



ClearView

Bible study guide

3. To Comfort in Hard Times



Read

- Revelation 1:9-11



Comment

Exiled to the small island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea, the apostle John in vision received the prophecies contained in the last book of the Bible. He greets his fellow Christians as a “companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance.” The patient endurance is a key expression in his book. The church faced serious trouble, and the prophecies were given to encourage the Christians to maintain their faith and their hope in the dark times ahead. The prophecies assured them that God would be victorious in the end.

Reflect
Reflect

What troubles do people today experience that prophetic promises may help them to go through? What difference would it make to your answer if you lived in, for example, Afghanistan, Iraq or Mexico?

4. To Warn Against Deceit and Delusion



Read

- Matthew 24:23-31
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a

Background

Chapter 24 in the Gospel of Matthew contains part of a speech that Jesus gave to His disciples regarding the future. In the letters to the Thessalonians, the apostle Paul builds on this foundation as he describes some future events. Common to these two passages is a warning against deceit and delusions. Many will falsely claim that Jesus has arrived.

Reflect
Reflect

How will we know when Jesus finally returns? How do we distinguish the false from the genuine? Have you met people who believe that the coming of Jesus is a secretive or a spiritualistic event?

5. To Show the Big Picture of God's Plan of Salvation



Read

- Daniel 2:20-23



Comment

Daniel prayed this prayer in the midst of a grand prophecy that extends from his time until the establishment of the kingdom of God. The prayer provides the basic explanation of the meaning of the prophecy. It illuminates how God removes and installs kings as the power struggle in history between good and evil continues. It highlights the big picture.

Reflect
Reflect

Have you been in a situation where you were so occupied with details of God's prophecies that the big picture was lost? How do you determine what belongs to the big picture?

The first Christians found types and prophecies in the Old Testament that all pointed to Jesus Christ. He was the perfect human being, born by a woman as one of us. He became the innocent Sacrifice for sin provided by God Himself to restore the relationship that was lost in the Garden of Eden. He is the ideal King, the only one able to rule without misusing His power. He is the Redeemer, able to set people free from the slavery of egotism and death. He is our friend.

The church is a movement that believes in future prophecies because it is founded on fulfilled Old Testament prophecies about Jesus.

1. Jesus—The Fulfilment of the Old Testament Prophecies



Read

- Luke 24:25-27 and 1 Peter 1:10, 11



Comment

Talking with two of His followers after the resurrection on the road to Emmaus, Jesus showed them how all of the Old Testament contained prophecies about Himself. In this lesson we will follow His lead by looking at some of the central Old Testament prophecies.

Reflect
Reflect

What were the two major focus points for the Old Testament prophets? What is meant by the “glory that would follow”?

2. The Offspring of Eve: The Perfect Man



Read

- Genesis 3:14, 15 and Psalm 8:3-6

Reflect
Reflect

Between whom will there be an ongoing conflict? Who will “crush the head” of the serpent?



Comment

Genesis 3:15 speaks about a singular person, that is, “He,” who will crush the head of the serpent that tempted the first humans to sin. The rest of Genesis traces the descendants of Adam through the early history of humankind. As generation follows generation, an election takes place and we get closer and closer to the family in which the Saviour, the “He,” the offspring of Eve, will be born. Psalm 8 refers to the original creation of the first perfect human being who was to be in charge of the earth. The coming Saviour was seen as this “perfect man.”