Israel's Blessed Hope

Israel's expectation of the Lord's returning to them at the end of the tribulation period

A 3-Lesson Study by Keith Blades | Enjoy the Bible Ministries®

Study Overview & Lesson Summaries

About This Series

These are Lessons 1–3 of Israel's Blessed Hope, given at a conference whose main theme is the rapture of the church. They look at Israel's expectation of the Lord's returning to them at the end of the tribulation period. The expression "blessed hope" is not found in God's program with Israel, and technically applies to us; but the Lord's return will be a blessed event for the nation Israel, the remnant in particular. The lessons look at things just prior to and at the time the Lord returns: the powers of heaven shaken, a fire that burns down to the lowest hell as He opens up the pit, and the battles in the book of the wars of the Lord, already rehearsed with Israel. For us, it is education in advance; Keith is glad he is going to be topside when all this takes place.

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Lessons at a Glance

Lesson	Core Focus
L1	The Powers of Heaven Shaken — Zechariah 14; Luke 21; Psalm 18; Isaiah 2, 13, 24; James 5; Job 38
L2	The Open Pit and the Chosen Battlefields — Deuteronomy 32; Isaiah 34, 66, 42; Numbers 21; Psalm 83
L3	The Route of the Wars of the Lord — Job 38; Psalm 74; Numbers 10 and 21; Psalm 68; Revelation 15; Habakkuk 3; Joshua 4

Lesson Summaries

L1

The Powers of Heaven Shaken *Zechariah 14; Luke 21; Psalm 18; Isaiah 2, 13, 24; James 5; Job 38*

Blessed Hope: Ours and Israel's

- The expression "blessed hope" is not found in God's program with Israel; technically the term applies to us in this dispensation of grace, in Titus 2
- The Lord's return will be a blessed event for the nation Israel, the remnant in

particular, so it is not inappropriate to use the term blessed hope for His return to Israel

- This lesson complements and in a sense contrasts the Rapture, the Lord's return for us at the end of this dispensation of grace, looking at things just prior to and at the time the Lord returns at the end of His day of wrath

Zechariah 14: As When He Fought

- The day of the Lord coming is an entire period of time, Daniel's 70th week; at its midpoint the man of sin sets up the abomination of desolation and puts an extermination policy into effect against Israel
- When He comes back there are members of the remnant of Israel in Jerusalem; He comes to vanquish all Israel's enemies
- "As when he fought in the day of battle" is past tense: the battle has already been rehearsed in Israel's program, and the Lord has already given Israel a map of the route He takes when He comes back
- In Numbers Moses speaks of a book God has already written, the book of the wars of the Lord; Israel did not make a beeline from Egypt into the land but was brought to every site where He will fight battles

Luke 21: Your Redemption Draweth Nigh

- In Luke 21 the Lord is talking to the apostles, members of the remnant of Israel, about the Lord's day of wrath, the days of His vengeance as He avenges His cause with Israel against Satan and the nations of his confederacy
- As they see those things take place, the remnant know their redemption is nigh, their blessed hope concept; men's hearts fail them for fear, and what produces the sea and the waves roaring is that the powers of heaven are being shaken

The Whole Earth Shaken (Psalm 18; Isaiah)

- David served as a type of a tribulation saint in Psalm 18; the temple he speaks of is the one up there in the third heaven
- An earthquake is a portion of the earth shaking; this is the whole earth shaking, produced because of the Lord's wrath
- Isaiah takes you through the entire scope of the fifth course of punishment, of which the Lord's day of wrath is the fifth and final installment, at least seven times, adding more details each time
- He will not just shake the earth but shake it terribly; the heavens are shaken, the earth is removed out of her place, and the physical globe reels to and fro like a drunkard

Job 38: The High Arm Broken

- James, an apostle of the circumcision writing to the remnant of Israel, taught them the Book of Job; as Job gets a double blessing and a name change, so will the remnant
- God's counsel to Job concerns God repossessing the earth, which is what Israel is all about, and how He will deal with Satan, the high arm, who usurped the dominion of the earth
- The sun is one of the powers of heaven, or ordinances of heaven; in the day He breaks the high arm, He uses the very sun to shake the earth and shake the wicked out of it

L2

The Open Pit and the Chosen Battlefields *Deuteronomy 32; Isaiah 34, 66, 42; Numbers 21; Psalm 83*

Israel Also Has a Blessed Hope

- The conference's main theme is the Lord Jesus Christ returning for us at the end of this dispensation of grace, the rapture of the church, our day of redemption; but Israel also has a blessed hope
- Once this dispensation of grace is over and God resumes His program with Israel, the Lord's day of wrath takes place; Israel looks forward to the Lord returning at the end of that time to vanquish their enemies and establish the kingdom

The Song of Moses: To the Lowest Hell

- Deuteronomy 32, the song of Moses, has to do with the Lord's day of wrath, particularly at the end when the Lord personally returns and functions as the avenger of God's cause with Israel
- The fire that burns "unto the lowest hell" (verse 22) is not just figurative speech: He starts a fire in a particular place in the land, and He opens up the pit and hell

Isaiah 34 and 66: Idumea and the Open Pit

- The physical place is just south of the land of Israel; Isaiah 34 focuses on something that is going to take place in the land of Idumea, the south land of Israel
- The Edomites, the sons of Esau, have a controversy about Zion; Esau always thought Jacob stole the birthright
- That is where the fire is kindled that burns down into the lowest hell (Isaiah 34); something is opened up and exposed, and the covering is no longer there
- Isaiah 66 deals with the exact same time, His personal return, with the emphasis upon the vengeance; during the kingdom, people on their way into the land of Israel will pass that spot where the fire has burned down and opened up the pit

Three Awesome Testimonies in the Kingdom

- God gives the world three awesome testimonies during the kingdom of the consequences of disobedience to Him and His nation: the open pit; the cemetery of Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38–39); and what is called here the zoo of the devils (Revelation 18)
- When He judges Babylon just before His return, He turns Babylon into a prison; it was not always that, but once it falls it becomes "the habitation of devils"
- A highway system comes into the land of Israel from the east and from the west; if you come the other way, you see the cemetery of Gog and Magog first, then the pit, and then the zoo of the devils on your way out

The Book of the Wars of the Lord (Numbers 21)

- Israel did not take the immediate beeline route to the land; God's presence, not their own choice, took them in the opposite direction, to places where the Lord has chosen battlefields
- The book was already written, a book of the wars, plural, of the Lord; a war took place in the Red Sea, and there is water at every one of these battlefields — why is left until tomorrow

The Man of War and the Ten-Nation Confederacy

- The Lord shall "stir up jealousy like a man of war" (Isaiah 42:13); since they

are Israel's enemies they are His enemies, but He has in mind some people that are Israel's enemies for more than the average nation-against-nation issue

- In Psalm 83, counted together the peoples make 10: the ten-nation confederacy of the man of sin, all nations immediately around Israel, with no European nation in it; its two instigators are the children of Lot, the Moabites and the Ammonites
- Through the man of sin, Satan will try to convince apostate Israel, with great success, that he bears the name Jehovah; the false prophet, Satan's John the Baptist, convinces them the man of sin is Jehovah

L3

The Route of the Wars of the Lord *Job 38; Psalm 74; Numbers 10 and 21; Psalm 68; Revelation 15; Habakkuk 3; Joshua 4*

God's Decreed Place Broken Up for the Sea

- God created this earth to be His place of residence and has a decreed place on it; the land of Israel, with the borders promised to Abraham, is that piece of real estate — as originally decreed with the borders of Eden, a little larger
- When the flood took place, God broke up His decreed place for the sea (Job 38:8–10); the major bodies of water surrounding the land of Israel are the result

Leviathan and His Dragons in the Waters

- Leviathan, the dragon, Satan, took up residence in the Red Sea; the major opening to the pit is under the Red Sea
- Sending His people down to Egypt, God sent them into satanic captivity; the only way into the land was through the Red Sea, and Satan, who had the keys of death and hell at that time, opened the door of the pit, waiting for Israel
- God congealed the Red Sea so they could walk over on it solid, a traumatic, almost back-breaking demonstration of God's power to the adversary
- Satan is the great dragon, with other dragons with him; Psalm 74 is about the misery of the remnant and the persecution of the man of sin, praying to God to deliver them
- The rivers are mighty because of mighty foul spirits, dragons dwelling in the waters surrounding the land of Israel; to each nation delivered over to him, Satan assigned one of his foul spirits
- The Lord will take them out of their dwelling places and dry up those places so they can't get back; they are grabbed, taken over to Babylon, and cast in prison there

Battlefields Beside Water: a Rehearsal

- The book of the wars of the Lord says He will fight wars in these very places, each beside a body of water; it starts with the Red Sea, where Leviathan is, and as He dries up those waters the foul spirit must leave
- Each time the ark set forward, Moses made a prophetic declaration — "Rise up, LORD, and let thine enemies be scattered" — that this was a rehearsal of what is written in the book of the wars of the Lord
- Psalm 68 is a Psalm of David appealing for the very thing John sees in Revelation 19, when He mounts the white horse and comes riding upon the heavens to Israel's help

Two Arks and the Testimony

- There are two arks in God's program with Israel; the one Moses made was simply shittim wood, not overlaid with gold, with no cherubims. The present understanding here: it went before the camp, God took it to the third heaven, and John sees it
- Revelation 15:5 speaks of "the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony": the testimony sits in God's ark in the tabernacle, and sitting in that testimony is the book of the wars of the Lord, which He will take when He comes back

The Route: Habakkuk 3 and the Jordan

- Habakkuk is given a vision that includes the very route the Lord will take when He comes back: he sees Him go to the Red Sea in wrath and obliterate the waters
- The foul spirits and dragons are in those waters, and He is routing them out, herding them all together to one place, the Valley of Decision
- When Joshua, the type of the Lord Jesus Christ, crosses the Jordan, the waters are parted again and the other ark disappears; the stones in the midst of the river mark the very spot where the Lord Jesus Christ will enter the land of Israel

Key Doctrinal Distinctions

The Rapture vs. Israel's Blessed Hope

The Rapture is part of the revelation of the mystery for and about this dispensation of grace. This study complements and in a sense contrasts the doctrine of the Rapture, the Lord's return for us at the end of this dispensation of grace, by looking at Israel's expectation of the Lord's returning to them at the end of the tribulation period. Technically the term blessed hope applies to us in this dispensation of grace; Israel also has a blessed hope.

Dispensation of Grace vs. Israel's Program Resumed

Had the Lord not interrupted the program by bringing in the dispensation of grace, the next thing according to Psalm 2 would have been His speaking unto His people in His wrath and then His day of wrath. Once this dispensation of grace is over and God resumes His program with Israel, the Lord's day of wrath takes place. When the program is resumed, the members of the remnant of Israel are going to utilize the book of James.

Israel's Passages Read as Israel's Program

For Luke 21 the class is told to get rid of the dispensation of grace and pretend it isn't going to take place, because we're dealing with Israel's program. James is an apostle of the circumcision writing to the remnant of Israel, preparing them for the Lord's day of wrath; Habakkuk's prayer is for Israel's education in these things.

Israel's Route vs. Our Route

The Lord has already given His nation Israel a map of the route He takes when He comes back; there is also a route that you and I are going to take into the third heaven when the rapture takes place.

Topside: Education in Advance

The rapture of the church takes us out of here before these things start taking place; Keith is glad he is going to be topside when all this takes place. It is education in advance: when the rapture takes place, you know in advance what will be going on in preparation for the Lord to return, and we will have the best view possible to watch the Lord go out and get them.

Israel's Enemies and His Enemies

Since they are Israel's enemies, they are His enemies, and that is perfectly true; but He has in mind people who are Israel's enemies for more than the average nation-against-nation issue. When the Lord returns He avenges His cause with Israel against the satanic plan of evil for the possession of this earth.

Key Scripture References

Exodus 15	God parts the waters and they cross on dry land; Moses says they are going to the land of their inheritance
Numbers 10:33–36	Each time the ark set forward, Moses made a prophetic declaration: a rehearsal
Numbers 21:10–15	The book of the wars of the Lord: battlefields already chosen, each beside a body of water
Deuteronomy 32:21–22	The song of Moses; the fire to the lowest hell is not just figurative speech
Joshua 4	Two sets of twelve stones; the spot where the Lord Jesus Christ will enter the land
Job 38:8–10	God broke up His decreed place for the sea
Job 38:12–15	The high arm is Satan's arm; what God will do when He deals with Leviathan
Psalm 18:1–10	David maps out the basic route the Lord takes when He returns; not a local event
Psalm 68:1 ff.	David appeals for what John sees in Revelation 19; the Lord fulfills the rest once in the land
Psalm 74:10 ff.	The misery of the remnant; "the adversary," singular, is Satan himself
Psalm 83	Asaph's appeal; the ten-nation confederacy of the man of sin; the name Jehovah

Isaiah 2:10–21	He arises to shake terribly the earth
Isaiah 13:13	He shakes the heavens; the earth is removed out of her place
Isaiah 24:17–20	The physical globe reels to and fro like a drunkard
Isaiah 27:1	"In that day" is the day of the Lord
Isaiah 34:1–9	The land of Idumea, the south land of Israel; where the fire is kindled that burns down into the lowest hell
Isaiah 42:12–14	The Lord goes forth as a mighty man, like a man of war
Isaiah 66:15–16, 22–24	The exact same time, His personal return, with emphasis upon the vengeance; the spot where the fire has burned down and opened up the pit
Ezekiel 38–39	The cemetery of Gog and Magog, the second testimony
Habakkuk 3	A vision that includes the very route the Lord will take when He comes back
Zechariah 14:1–5	The day of the Lord; He fights as when He fought in the day of battle
Luke 21:20–28	To the remnant: the days of vengeance; their redemption draweth nigh; the powers of heaven shaken
Titus 2	Where the term blessed hope is found; technically it applies to us
James 5:8–11	James, writing to the remnant, taught them the Book of Job
Revelation 15:1–8	The song of Moses sung; the terminology of verse 5
Revelation 18:1–2	Once Babylon falls it becomes the habitation of devils: the zoo of the devils, the third testimony