

Time of the End

Daniel 12

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This final vision of Daniel started in Chapter 10...

Daniel 10:14 – *“Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come.”*

There are 3 important things to note regarding this verse:

- *“Your people”* means the people of Israel after the Rapture of the Church
- *“in the future”* is addressing the latter days, the Tribulation Period, which corresponds to Daniel’s Seventieth Week
- *“the vision concerns a time yet to come”* – There will be a long time from 605 BC to the latter days. At least 2500 years have gone by so far

Daniel 12:1-3

¹*“At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book.”* ²*And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.* ³*Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.*

v1 – What does *“at that time”* refer to?

- Previous chapter... the time of the Tribulation because of the reference to the abomination of desolation (Daniel 11:31).
- Also, *“there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation”* ...that sounds like the reference Jesus made:
Matthew 24:21 – *For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

Who will help Israel during the Tribulation?

The Archangel Michael will stand up and get ready to carry out the decrees and dictates of God (v1,7)

- He will protect those Hebrews whose names are written in the Book of Life

What else do we know about the activity of Michael the Archangel during the Tribulation?

At the Mid-Point of the Tribulation Period:

Rev 12:7-9 – *And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down – that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth and his angels with him.*

- Satan will return to earth in a fury, for he knows his days are numbered -- 1260 days
- At this time the Antichrist sets up his throne in Jerusalem and breaks the covenant that he has confirmed with Israel
- The “Great Tribulation” will begin - the last half of the seven-year period prophesied in Daniel 9:27

Who will be delivered through the Tribulation?

- Many Jews and Gentiles will turn to Christ in the period after the Rapture but many will also be martyrs
- In Revelation 7:1-8, the Apostle John was informed that 144,000 of the people of Israel, 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes, would be sealed and would go through the Tribulation Period unscathed.
- Revelation 7:9-17 gives an account of martyrs from every country and race. They are pictured in heaven triumphant, but they have gone to heaven from the Great Tribulation because they will be put to death by the world ruler who will demand that everyone worship him or be killed (Rev. 13:15)

What is the book that the names of those who are delivered are written?

“Lamb’s Book of Life”

Rev 21:27 – *there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life*

When a person accepts Jesus as Savior, their name is recorded in the “Lamb’s Book of Life” and entrance into the New Jerusalem is guaranteed (Rev 21:27)

What happens to those whose names are not written in the Book of Life?

If an individual never calls upon the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, that person’s name will be blotted out of the “Book of Life” and they spend eternity separated from God in the hell...

Rev. 20:15 – *anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire*

v2 – What will happen to “those who sleep in the dust of the earth”?

Those Jews whose names are written in the book (Lamb’s Book of Life) will be resurrected and enter into the Millennium with Christ

- A promise of everlasting life (and blessings)
- They will be part of the administration of the government that will serve Christ
- AND... There will be those Jews who are resurrected for the Great White Throne judgment (shame and contempt)

When will the resurrection of the Jews written in the Book of Life occur?

- Some say at the end of the Tribulation when Jesus returns to earth based on this verse.
- But it is just as likely they are resurrected with church at the rapture... certainly the remnant believing Jews will go in the rapture, so why wouldn’t the faithful Old Testament saints be resurrected at the same time?

How about the unfaithful resurrected to “shame and everlasting contempt” – when does that happen?

Probably just before the Great White Throne judgment...

Rev 20:12-13 – *I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.*

v3 – Who will shine in the resurrection?

The wise – those who embrace God’s provision for their salvation recognizing Jesus as their Savior and Lord

Proverbs 9:10 – *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

Who are those who “turn many to righteousness”?

- These are the soul winners... those who help others know Jesus as their Savior and Lord during the Church Age
- In Old Testament times it would be those who help others trust in God for their salvation recognizing that the coming Messiah will have something to do with it.

What is the distinction between the wise and those who “turn many to righteousness”?

They both will shine in eternity but the soul winners will shine like the stars forever and ever... I take it that is because those they influenced to embrace God’s provision for salvation will be there with them forever and ever.

Daniel 12:4-13

⁴ *“But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”*

⁵ *Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank.* ⁶ *And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?”*

⁷ *Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.*

⁸ *Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, “My lord, what shall be the end of these things?”*

⁹ *And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.”* ¹⁰ *Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.*

¹¹ *“And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.”* ¹² *Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.*

¹³ *“But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.”*

v4 – Why was Daniel told to “shut up the words, and seal the book”?

The angel meant that all that was to be communicated to him had been completed; the angel had no more to say for him to write down.

How could Daniel *shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end*? Was Daniel disobedient in publishing the words anyway?

- If God hadn't intended the words to be published, the angel wouldn't have given them to Daniel whose mission was to publish God's Word.
- Instead, the angel was telling Daniel that God would not let the words to be fully understood until the time of the end.

Why would the time of the end unseal Daniel's words?

Developments would help people see how prophecy is being fulfilled.

What does it mean that *many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase*?

In context, knowledge of the prophesied end time events would increase with people going from one book to another comparing passages to see how Scripture explains Scripture like the Bereans...

Acts 17:11 – *These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*

But I believe there is a double meaning here... In a broader context, this is a prophecy of what things will be like at the time of the end: knowledge in general will explode and travel will be improved so that many people will be able to rapidly go from place to place.

How has knowledge in general increased?

The Internet. People no longer have to remember things; they can Google it and find anything on-line.

Are we better or worse off with this explosion of knowledge?

- Both... better off because everyone can benefit from what the experts know. With my smartphone, I can instantly find Bible verses where I can only remember fragments. I can find a video on how to fix just about anything.
- Worse off because knowledge does not equate to wisdom...

2 Timothy 3:1, 7 – *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ...always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

How has travel increased?

- For thousands of years, the fastest people could routinely go is by horse galloping at 30 mph. By 1900, trains routinely traveled twice that speed. Then, in

1908, the Ford Motor Company produced the first Model T with a top speed of 40 mph. By the 1920's, race cars topped 100 mph. I recently saw an article about breaking the production car speed record at 316 mph.

- In 1903, the Wright brothers first flew an airplane for 12 seconds traveling 120 feet. Just 66 years later, Neil Armstrong stepped on the moon.

v5-6 – Who else joined in the conversation between the angel and Daniel?

It appears two other angels have been listening with deep interest to the discussion about the future. They had been listening to the angel hovering above the water and one asked about the time-frame of the prophecy.

Why would these angels be as curious as we?

The Creator did not make provision for the salvation of angels... when they chose to fall away from their relationship with the Creator, their destiny is sealed. So it is a mystery to the why the Creator would make such an amazing provision for people...

1 Peter 1:10, 12 – *Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you... To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.*

v7 – How did the angel revealing the future to Daniel respond to the inquiry of his fellow angel?

He re-enforced that what he was revealing was from the Creator-God and gave a time-frame: *it shall be for a time, times, and half a time.*

What is meant by this time-frame, a time, times, and half a time?

"A year, two years, and half a year" – 3 ½ years... The Tribulation Period will last for seven years (Daniel 9:24-27), at the mid-point of the Tribulation, the Antichrist will commit the "abomination that causes desolation" causing the cessation of the daily sacrifices in the Temple (Daniel 12:11). The events described at the end of Chapter 11 pertain to this period of time.

What did the angel say would happen in the time-frame he gave?

The power of Israel would be "*completely shattered*". God will bring them to the end of themselves so they would be completely dependent on Him.

v8 – What was Daniel asking for here?

He wanted more details hoping that would help him to better understand. If he was recording what was revealed, at least he should understand what he was writing.

v9-10 – How did the angel respond to Daniel’s request for more info?

- He reminded Daniel that the words were not to be understood until the time of the end.
- He also gave him the big picture... that God would use these events to save many people. It will be hard to avoid the understanding that God would be supernaturally intervening in the affairs of mankind in fulfillment of prophecy.

Who would understand and who would not understand these end time prophecies?

The wicked would not understand while the wise would understand...

1 Corinthians 2:14 – *the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

How does one come by the wisdom to understand the end time prophecies?

Get to better know the Lord through studying His Word and pray the following promise:

James 1:5 – *“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”*

v11-12 – Who will be blessed?

- Those who are around after 1,335 days after the abomination of desolation... 75 days after three and a half years (1260 days).
- God has given us some insight to His calendar following the Tribulation... There is a 30-day period (1,290 days) & there is a 45 day period (1,335 days)

What do you think is going on during these 75 days after Jesus returns to earth?

Clean-up of the environment, burial of the dead, repairing infrastructure, and the Judgment of the Sheep & Goats (Matthew 25: 31-46)

What happens at the Judgment of the Sheep & Goats?

Those blessed to go into the Millennial Kingdom will be the sheep of the Judgment of the Sheep & Goats... the goats will go to the lake of fire...

Matthew 25:41 – *He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels*

Those at the Judgment of Sheep & Goats who rejected Jesus during the Tribulation will precede those judged in the Great White Throne Judgment in going to the lake of fire.

v13 – What was the final admonition and encouragement to Daniel?

- He was told to go his way... continue in the faithful path he was on.
- Daniel was told that he would die ---- “you will rest” but be resurrected to receive his eternal inheritance.

When would Daniel receive his inheritance?

At the end of the days – is this a clue that the resurrection of Old Testament saints would occur at the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom? The days that are given here in context all relate to the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom. Some see this interpretation reinforced by Daniel 12:1-2.

Could the end of the days refer to the end of the Millennial Kingdom?

- It could, the Eternal State will be a magnificent inheritance but don’t think the Eternal State is the end of time (see trees of life yielding fruit every month, Revelation 22:2).
- But especially since this promise is made to Daniel, a Jew, a big part of his inheritance will to be part of the Millennial Kingdom.

What observations do you have of this discussion of the last chapter of Daniel?

- God will orchestrate the final days of the world events as He has foreordained in the Book of Truth
- The Tribulation Period will cleanse the world of all unrighteousness and usher in the Millennium Period that will be a utopia for man on this earth
- Since the former Empires were established and subdued by God, He will control the final Empire as defined. His plan is being implemented at this time and the end is in sight
- While life may appear to be a collage of disconnected activities, it is a picture of a perfect plan that only God could implement
- God has used a man named Daniel to provide us a view of His plans, schedule, and actions

Postscript: It is very possible that Daniel did not return to his beloved land from the Babylonian captivity

- There is a tomb and monument in the city of Susa, Province of Elam, Iran. This is identified as Daniel’s burial place.