

The Book of Daniel

A Vision of Final Victory

Chapter 12

Introduction

The greatest time of trouble Israel has ever faced is yet ahead. The future time of the Great Tribulation will be more devastating and humiliating than the Jews have ever faced in history. During the Great Tribulation, the Antichrist will rule his kingdom from the temple mount in Jerusalem. In a cosmic battle in the heavenlies, the archangel Michael will cast out Satan from Heaven and confine him and his angels to earth.

Satan will then turn his wrath and fury against Israel. Many Jews will realize that Jesus was and is their Messiah and will turn to Him in faith and for deliverance. The good news is that Israel will be delivered and rescued at the Second Coming of Christ.

This "time of trouble" is limited to the last 3½ years of the 7-year Tribulation. Daniel's 70th week is the same as John's 7-year Tribulation. God uses the Tribulation to deal with Israel's enemies, to break Israel's arrogance and spirit of independence from God, and to purify and preserve the remnant of Jews who become believers in Jesus Christ.

Daniel states the purpose of this Great Tribulation in the first verse of Chapter 12. "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, Every one who is found written in the book." (Daniel 12:1 NKJV)

Because of Israel's lack of spiritual discernment and sinful choices described in the last verses of Chapter 11, the angel says a "time of trouble" will come upon Israel like never before. Chapter 12 describes the last half of the seven years of the Tribulation period. The angel Michael is often associated with spiritual battles and is called an "archangel in Jude 1:9 (Daniel 10:13, 10:21, Jude 1:9, Revelation 12:7). We also know that God created Satan as one of His most powerful angels. The mission of the archangel Michael is to prevent the destruction of the human race and particularly Israel.

Jesus says in Matthew 24, "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. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, those days will be shortened." (Matthew 24:21-22 NKJV)

There are four significant events will occur during the last 3½ years of Tribulation: The Antichrist will make his headquarters the temple of Israel on Mount Moriah.

2 Thessalonians 2 says, "Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 NKJV)

Michael will cast Satan and his angels to the earth.

Revelation 12:7 "And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." (Revelation 12:7-9 NKJV)

Satan's fury will be turned upon Israel during the last 3½ years of the Tribulation. Revelation 12:13 says, "Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *Child*. But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." (Revelation 12:13-17 NKJV)

Israelis who believe in Jesus, along with many others, will be delivered.

Revelation 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Revelation 7:9-10 NKJV)

In addition to his role as a spiritual warrior, Michael is responsible for protecting Israel as the "spiritual guardian" of the people.

The time of unprecedented persecution of Israel and world calamity is known as the Great Tribulation. This period is also called "the time of Jacob's trouble" in Jeremiah 30:7. The Jewish people have known many times of trouble throughout their history. From the horrors of the fall of Samaria and Jerusalem to the terrors inflicted by Antiochus Epiphanes, Israel has faced incredibly hard times. From the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans and persecution by the church during the Dark Ages to the massacre of Jews in Russia and Europe to the 20th Century Holocaust, it seems that all of Israel's history has been a time of trouble.

But this time of trouble will be different. It will be worse than Israel has ever seen before. Jesus quoted this passage in 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." (Matthew 24:21 NKJV)

Sadly, the Bible teaches that the worst has yet to come for Israel and the Jewish people. The Jew has always been a target of Satan. He wants to destroy them because he knows God has chosen to accomplish His purposes through this nation.

I. God's Promise of Deliverance.

The angel tells Daniel, "At that time, your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book." Even with the terrors of that time, the deliverance of Israeli believers is assured. God will never break His promise to Abraham. He promised Abraham, "I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you." (Genesis 17:7 NKJV)

But this promise of deliverance is not for every last person of Jewish heritage, but for every one found written in the book. Not every person of Jewish heritage will be saved. But a remnant in Israel will become known as a people who trust in Jesus as their Messiah.

Romans 11:25-27 says, "For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "THE DELIVERER WILL COME OUT OF ZION, AND HE WILL TURN AWAY UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB; FOR THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS." (Romans 11:25-27 NKJV)

II. The Promise of Resurrection.

Verse 2 says, "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame *and* everlasting contempt." (Daniel 12:2 NKJV)

The Bible teaches two end-time resurrections, one for the saved and one for the damned (John 5:29; Revelation 20:4-6; 11-15). The terror of Hell never ends. There is no blissful annihilation after some period of punishment.

Revelation 20 describes *eternal* punishment for the Devil and the Antichrist. Hell is eternal. It is where sinful beings must pay a continual penalty for their sins because they can never make a perfect payment. The picture of the Old Testament sacrifices reminds us that an *imperfect* payment for sins must be a *continual* payment for sins.

III. A Promise for the Righteous.

But verse 3 says there is a promise for the righteous, "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." (Daniel 12:3 NKJV)

Despite all the calamity and difficulty coming upon Israel, God has those who are wise and who shall shine! Those who turn others to righteousness are wise and radiate the light of Christ like stars. The brightness of those who are wise in Christ will last forever. It doesn't fade. It endures. Investing your life in a faith and witness that will last forever is worth it.

In verse 4, Daniel is instructed to seal up the book. Verse 4 says, "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." (Daniel 12:4 NKJV)

To shut up the words and seal the book implies that the words should be kept safely preserved until the time when the message is authenticated. There will come a day, at the end of time, when Daniel's prophecy will become very important. Daniel describes increased travel and searching for knowledge as the time of the end. Daniel has revealed enough to us so that the book really can be sealed. From Daniel 11:36 to Daniel 12:3, we see:

- A world ruler, utterly opposed to God
- A world religion based on the abomination of desolation
- A world war, which defeats the ruler
- A time of great Tribulation for Israel, lasting 3½ years
- Deliverance for the people of God after the Tribulation
- Resurrection and judgment
- The reward of the righteous

IV. A Promise the "Time of Trouble" Will End

The angel, however, gives Daniel some good news in Verse 5, "Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank. 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*?" 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." (Daniel 12:5-7 NKJV)

Daniel is back on the riverbank, first mentioned in Chapter 10. The visions of Daniel 10 through 12 have all taken place while Daniel stood at this riverbank. It seems these other men on the riverbank were angels. One angel is asking the other, not for the benefit of the angel, but for Daniel's and our benefit, how long Israel's persecution will last.

In a solemn oath, one angel walked on the water when he told the other angel and Daniel that the time of trouble would last three and one-half years and then the "time of trouble" will come to an end.

- Daniel 7:25 describes it as the period that saints are given into Antichrist's hand.
- Daniel 9:27 describes it as the period between the breaking of the Antichrist's covenant with Israel, the erection of the abomination of desolation, and the establishment of Christ's kingdom
- Daniel 12:7 describes it as "the time of trouble" for Israel
- Revelation 11:2 describes it as the period that the holy city will be tread underfoot by Gentiles
- Revelation 11:3 describes it as a period of ministry for the two witnesses
- Revelation 12:6 and 14 describe it as the period that God preserves Israel's remnant in the wilderness.
- Revelation 13:5 describes it as the duration of the Antichrist's authority to rule, persecute, and blaspheme.

All of these things deal with the last half of Daniel's seventieth week, the Great Tribulation. The angel says, "When the power of the holy people has been shattered, all these things shall be finished."

The believing Jews of Israel will seem completely crushed at the end of the Great Tribulation, but at that time, the Messiah – Jesus Christ, whom they have come to trust in, will return to rescue them.

Conclusion

In verse 8, Daniel's last question is, "How will it all turn out?" Verse 8 says, "Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, "My lord, what *shall be* the end of these *things*?" ([Daniel 12:8 NKJV](#))

Daniel didn't understand it all either, even though he had heard it firsthand! Maybe Daniel asked this question, anxiously because he realized just how terrible the time of trouble would be.

In verse 9, the angel answers Daniel's question and says that God will purify and preserve His people and has set a limit of days to the time of trouble. "And he said, "Go *your way*, Daniel, for the words *are* closed up and sealed till the time of the end. 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.

"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. Blessed *is* he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days. "But you, go *your way* till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days." (Daniel 12:9-13 NKJV)

The command to go your way is not just meant physically. The angel tells Daniel not to spend all his time trying to figure it all out. More details would be revealed later, but Daniel must be content with what God has revealed thus far.

The angel tells Daniel that many would be purified, made white, and refined. This degree of purification was only possible *after* the finished work of Jesus on the cross. But more specifically, we could say that this prediction fits with our times as being the end times when wickedness will abound more than ever.

The good news is that even during the Tribulation, an innumerable multitude will also be saved (Revelation 7:9-10). The angel said, "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." This is an amazingly specific prophecy.

Daniel says that from the time of the abomination of desolation, you can simply start marking off your calendar to the final consummation of all things, 1,290 days later. This is why Jesus pointed to Daniel's prophecy of the abomination of desolation as *the sign* that would mark the time of His return (Matthew 24:15).

Then the angel says, "Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days." Daniel's mind must have been filled with exciting and frightening prophetic thoughts. It might have been easy for those things to become a distraction to him instead of a blessing. So the angel concludes with an important reminder, "Go your way till the end." God had a course He wanted Daniel to complete, and Daniel needed to remain focused on it.

Verse 13 reveals that:

- Every person has their own way to go.
- Every person has an end.
- There is a rest provided for the people of God
- There is an inheritance for the people of God

At the end of John's gospel, Jesus revealed to Peter that his destiny was to die as a martyr for Jesus. Peter wanted to know about John's destiny, so he asked Jesus, "What about John?" Essentially, Jesus replied, "It's none of your business. *You follow Me.*" (John 21:22) In the same way, Daniel was not to spend all his time and energy speculating and worrying about things he couldn't know. Instead, he should simply obey the word to go your way till the end - something we must all do.