

Daniel

Chapter Twelve

Daniel 12:1-4

“Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. And those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. But as for you Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.”

- At that time—time just described in 11:36-45—the time of antichrists’ terror (phrase is used repeatedly)—time that will herald advent of Messianic era
- God has assigned a powerful angel to watch over His people—designation of ‘Great Prince’—may indicate highest in rank of all the angels (in Jude he is called an archangel)
- Rev 12:7-9—gives divine interpretation of this conflict
- This warfare between Michael/satan takes place during 3 ½ years of Great Tribulation (Rev 12:7,11-12, 12:6,14)
- A time, times, half a time—Rev 12:14, Daniel 12:7
- Special aid from Michael as Israel experiences ‘time of distress’—greater than any other since nation began (Matt 24:21)
- Immediately after time of distress—Son of Man—coming in the clouds
- Zech 13:8—only 1/3 of Israel will survive
- Jewish remnant—those who trust in the Lord—will be delivered from oppression of antichrist
- Joel 2:32
- Call from God to receive Jesus as Messiah—Zech 12:10, Rom 11:25-27
- Book of Life—Ex 32:33, Ps 69:28, Mal 3:16, Luke 10:20, Rev 3:5, 20:12
- Vs 2—promise of the resurrection
- Sleep—indicates death is not permanent
- Resurrection of the righteous—to reward—wicked—to punishment (Matt 7:13-14, Is 66:24, Job 19:26, Ps 17:15, Is 26:19)—fate of both groups is everlasting

- Vs 3—speaks of nature of believers—vision ends with this verse
- Vs 4—command to close up the words—seal the scroll—to preserve—not to hide or keep secret
- In ancient times—a sealed text was not to be tampered with or changed
- Another picture in scripture of this same process: Jeremiah 32:9-12
- Daniel is told to preserve the words of the scroll—not just the final vision—but the entire book—for those who would live at ‘end of age’ when message will be needed
- Will go here and there—indicates an intense searching—purpose of searching: to increase knowledge
- At the time of the prophecies draws near—God will grant understanding of these words

Daniel 12:5-7

Then I, Daniel, looked and behold, two others were standing, one on this bank of the river, and the other on that bank of the river. And one said to the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long will it be until the end of these wonders?” And I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these events will be completed.

- Prophecy is rapidly moving to a close—conclusion to entire book
- Two angels on opposite sides of Tigris suddenly appear
- Man clothed with linen—Christ
- Knowledge requested of man in linen—indicates He is superior to angel
- Man clothed in linen responds to angels’ question
- Time=3 ½ years
- Holy people--Israel

Daniel 12:8-11

As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, “My lord, what will be the outcome of these events?” And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time. Many will be purged, purified and refined; but the wicked will act wickedly, and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand. And from the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished, and the abomination of

desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days! But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age.”

- When Daniel asks a final question—told: Go your way
- As the end approaches—Book of Daniel will be unlocked—understood by God’s intended audience
- Many will be purified/made spotless/refined=during tribulation period of the last days
- Time of distress will begin when antichrist abolishes worship and sets up abomination of desolation
- It has already been revealed that tribulation will last 3 ½ years—1290 is specific number of days
- Those who endure additional 45 days will experience great joy
- Vs 13—this is the last of the prophecies to Daniel—He is now a very old man

Daniel Chapter Twelve-----Workbook

Project:

Set a spiritual goal. Make a plan to implement. Take three steps this week to move toward this goal.

Harmonize:

Read Hebrews 1:13-2:8

Dig:

- 1) What warning do you see in 12:1?

- 2) What promise do you see in 12:1?

- 3) Who will experience resurrection?

- 4) What is Daniel instructed to do with the content he has received through dreams, visions, interpretations?

- 5) What is the work of angels that you have seen in the Book of Daniel?

- 6) What time periods are alluded to in this chapter?

- 7) What is the abomination of desolation?

- 8) Why is it significant to recognize the abomination of desolation?

9) What marks a turning point in this chapter?

Discuss:

- 1) How has the Lord prepared you in the past for a season of suffering?
- 2) Those with 'insight' will experience reward. How is spiritual 'insight' obtained?
- 3) How have you gained endurance/perseverance this year?

Point of Prayer

Pray for Israel to come to know their Messiah.

Integrate:

What other scriptures come to mind as you read this chapter?

Application:

- 1) Do you have any patterns of behavior you have adopted to cope with suffering?

- 2) What has the Lord done in your life to prepare you for the current season your family is facing?

- 3) Have you ever been aware of angelic help?

- 4) What songs have touched your heart during times of trial?

- 5) How has the obedience of another been a source of encouragement to you?