

February 14, 1949

The Rapture

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We had some with us last time who came from a distance who have made quite a study of our present now. I'll be disappointed if those particular ones don't get here today. Maybe they--How's that, Mr.---? (Student) Yes. Well, maybe they will be a little later. Now our lesson as you, our work as you know at present is still concerned with two parallel studies. We are dealing with the matter of the Isaiah apocalypse and trying to get into its basic structure and we also are dealing with the general problem of the rapture and eventually these two matters will come together and we will see how much or how little light the Isaiah apocalypse has to throw upon it. I don't think there is any extensive discussion made at the time of the rapture which does not involve in the course of it reference to the Isaiah apocalypse. I think that at present it would be most helpful if we would make a little progress in getting the problem before us that we, the problem of the rapture, and so I think we'll start out with a little more time on the New Testament aspect just now and then come back to the Isaiah apocalypse toward the latter part of our two-hour period for a while.

As we have noticed our purpose in this course is not to present any particular view. It is not to oppose any particular view. It is not to see whether the Scripture teaches this view or that view; it is to see "what does the Scripture teach?" It is not to say, "Does the Scripture teach this or that?" It is to say, "Is there enough evidence in the Scripture to say that it teaches this?" or "Is there enough evidence to say that it teaches that?" or is the state of the evidence such that we must use our judgment on particular aspects of the problem. In other words we want to see, not to get an answer to our question but to see "What does the Scripture say?" and of course in finding what it says it is very helpful to raise specific questions but we raise them, not to say, "Does the Scripture say this or that?" but to