and old Jerusalem. We are preparing to be the Lord’s people, dwelling with him in his cities. “It is ordained that in Zion . . . and in Jerusalem . . . shall be the places for your baptisms of your dead.” (D & C 124:35) “. . . Such was in the day of Enoch . . . so faithful were the saints that the Lord, the Great Jehovah, ‘came and dwelt with his people,’ even as he will in the millennial era that is to be.” (Bruce R. McConkie, *The Mortal Messiah*, Vol.1, p.84) “And he spake also concerning the house of Israel, and the Jerusalem from whence Lehi should come . . . it should be built up again, and become a holy city of the Lord . . .” (Ether 13:5) There is a parallel of old Zion and new Zion. The Lord will come and He will dwell in his cities. That means that the highest degree of sanctity and cleanliness must exist in these cities. It is the same sacredness that any temple building requires. It will require us to be a “temple society.”

Two Headquarters: “Jerusalem of old . . . shall become a holy city where the Lord shall dwell and from whence he shall send forth his word unto all people. Likewise, on this continent, the city of Zion, New Jerusalem, shall be built and from it the law of God shall also go forth. There will be no conflict, for each city shall be headquarters for the Redeemer of the world, and from each he shall send forth his proclamations as occasion may require. Jerusalem shall be the gathering place of Judah and his fellows of the house of Israel, and Zion shall be the gathering place of Ephraim and his fellows, upon whose heads shall be conferred ‘the richer blessings’.” (Joseph Fielding Smith Jr., *Doctrines of Salvation*, Vol.3, p.69 - p.70) “Now there are two cities spoken of here. As everything cannot be had in so narrow a compass as a letter, I shall say with brevity, that there is a New Jerusalem to be established on this continent, and also Jerusalem shall be rebuilt on the eastern continent (see Book of Mormon, Ether 13:1-12)” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, Section Two 1834-37 p.86)

Signs of the Times, a Preparation: The conflicts that precede this great era are a refining fire. We are fortunate to have prophetic indications so that we can prepare ourselves for the future. As for the land of Israel and the city of Jerusalem, there are specific signs and even time frames to guide us through future peril. As some see it, a five-phase era brings us to and through the “Armageddon” scenario.

(1) World Turns Against Israel: Hasn't the UN practiced this already? “. . . In a measure never before manifest on earth, when all nations gather against Jerusalem in the days of the coming Armageddon. This Nephi knew, and this we know.” (Bruce R. McConkie, A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, p.435)

(2) Armies of 200,000,000 Gather Against Israel - Two Prophets Hold Them Back: Is that the size of the army or is it like the army of more than three hundred million people that was gathered for the Gulf War? Two prophets will hold them back for three-and-a-half years. (They will have political, military as well as spiritual influence.) (Revelation 9:16) (Revelation 11:2-4)

(3) Prophets Killed, Lie Dead Three and a Half Days: A great holocaust ensues where the prophets will lie dead in the streets for three-and-a-half days. (One third of the population of Israel as well as two thirds of the population of Jerusalem perishes.) (Revelation 11:4-12) (Revelation 9:17-18 - see also 16:14-21) (Zechariah 13:8-9 - see also 11, 12, 13)

(4) Heavenly Manifestation and Deliverance Follow: The Mount of Olives cleaves in two, the besieged of Jerusalem are freed. (Zechariah 14:2-5)

(5) Great Healing Begins: It will take seven months to bury the dead and the instruments of war will provide seven years of fuel for the survivors. (Ezekiel 39:9-12)

Safety Through Spiritual Strength: The inspiration that carries us through all of the Signs of the Times comes from the worthiness to dwell with our God, here and now. “And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defense.” (Isaiah 4:5) In picturing the “city temple” scene from our own home in Jerusalem, my sweetheart, Marilyn, said to me, “Daniel, that means you’ll have to have a temple recommend to carry out the trash!” Our goal is to make our home worthy of being part of a temple city, always open to welcome our Savior.

Daniel Rona, born in Israel and living in Jerusalem has authored Old & New Testament and Book of Mormon Supplement Study Materials to be used in conjunction with the weekly LDS Gospel Doctrine Lesson study. NOTE: Three versions of the supplemental study materials are available *FREE* at www.HolyLandsRevealed.com. (Just click “LDS SUPPLEMENTS”)

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