

# Daniel Chapter 12

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# Outline of Chapter 12

- Chapter 12 is the last chapter in the three-chapter unit 10-12.
- Tribulation and Resurrection, 12:1-3
- Question about timing of the tribulation, 12:5-8, 11-12
- Instructions to Daniel, 12:4, 9-10, 13

# Tribulation and Resurrection

- Michael is identified as the prince of Israel, something like the prince of Persia (10:13) and prince of Greece (10:20). We identified these princes as fallen angels who were somehow involved in the affairs of those nations.
- Michael is involved in the affairs of Israel. He is an archangel, that is, a chief angel.

# Michael

- Michael is a guardian angel for the nation, in other words. What touches the apple of God's eye (Zech. 2:8) touches archangel Michael.
- If there were such a thing as angelic impatience, I suspect Michael would have it, wanting to do something to protect Israel...yet the nation still exists in unbelief.

# Trouble

- Trouble has been promised to Israel.
  - Jeremiah 30:7, Amos 5:18, Isaiah 2:12.
- Trouble to one extent or another is promised to all believers, not only for their purification, but because of the evil condition of the world.
  - 2 Timothy 3:12

# Nature of the Trouble

- The text adds that the Tribulation will be the worst that has ever happened. We ponder:
  - Worse than the Egyptian bondage.
  - Worse than the Assyrian and Babylonian conquests and captivities.
  - Worse than Antiochus IV Epiphanes.
  - Worse than the Holocaust. *How can this be?*

# Some Will Be Delivered

- “Your people” refers to Israel. We are not talking about Gentile salvation whatsoever in this passage.
- Those saved are those whose names are found “in the book.” This refers to the book of life (Phil. 4:3, Revelation 13:8).

# Saved...In What Way?

- In the previous slide, I “jumped” immediately to the conclusion that “delivered” refers to spiritual salvation.
- Some in fact will be saved in the sense of physically rescued from the Tribulation.
- Others will have already fallen as a result of the persecution.



# Resurrected!

- All believers will be raised to life again, and vindicated after their time of suffering.
- All people who have ever lived will be raised—
  - Some to everlasting life.
  - Some to judgment.
- See John 5:28-29.

# Glorious Condition

- Verse 3 summarizes the condition of the blessed (saved) immediately after the resurrection.
- When will this be? Heaven? No. It will be before, in the millennial kingdom: Matthew 13:43 and 25:34 (specifically regarding those alive at the second coming), 2 Peter 1:19, 1 Thess. 2:12.

# State Prior to Glory

- The text says “those who are wise” will shine like this, and “those who turn many to righteousness” likewise.
- Wisdom comes from truly knowing God’s word. How about turning others to righteousness? Witnessing for the Lord and teaching the Word do this.

# Reward for Wisdom and Witness

- Faithfulness in the activities of verse 3 will be reflected in glory in heaven.
- To the extent you are faithful here, to that extent you will be glorified there.

# Timing of the Tribulation, v. 5-8

- In verse 5, we have two more angels. One spoke to the glorious figure over the river (10:5-6) and asked him a question: “How long...”
- “How long?” is a common Biblical question. See Psalm 13:1, and Revelation 6:10, along with 52 other places in Scripture.

# Timing of the Tribulation, v. 5-8

- By an oath, we know that the length of this time of trouble will be a time, times, and half a time.
- From Daniel 9:27 (one week) and Revelation (11:2-3, 12:14), we learned that this means 3.5 years.

# Timing of the Tribulation, v. 5-8

- During those 3.5 years, the last half of what we commonly call the Tribulation, Israel is shattered.
  - “The holy people” refers to Israel, “a nation” of 12:1
- These events occur after the rapture of the church and before the second coming of Christ.

# What About the Church?

- Dispensationalists are right to point out that the church is not in view during the last 7 years of Israel's 70.
- Remember, 70 sevens are determined “for your people,” the Jews, not for any other people (Daniel 9:24).



# What About Israel and 1948?

- It has been more than 60 years since the nation was reconstituted, so it does not fit the timetable given in Daniel and Revelation.
- The nation did not turn to Messiah, so we know that it will be persecuted and scattered yet again.

# Question by Daniel, v. 8-9

- Daniel did not understand. He was perplexed by this, and probably greatly troubled at the same time. So he asked.
- Daniel would have to wait (v. 9). But a few more tidbits of information come to him in the last handful of verses.

# Timing of the Tribulation, 11-12

- Remember the abomination of desolation from Daniel 9:27? At the mid-point of the 7 years, i.e. the beginning of the last 3.5 years, this event will occur.
- After that, there is a period of 1,290 days.
- There is also mentioned a time of 1,335 days.

# What Are These Days?

- They run concurrently, not sequentially, so that there are:
  - 1,260 days (3.5 years) of Tribulation.
  - 30 more days to accommodate the defeat of Antichrist and judgment of those left alive.
  - 45 *more* days until the kingdom of Christ is inaugurated. Those present will be “blessed.”

# These Things Take Time

- The extra 75 days are required for cleanup (Ezekiel 39:9, 11-15), judgment (Matthew 25:31-46), announcement (Isaiah 52:7), and installation of the new king and his co-regents, the church.
  - See Daniel 7:13-14, 27; 2:44.

# These Things Take Time

- The judgments at the end of the Tribulation:
  - On living Israel: Ezekiel 20:33-38, Malachi 3:1-3. See also Zechariah 13:8-9.
  - On living Gentiles: Matthew 25:31-46, also known as the sheep and goats judgment.
- Matthew 24:13 says that those who endure to the end will be saved physically. And if you endure to the end of the 1,335 days, that shows you were saved spiritually.

# Instructions to Daniel, 12:4, 9-10, 13

- It is interesting to note that each of these verses mentions the end:
  - Until the time of the end;
  - Till the time of the end;
  - Till the end;
  - At the end of the days.

# Clues to the Timing

- Sometimes the transition from near- to far-term prophecy is hard to figure out.
- Here, the close context emphasizes “the end,” which makes interpreting the text easier.
- This time of the end correlates with 11:35 and 11:40. God is telling Daniel about events that are yet future to 2019.



# Clues to the Timing

- Later Biblical revelation gives us more material to correlate, and can clarify things.
- Keep in mind the general framework of history as it pertains to the gospel: the suffering of Christ is first, *then* His glory follows. See 1 Peter 1:11. The far future events are connected to the glory “stage” (2<sup>nd</sup> coming).

# Clues to the Timing

- Often, correlation with other passages is required. The context of chapter 11 indicates the time is after the Antichrist.
- The glorious revealing of Christ has not happened yet. I trust you would agree. He is “hidden” in heaven, but will be shown openly.

# Examples

- Isaiah 61:1-2 and Luke 4:18-19. Part of the prophecy is near; part is far. Christ will do all of it, some parts yet future.
- Zechariah 9:9-10 and Matthew 21:4-5.
- One of the most difficult is Isaiah 7:14-16.

# Instructions to Daniel, 12:4, 9-10, 13

- This “end” is associated with several things:
  - The book of Daniel being shut and sealed (2x);
  - a time of running to and fro while knowledge increases;
  - Salvation of many, and wickedness abounding;
  - Wise will understand, but not the wicked;
  - Rest followed by resurrection and inheritance.

# Shut and Sealed

- This does *not* mean closed to outside view or hidden from future readers.
- Rather, it refers to completing the book, putting “The End” on it so to speak. This marks that the prophecy is done and will be fulfilled in the appointed time.

# Running To and Fro / Knowledge

- *Many* refers to people.
- “Running to and fro” translates a verb that means to roam about, and there seems to be a hurried, busy, or frantic nature to it. It seems to involve physical motion in searching for something (see Jer. 5:1, 49:3; Amos 8:11-12).

# Running To and Fro / Knowledge

- This verb is used of God's eyes roaming to and fro throughout the earth (2 Chron. 16:9; Zech. 4:10). See also Num. 11:8 and 2 Samuel 24:2.
- I take it that in this context, the running is related to searching for a word from the Lord.
- Times will be so bad that people will be trying to figure out what is happening.

# Running To and Fro / Knowledge

- When they find the completed words of Daniel, they will increase in knowledge. His words are wisdom from God.
- I do not believe this passage condemns international travel, nor that the *knowledge* has to do with scientific discovery. Those are not contextually appropriate interpretations.



# Salvation and Wickedness

- Those “many” who are purified, made white, and refined refers to people who are saved. The verbs refer to cleansing from the dirtiness of sin.
- Contextually this refers to the Tribulation, a time in which many Jews will be saved.

# Salvation

- While “many” may seem to be an overstatement, that is what the text says.
  - Millions will be saved. But billions will be lost.
- See Romans 11:26 (all Israel), Zechariah 13:8-9.
- See also Revelation 7:9.

# Wicked

- There are another “many” who are not saved.
- They are said to do wickedly. This reminds us of Revelation 22:11. Certain people seem to be on the path of evil, never to come off of it. They are marked out for this condemnation (Jude 4).

# Wise Will Understand

- The wise refers to those who are saved, the righteous, godly people. They will have an understanding of the ways of God.
- Not so the wicked. They are ever learning, but never able to learn the truth (2 Tim. 3:7-8). Obvious moral truth can be staring them in the face and they don't get it.

# Our Attitude Toward the Wicked

- It is appropriate for us to cement in our minds that the lost are morally and mentally blind. See 2 Cor. 4:4 and Ephesians 4:17-19.
- It is because of this that we must be compassionate toward them. They need guidance and help. They are facing the wrath of God unless they repent.

# Rest, Resurrection, Inheritance

- Rest = a metaphor or euphemism for death.
- Resurrection = literal, bodily resurrection out of the grave. *Not* a spiritual/bodiless resurrection.
- Inheritance = the earth, the kingdom of God (Matt. 5:5) and individual reward (1 Cor. 3:14).
- These are true not only for Daniel, but for all of God's people. 2 Timothy 4:8.

# Resurrection

- The chapter ends by circling back to the resurrection of Old Testament (Jewish) saints mentioned in 12:2-3. This event happens *after* the Tribulation.
- Resurrection is not merely coming back to life. For the saved, it is God bringing a person back to life *and* making him shine like the stars.

# OT Doctrine of Resurrection

- The OT prophets knew of it. Consider:
  - Job 19:25-26
  - Isaiah 25:8, 26:19
  - Ezekiel 37:12
  - Hosea 13:14
  - Psalm 16:10, 17:15



# What About Us?

- We are reminded that all people will be raised from the dead. Some to life; others to judgment.
- I desire the resurrection of life and look forward to it. See Philippians 3:10-15.
- Our ultimate hope is *there*, not in things of this life. See also Colossians 3:1. This hope drives us to keep serving the Lord and not lose heart (1 Cor. 15:57-58).