

How To Give Away Your Faith

HANDOUT #6

292. Moses explained that the coming Prophet would speak the very words God commanded Him to speak (Deut. 18:18; John 6:14; Acts 3:22).

293. And the test of this “**Prophet**,” or any prophet that God had truly raised up — is that he would foretell — short-range prophecies, to confirm — the reliability of his — long-range prophecies.

21 “You may say in your heart, ‘How will we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?’ 22 “When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him (Deuteronomy 18:21–22).

294. So we are not surprised that Jesus therefore foretold events that would occur soon — such as His own death — and resurrection.

295. But Jesus also foretold the events that would occur much later, including the destruction of Jerusalem, His Second Coming & His future kingdom.

296. I raise this issue because tucked away in this little parable, Matthew 22:7 provides an example of this prophetic pattern, as Jesus spoke of the coming destruction of Jerusalem, which would be fulfilled in A.D. 70.

297. Someone might object saying that Jesus was not introducing an entirely new prophecy concerning Jerusalem’s destruction, for Daniel had already foretold it in Daniel 9:26 in the great 70 weeks prophecy.

298. It is true that Jesus reaffirms what Daniel had already revealed, however, He expands the prophecy by adding the striking detail that when Rome came, the city would be burned with fire.

299. And He reveals that that the King Himself would send forth His armies against the city showing this is not merely a military event.

300. Jesus describes the destruction of the city as the Father-King’s judgment upon Jerusalem for rejecting His Son and persecuting His messengers.

7 “But the king was enraged, and he sent his armies and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire (Matthew 22:7).

301. Verse 7 therefore expands Daniel’s prophecy by revealing God’s allowance behind the coming destruction, as Jesus further teaches in Luke 19:

43 “For the days shall come upon you when your enemies will throw up a bank before you, and surround you, and hem you in on every side, 44 and will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”

302. While we are here on verse 7, Calvinists not only grossly misinterpret Matthew 22:14—as we will see—they _____ misinterpret this verse.

7 “But the king was enraged, and he sent his armies and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire.

303. They correctly understand—that that verse 7 is a prophecy anticipating the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. when the Roman armies under General Titus — besieged _____ destroyed — the city and the Temple.

304. Yet from this parable — supersessionists conclude that God is finished ____ Israel as the nation—through which He will fulfill—His prophetic purposes and bring Jesus back to the land of Israel to rule & to reign for 1,000 years.

305. Those who are Reformed, in both their doctrine of salvation (soteriology), and in their doctrine of Jesus’ return (eschatology), cannot deny _____ Romans 11:25-29 points—to a future conversion—of ethnic Israel:

25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; 26 and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, “THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB.” 27 “THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.” 28 From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God’s choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; 29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

306. Not being able—to erase verses like this—Reformed Christians have an answer as does Charles Hodge, a leading nineteenth-century Reformed theologian _____ served as a seminary professor at Princeton wrote:

“The Scriptures, then, as they have been generally understood in the Church, teach us ... that there is to be a national conversion of the Jews.”
(Systematic Theology, Vol. III, § 5: Conversion of the Jews)

307. Even R.C. Sproul taught that Romans 11 anticipated a future redemptive-historical turning of ethnic Israel—but he understood this as the salvation of God's elect among the Jewish people but _____ nation-wide conversion.
(“Israel’s Rejection Not Final,” Ligonier Ministries, January 14, 2007)

308. So while Sproul does affirm a future work of God among ethnic Israel he did not believe in the conversion of the entire nation as a corporate body which for most of us is the simple reading of Romans chapter _____.

309. But there is a big difference between believing in a future salvation of ethnic Israel while ignoring that Israel's land promises and kingdom prophecies must be fulfilled literally ____ a future earthly kingdom.
310. This leads some Christians to ____ that Calvinists affirm Israel's future, when in reality, they deny the full scope of what God has promised Israel.
311. So, while you will hear Calvinists say that Israel has "**a future**," they often deny that Israel remains central to God's prophetic purposes, that she ____ a future claim to the land promises or that Jesus will reign from Jerusalem.
312. So while you will hear Calvinists say that Israel has "**a future**" they will ____ the same time deny that Israel is "**the future**" for of God's plan for history.
313. But to come to such conclusions one must allegorize the eternal nature ____ the Abrahamic Covenant, the Davidic Covenant, and the New Covenant.
314. To conclude that the destruction of Israel in 70 A.D. sealed God's decision to be done with the people as a nation—ignores God's promises ____ Israel.
315. Historicists and traditionalists — do not deny that — believing Jews ____ Pentecost have been incorporated into the one people of God, the Church.
316. The word "**mystery**" refers to a truth previously hidden by God that ____ has now revealed as He spells out in Ephesians 3 (*cf.* Colossians 1:25-26).

3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. 4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; 6 to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel

317. Formerly, God foretold of Gentile blessing & salvation (Gen. 12:3; Is. 49:6), but what the O.T. *did not reveal is that God* "**made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall**" to have ____ people (Ep. 2:14).
318. What Paul reveals as a previously hidden '**mystery**' is not Gentile salvation, but that believing Jews and Gentiles are united as "equals" — in one body, ____ called the Church through Jesus (Acts 10:44-45 *cf.* Acts 11:17-18).
319. However, to claim that God has permanently ended Israel's unique national role in His prophetic program and will fulfill His purposes exclusively through the _____ is to misinterpret Scripture.