



In the Dust of the Rabbi

By Ray Vander Laan

Session 5 : The Very Words of God

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Grafted In

“For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit.”

- 1 Corinthians 12:13 NIV






“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”

- Psalms 133:1 NIV

“I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.”

- John 10:16 NIV

Recap

	1 When the Rabbi Says, "Come" RAY VANDER LAAN	28 min
	2 When the Rabbi Says, "Go" RAY VANDER LAAN	21 min
	3 The Presence of God RAY VANDER LAAN	24 min
	4 Living Stones RAY VANDER LAAN	21 min
	5 The Very Words of God RAY VANDER LAAN	29 min



Outline of the Video

This session is set among the ruins of the magnificent temple of Apollo at Didyma, not far from Miletus where Paul visited. **Didyma is not mentioned in the Bible**, but it most certainly was known to Jesus' disciples in Asia Minor.

It provides a environment in which to consider the importance of the Word of God during ancient times and *today*.

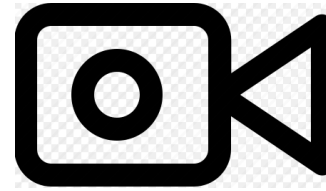




Video Notes / Key Points

1. Jesus and the text
2. The road to Didyma
3. The oracle of Apollo at Didyma
4. To receive an oracle
5. We have the very words of God!

Start the Video...





What is an Oracle?

The word oracle has a number of meanings. It can refer to:

- ◆ The words believed to be received by the priestess from the god
- ◆ The process of hearing that word
- ◆ The medium or priestess who received the word from the god
- ◆ The shrine or temple where people could come to seek an oracle
- ◆ A divine revelation



God's Word on the Oracles

For the people in the world of the Bible, seeking what was believed to be the word of god – an oracle – was a familiar practice. By the time of Abraham, the Egyptians had sought oracles. By the time of Jesus and his disciples, the Greeks and Romans had been seeking oracles for hundreds of years and had built elaborate temples where people came to receive an oracle.

During its history, Israel often was tempted to abandon obedience to God's Word and adopt the practices of their pagan neighbors.



Let's see how God viewed the pagan oracles

- 1) What does God say about seeking divine revelation from pagan oracles or fortune telling, and how will he respond to those who seek such revelations? (See Leviticus 19:31; 20:6; Hosea 4:1, 12)
- 2) Jeremiah 23:25-40 describes a type of false oracle.
 - What is it about seeking oracles that so greatly offends God? (See verses 23:27-32, 36)
 - What will God do when prophets invent oracles but claim they are from the true God (See verses 39 - 40)
- 3) What was God's warning to his people regarding oracles and other pagan practices before they entered the land of Canaan? (See Deut. 18:9-13)



God viewed the pagan oracles (cont.)

- 4) From that same Deuteronomy passage, what did God say would be the results of pagan oracles, such as the oracle of Apollo at Didyma, on his people? (Deut 18:9-13)
- 5) In what ways do God's views about divination differ from popular views of divination today?
- 6) In what ways is the need of ancient people to hear an oracle from their gods similar to what people do today to satisfy their desire to be in communion with some kind of spiritual force or being? In what ways is it different?



Profile of Oracles

The Oracles of Apollo	The Oracles of the Living God
Available only to those who can afford it	Available to everyone who seeks them
The wealthy and powerful received first priority	All people are equal before him
Sign indicated if an answer would be given	Will answer all who seek him
Priestess (high on some substance) is needed to convey the message	Communicates directly to everyone through his Word
Requires elaborate ceremony and building(s)	Can speak anywhere his Word is found
Gave small revelations	In Scripture we have in our possession the entire oracle of God



Table Discussion

Read the following verses	Questions (for all the verses)
Deut 4:29-31	What does God desire for his people?
1 Chron 16:10-11	What does he promise to those who seek him?
Psalms 9:10	How badly do I want to know what God says?
Jer 29:12-13	What is my commitment to seek him in his oracles – the inspired words of Scripture?
Zech 8:21-22	Do I truly believe that he wants me to seek him?
Matt 7:7-8	

Did You Know?

It is said that a rabbi and his disciples who desire to be like him must:

- ◆ Learn the text
- ◆ Live the text
- ◆ Teach the text
- ◆ Pray the text
- ◆ Die the text



Memorize

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God.

1 Peter 4:10-11

Additional Verses Reference

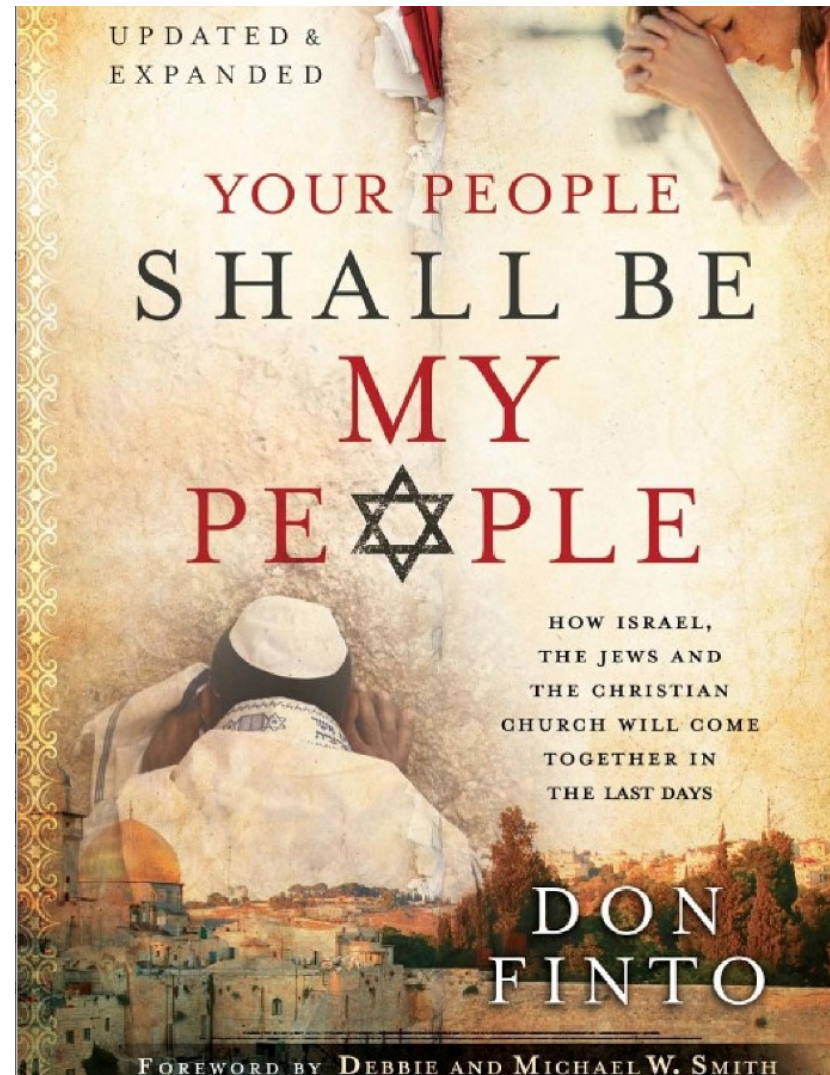
- Jesus' Disciples Knew the Scriptures (See 1 Peter 1-5), where Peter's use of the Old Testament in his first letter.
- You can download my presentation and notes from our website:



<https://desertspringsmensministry.org/resources/>

Additional Reference

If there were never to be another Jewish person in history who believes in Jesus as Messiah, we must still be committed to them as friends, brothers, protectors. Any other action is incongruous with a heart of love.





Thank You – Have a Blessed Day