

Lecture #15

Daniel 12:1-13

Daniel 12:1-3

When Daniel was about to come to the finale of his visions, there were many things he wondered about. As Daniel was contemplating all of this, he was obviously wondering if any Israelite would survive. What would happen to the nation Israel? Did Israel have a future? Would she ever have the things she was supposed to have? Would this terrible, final beast end up annihilating the entire nation?

IT IS REVEALED TO DANIEL AND TO US THAT ISRAEL WILL SURVIVE THE ANTICHRIST AND TRIBULATION AND ONE DAY SHINE AS THE NATION OF GOD.

The nation will never be destroyed. What is going to happen in the future concerning Israel is not an unknown. She will make it. She will survive the assault of the Antichrist. She will one day be seen as the nation of God.

Daniel 12:1 – Israel will be delivered.

Verse 1 begins “at that time,” specifically the time when the Antichrist is on his rampage against Israel, when he has pitched his tents in the Promised Land (Daniel 11:45). Moses referred to this moment as a terrible time of distress for Israel in latter days (Deuteronomy 4:30). Jeremiah called it the time of Jacob’s distress and specifically says there has been no day like it (Jeremiah 30:7). This is the time when the threat of annihilation for Israel will be very real. World powers are against her.

Jesus said if those days were not time regulated—there would be no flesh from Israel who would be saved (Matthew 24:21-22). It was Jesus who said when Israel sees these things, get out of there as soon as you can (Matthew 24:15-20), don’t even take the time to get things out of your house. Zechariah predicts that two-thirds of Israel will be killed during the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation in the land of Israel (Zechariah 13:8). Isaiah predicts “few men are left” (Isaiah 24:1-6). Clearly these will be perilous times for Daniel’s people. Notice carefully that two times in this verse the emphasis to Daniel is on “your people.” This text is specifically connected to the terrible ordeal that will hit Israel.

What Daniel learns here is that there is a high ranking angel who is specifically connected to Israel, whose name is Michael. It is his job to monitor all things that pertain to the nation Israel and to see to it that she is defended (Daniel 10:21). He will see to it that one-third will survive (Zechariah 13:9). Michael and his angels will go to war against Satan and his angels and the outcome will be Satan and his angels will be confined to this earth (Revelation 12:7-9). He will go on a rampage against Israel (Revelation 12:13), but Michael will see to it that Israel is protected for 3 ½ years (Revelation 12:13-17).

The name Michael means “who is like God.” According to Jude 9, Michael is an archangel, which literally means he is a chief ruling angel. Many believe that since the Rapture of the Church ends the Church Age and once again begins a national time for Israel, that it will be Michael, the archangel, who will announce the Rapture. Paul does say it is announced by an archangel (I Thessalonians 4:16).

Regardless, when the Antichrist is focused on the land of Israel, so will be Michael. He is the one who will make certain that Israel will survive. However, just because one is Jewish does not mean he will automatically be protected by Michael to go into the Kingdom. In fact, Ezekiel makes it clear that there are Jewish rebels who will not enter the Kingdom (Ezekiel 20:33-38). The criterion for Israel as a nation or an individual, which is needed to enter the Kingdom is to be in the book of life. The book referred to here is the book of life of those Jewish believers (Exodus 32:32-33, Psalm 69:28; Revelation 13:8; 17:8; 20:15; 21:27). Regardless of whether one is Jew or Gentile, the only way into God's eternity is to have your name in this book. Notice it is a book with your name, not your works. The fact is many Jews have rejected Jesus Christ. In order to get into the "Lamb's book of life" they must believe on Jesus Christ and this will certainly be true during the Tribulation.

It is brought out in this verse that this will be an unprecedented time of distress for Israel (Matthew 24:21). Satan is trying to rid the world of the Jew in order to prevent Christ from having a Kingdom to come back to. But the nation will be saved. This is the time Paul alluded to when he said that "all Israel would be saved" (Romans 11:26). It will be Michael who will play a key role in all of this. Those Jews who are found written in the book of life will be rescued.

Daniel 12:2 – Israel will be resurrected.

Now the question arises, if only a remnant of Israel will be delivered to enter the Kingdom, what about those who were believers who were killed during the Tribulation and what about those O.T. believers who died before these things ever happened? What about Daniel, Joseph, Abraham, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and a host of others who believed in the coming Messiah? God gives Daniel some comforting news here that at the end of the Tribulation there will be a resurrection of many, not all, to everlasting life. Since a resurrection is promised eventually to all people, this "many" tells us that there is more than one resurrection, because eventually all will be raised, both believer and unbeliever. Actually there are three resurrections yet to occur:

- 1) The "in Christ" resurrection for N.T. believers which will end the Church Age at the Rapture (I Thessalonians 4:16-17).
- 2) The resurrection of Tribulation believers and O.T. believers at the end of the Tribulation (Daniel 12:2).
- 3) The resurrection of all unbelievers at the end of the Millennium to face the Great White Throne Judgment before being sentenced to the eternal Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:11-15).

The resurrection being discussed here is resurrection #2.

Those alive during the Tribulation will hear a direct witness from 144,000 Jewish evangelists (Revelation 7:4-8). Many will believe on Christ and be killed; they will be raised up at the end of the Tribulation to enter the Kingdom.

Furthermore, in the O.T., there were many faithful Jews who anticipated a resurrection day. For example, Abraham believed it when he was about to offer up his son Isaac (Genesis 22:5; Hebrews 11:19). Job believed in a resurrection (Job 19:25-26). Isaiah predicted that there would be a resurrection (Isaiah 26:19). Hosea predicted a deliverance day from the grave (Hosea 13:14). It was even revealed by David that the Holy Son of God would be raised from the dead (Psalm 16:9-10). The resurrection has always been the blessed hope of the believer.

What is described here is the resurrection of O.T. believers and Tribulation martyrs to inherit the 1,000 year millennial Kingdom. This is referred to as the "first resurrection" (Revelation 20:5).

The resurrection of all unbelieving dead is referred to as the “second resurrection” (Revelation 20:12-13). Old Testament saints went to a place called “Abraham’s bosom.” It is a place of comfort for the O.T. believer, which features the very presence of Abraham, Moses and the prophets (Luke 16:22-31). At the end of the Tribulation, all of these O.T. believers will be raised to inherit their Kingdom. It will be a glorious day for Israel as a nation.

Daniel 12:3 – Israel will shine .

During the one thousand year millennium, the righteous will shine. Those who believed wisely and behaved wisely will be rewarded as being a reflection of the glory of God during the millennium.

(Fact #1) - They will be those who had insight.

When God’s Kingdom is finally established, those who gave themselves to this objective (carefully understanding God’s Word), will shine.

(Fact #2) - They will be those who led others to righteousness.

Communicating truth to others and by life and lips pointing them to the righteous ways of God will bring great honor in eternity.

Daniel could be comforted knowing that God did have a future plan for Israel. Even though things will become difficult for her, God will preserve her and eventually bring her into her Promised Land where she will flourish as the nation of God.

PARTING QUESTIONS

1. Is your name written in the book of life?
2. Is your passion one that wants to carefully understand God’s Word?
3. Is your witness one that points others to the righteous ways of God?

Daniel 12:4-13

These prophecies in the book of Daniel are 2,500 years old, yet they have never been more applicable and relevant. It would appear that we are nearing the very events described in the book of Daniel.

GOD WILL BRING TO PASS PRECISELY WHAT HE HAS PREDICTED IN HIS WRITTEN WORD AND THEN HE WILL ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM FOREVER.

Daniel 12:4 – What Daniel was supposed to do with his prophetic writing.

Daniel was told to conceal the words and seal them up until the end of time. Obviously, since the book of Daniel has been in the O.T. for years, this does not mean that the words were not to appear in written form.

What this means is that the events Daniel has been describing will not be fully known until they occur at the end (**v. 9**). Daniel, himself, would not fully grasp the prophetic plan, nor be able to interpret all of these prophecies, because they have been designed for end times.

Now notice the end of **verse 4**—many will go back and forth through this book and increase in knowledge. Many will run through prophecy and try and search things and knowledge will increase. Amos 8:11-12 says that during the Tribulation there will be a great drought concerning God's Word. Dr. John Walvoord said the ability to accurately understand inspired prophecy will require "considerable effort" (p. 292). Amos 8:12 says finding someone who can accurately unravel God's Word will be very rare.

Now it seems to me that as the time of the end draws near, there will be a new interest in biblical prophecy and many will go back and forth through Scripture to discover it. It would also seem to me that God will permit more and more knowledge to increase through rare individuals as the time of the end draws near. Dr. Walvoord said: "... it is not too much to say that a twentieth-century interpreter of Daniel may understand these prophecies with greater clarity and be able to relate them to history in a way that was impossible in the sixth century B.C. ..." (p. 292).

During the Tribulation, many will literally run to the book of Daniel seeking answers to Tribulation questions and knowledge will increase. The books of Daniel and Revelation will become paramount after the Rapture of the Church. People in the Tribulation will literally physically run back and forth trying to find things from these books and knowledge will increase.

Daniel 12:5-7 – What Daniel saw and heard .

Daniel saw two other angels standing on two banks of the river and one of the angels asked the man in linen—how long before all these things happen. Now the river is not named. God is sovereign over what happens on either side of the river. It is possible it is the "Tigris" of Daniel 10:4. We do know two rivers will form the boundaries of the Promised Land—river of Egypt and the Euphrates (Genesis 15:18).

One angel wants to know how long it will be until all of this is accomplished (**v. 6**) and the answer in **verse 7** is very specific—3 ½ years. Time, times and half a time refers to 3 ½ years, 42 months or 1,260 days (Revelation 11:2-3; 12:6, 14). This is the amount of time that the Antichrist will have to "finish shattering the power of the holy people" (**v. 7**). The raising of two hands indicates the solemnity and the veracity of these things.

Daniel 12:8-13 – What Daniel wanted to know .

Daniel wanted to know what would be the outcome of all these events. In fact, in **verse 8** he says plainly that he did not understand the prophecy. These matters pertaining to the movements of the Antichrist in the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation baffled Daniel.

Answer #1 - These things will happen in the future . **12:9**

They are to be sealed up until the end time. In other words, Daniel is being told that this information will not be completely understood until the end time. Daniel is never rebuked for wanting to know everything about God and His Word.

Answer #2 - Many will become righteous because of these things. **12:10a**

Many people will undergo spiritual cleansing through the truth revealed by Daniel and certainly this will be true during the Tribulation. Prophecy will be used of God to bring many into a right relationship with Him. The threat of pending wrath is a great motive for getting right with God.

Answer #3 - Many will continue to act wickedly in spite of the things in Daniel. **12:10b**

Daniel will not change wicked people. Prophecy will not change wicked people. Even though God has laid out what will happen to wicked people, it will not stop them from being wicked.

Answer #4 - Only wise people may understand prophetic things. **12:10c**

If you are beginning to understand this book of Daniel, you are on the part of wisdom. Wicked people want to study prophecy but they do not have a clue as to what is happening. The understanding of biblical prophecy requires a godly spirituality, which is after an intense understanding of the things of God and the indwelling Holy Spirit. Wicked people do not have godliness, they do not have a passion to understand God's Word and they do not have the Holy Spirit.

Answer #5 - The 3 ½ years will end with a 30 day and 45 day interval between the Tribulation and the Millennium. **12:11-12**

In **verse 11**, the emphasis is on 30 more days or 1,290 days which probably includes the judgment of Israel at the end of the Tribulation (Ezekiel 20:33-44). The end result is that Israel will finally be in her land with the blessings of God (Ezekiel 34:22-30).

Verse 12 emphasizes 45 more days (Dan. 7:11-12) beyond the 1,290 total (1,335 days), probably the time it takes to judge the nations ("Judgment of the Nations") before the Millennium actually officially begins (Matthew 25:31-46). One of the key factors at this judgment will be how Gentiles treated Jews during the terrible Tribulation.

Answer #6 - Daniel will die but then be raised up and allotted a great portion in the Millennium. **12:13**

Twice in this chapter God tells Daniel to "go your way" (**v. 9, 13**) not "change your ways." His commitment to precisely understand God's Word and his commitment to prayer did not need any adjustments. Even though God's plan is massive, it is also individual.

Dr. John Walvoord concluded his study on the book of Daniel by saying this: "In the light of world conditions today, which would seem to anticipate the fulfillment of Daniel's time of the end, it is possible to understand Daniel today as never before in history. The hour may not be far distant when faithful saints in the midst of trial in the great Tribulation will turn to these pages of Scripture and find in them the strength and courage to remain true even though it means a martyr's death. For Christians living in the age of grace ... the book of Daniel, as never before, casts a broad light upon contemporary events foreshadowing the consummation which may not be far distant" (p. 297).

Just as Daniel once read the handwriting on the wall, so too we need to read it because the Rapture is very near.

Do you know today that you are in a right relationship with the God who will pour out His wrath?

STUDY QUESTIONS – LECTURE #15

(Daniel 12:1-13)

1. What are three resurrections yet to occur?

In Christ resurrection at the end of the Church Age

Tribulation believers and O.T. believers at the end of the Tribulation

All unbelievers at end of the Millennium to face Great White Throne Judgment

2. What resurrection is being discussed here?

Tribulation believers and O.T. believers at end of Tribulation

3. Explain the 30 and 45 day interval between the Tribulation and Millennium?

30 days of judgment for Israel

45 days of judgment of the nations