

Daniel - Chapter twelve

Daniel finishes his book by giving a picture of the end-time 'great tribulation', the last half of Daniel's 70th week.

V.1. 'And at that time'. Note: This is a follow-up to vs.41-45 of the previous chapter.

- Antichrist will enter the 'glorious land' (Israel) and set up his royal pavilion in the temple of Israel on Mt. Moriah (11:45; II Thes.2:4; Rev.13).

- The angel Michael (Israel's prince) stands up (goes into action) and defeats Satan, casting him and his angels out of the atmospheric heavens to the earth (Rev.12:7-12).

- 'Great Tribulation' (last three and one-half years of the 'Gentile Age'). It will be 'a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time' (Matt.24:21). Note: The word 'nation', here, refers to Israel.

- 'and at that time thy people shall be delivered everyone that shall be found written in the book'. This speaks primarily of the 144,000 Jews (Rev.7 & 14) being 'translated'. They were born-again after the rapture of the Church, sealed by the Holy Spirit, and anointed to preach the everlasting Gospel.

V.2. The Bible speaks of 'two resurrections', but it doesn't give the time element here between the two. Note: In Jn.5:28,29, Jesus speaks of two distinct resurrections.

- We are told in Rev.20:4-6 that there will be a period of 1000 years between the two resurrections; and those who are a part of the 'first' are called 'blessed'. All those a part of the second resurrection will be judged at the Great White Throne, found guilty, and be 'cast into the lake of fire' (Rev.20:15).

Note: The 'first resurrection' began with Jesus (I Cor.15:20,23); and will include the Old Testament saints, the believers that will be caught out at the 'rapture of the Church', as well as those believers raptured during the tribulation. Possibly, the last to be in the first resurrection will be the two witnesses, Enoch and Elijah.

V.3. It's 'wise' for a man to accept Christ as Savior, to forsake the things of the world, to live a holy separated life, and to love the Lord with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength.

- All the wise of the world are saved by grace and following the Lord. Too, they are walking in the light of His Word. Note: To be 'wise' in the sight of God is to enjoy the greatest life a man can have this side of heaven!

- Only 'fools' reject Christ. In fact, the most foolish thing a man can do in this life is to reject the Lord's offer of having sins forgiven (salvation).

- 'and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever'. They will 'shine as the brightness of the firmament', as brightly as the sun's brilliance.

- There's a 'special reward' for those who live as 'shining lights' in a dark world of sin and corruption (of any generation). Too, the 'wise' show their wisdom, not only by how they live but by the effect their lives and testimony has on others. The New English Bible says, 'The wise leaders shall shine like the bright vault of heaven and those who have guided the people in the true path (taught the people the right way) shall be like the stars for ever and ever'. Note: 'Witnessing' and 'giving for the cause of Christ', making it possible for others to hear the truth of God's Word and be saved, is not only a 'command' of our Lord (Matt.28:19,20), but a wonderful privilege.

- King Solomon said, 'he that winneth souls is wise' (Pro.11:30). May God help all who name the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to be 'wise'.

V.4. 'shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end'. Note: The question is raised, why would Daniel be given a prophecy of the end-time and then be told to 'shut up the words' (keep the message a secret) until the time of the end? (It was because the prophecies were not just for his time, but for the time of the end, as well. His words, when revealed, would be an encouragement for those who would be alive in that day.)

- There were many other prophesied events that were to be fulfilled before the 'time of the end'. The following is just a short list of some of those prophecies:

- Jews would return to their homeland after seventy years of captivity in Babylon, and would re-build their temple. (Jer.25:11; DAn.9:2; Ezra 1:1-3)

- 'A virgin would conceive and bear a son' (Isa.7:14).

- The Christ of glory (Messiah) would be made flesh, and dwell among us (Jn.1:14).

- The Messiah (Son of God) would be rejected by His own people (Jn.1:11).

- Jesus Christ would be put to death.

- Yet, He would come forth from the tomb. (Mk.9:31; 10:34)

- He would ascend to His Father in heaven. (Jn.14:1-3; Jn.16:7)

- People of the nation of Israel would be scattered because of persecution (Zech.13:7; Mk.14:27).

- Yet, in the 'last days' they will return to their homeland, and will become a nation with their own king (ruler), once again.

- Note: These are just a 'few' of the prophetic utterances that were to be fulfilled before the words of Daniel (here in chapter 12) were to be revealed.

V.4b. 'Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased'. This speaks not only of an increase in 'travel' and 'knowledge' in the last days, but the increase of the 'speed of travel' and the 'speed of knowledge' being increased. Think about it: In just one century (the 20th), we progressed from the 'horse and buggy' mode of travel to 'bullet trains', 'supersonic planes' and 'space-craft'. Too, we've progressed from the days of memorizing multiplication tables (as youngsters) to using sophisticated hand-held devices that give answers to most anything a person can conceive in his mind to ask. Surely, of no other 'age' in history can it be said that man has attained such speed in travel and such a rapid increase in knowledge.

- Without question, Daniel's prophecy of the last days is being fulfilled at a rapid pace, even today.

- Note: Some two thousand years ago, Jesus said, 'And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh' (Lu.21:28). Amen! Surely, our Lord is soon to return! Stay ready!

Vs.5,6. Daniel receives another divine visitation, this time, of 'two angels', 'the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river'. The river is Hiddekel (Tigris - 10:4,5), one of the rivers that watered the garden of Eden (Gen.2:14).

- 'the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river' is the same 'being' described in 10:4,5 - likely Gabriel. Note: Some have suggested that this is surely Christ. But according to v.7, that can't be. Without

doubt, this is the same 'mighty angel' that was standing upon the sea and seen by the Apostle John, as recorded in Rev.10:5,6.

- One of the angels said to the man clothed in linen, 'How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?'

V.7. While answering, the 'one standing upon the waters' raised both hands toward heaven, and swore 'by him that liveth for ever' (the Lord Jesus Christ). Note: In Rev.1:8, Jesus said, 'I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending'. And, again, in the same chapter (v.18), he said, 'I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for ever more'.

- 'it shall be for a time, times, and an half' (three and one-half years). This period of time is called the 'great tribulation'; the last half of the '70th week of years' revealed to Daniel in chapter 9.

- The question is raised, 'Who is he that shall scatter the power of the holy people' (v.7b)? This speaks of the Antichrist.

- God will allow him to prevail until he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people (the Jews; seed of Abraham).

- God will suffer him to do his worst, and then all these things shall be finished (Matthew Henry).

- 'The strength of God's holy people must be broken utterly; when that is over, all is over and done' (Knox).

- 'Antichrist will not destroy the Jewish nation. He will only scatter them and their power; and then all things will be finished concerning their eternal restoration' (Dake).

V.8. Even after being given the answer to his question of v.6, Daniel still didn't understand. So he asks, once again, 'What shall be the end of these things?' or, 'what comes after this?'

- The answer is given in the final five verses.

Vs.9-12. 'Go thy way, Daniel'. Do that which is needed in the business of the king and in your daily life.

- The 'vision' will not be made known at this time.

- Many will be purified and made white (washed, purged, cleansed, sanctified). Note: In Isa.1:18, the Lord said, 'Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool'.

- Many will be tried. (It will be a trying and troublesome time for those who will live godly and holy lives.)

- The wicked will increase in his wickedness. 'Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse' (II Tim.3:13).

Note: This world will not end in a world-wide revival, but in 'apostasy', in wickedness and violence and hatred and divisions and immorality.

- None of the wicked will understand; but the righteous will. In Rev.22:11, John said, 'He that is filthy, let him be filthy still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still'. Note: Living a 'holy separated life' is always the best policy; whether in Old Testament times, in days of the Apostles, today, during the tribulation, or whenever.

- 'the abomination that maketh desolate'. (The time when Antichrist sets himself up as God in the Jerusalem Temple, and Jews are no longer allowed to offer sacrifices.) Note: We are told in Rev.13:5-7, 'there was given unto him (by Satan) a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations'.

Three specific time periods:

(1) v.7. 'Time, times, and a half time' (three and one-half years; 1260 days) from 'abomination that maketh desolate' until Christ makes His appearance at His second coming.

(2) v.11. 'a thousand two hundred and ninety days' (1290 days). An additional 30 days.

(3) v.12. a 'thousand three hundred and five and thirty days' (1335 days). An additional 45 days.

- The significance of these days is not explained to Daniel. Yet, we know they are the closing out of the tribulation period and the ushering in of the 1000 year reign of Christ upon the earth.

- I suggest the following:

- In Rev.19:11, John said, 'And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True'. This speaks of the Lord's return to earth; this time, with His saints. and the angelic host of heaven.

- Too, according to Rev.1:7, He will not come as 'a thief in the night', but will return slowly, 'and every eye shall see him'.

- Note: I submit two schools of thought.

(1) The 1260 days are from 'abomination that maketh desolate' until Antichrist is defeated at Battle of Armageddon and cast alive into the eternal lake of fire' (Rev.19:20).

(2) There will be a period of time between the Lord's return and the beginning of the Battle of Armageddon. In fact, some believe this will be a thirty day period of 'grace', which the Lord will give the nations between His appearing (return) at the end of the tribulation and the pouring out of His judgment in the Battle of Armageddon. **Example:** In the days of Noah, which typified the second coming of Christ, God granted the unrepentant 120 years. Afterwards, Noah went into the Ark; but the judgment of the Flood didn't fall until seven days later. During these seven days, the Ark was still open to any who might wish to repent and find refuge in the grace of God. Remember: God never sends judgment without giving fair warning, without an opportunity to accept His grace. Too, many believe that during the thirty day period mentioned here, the Lord will be visible to the nations of the earth that are gathered against Him. And at the end of the thirty days, He will go forth from Jerusalem to destroy His enemies.

- Afterwards, according to Dan.12:12, the Battle of Armageddon will require an additional 45 days, not for the battle to be fought and won (which I believe will take place in one day), but for the cleansing of Jerusalem and the land of Israel of all the defilement from the rebellious nations.

- At that time, the millennial kingdom will be established and the 'judgment of the nations' will take place, with only those nations that have befriended Israel allowed to enter the 'joys of the Lord' in His kingdom.

Again, some things outlined in Scripture that must take place:

- Jesus to return (slowly) from heaven, and 'every eye shall see him'.

- All the saints of heaven will be with him.

- The gathering of Israel by the angels (Matt.24:31).

- Great earthquake; and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof (Zech.14:1-5).

- Battle of Armageddon (Zech.14; Rev.19:11-21).

- Antichrist and False Prophet cast alive into the lake of fire (Rev.19:20).

- Satan bound, and cast into the bottomless pit (Rev.20:1-3).
- Burial of the dead begins.
- Gathering of nations to judgment (Matt.25:31-46).
- Cleansing of Jerusalem and land of Israel, and beginning of the rebuilding for the eternal kingdom.
- The gathering of all who worshipped Antichrist (having received the 'mark') are cast into hell (Rev.14:9-11).
- Erection of the Millennial Temple (Zech.6:12,13).
- Assigning saints as 'new rulers' to take over every inhabited part of the earth (I Cor.6:2; Rev.5:10; 22:4,5).
- Establish government offices in every part of earth, and publish new laws of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth (Isa.2:2-4).
- Division of the Promised Land, and the settlement of the 12 tribes of Israel into their promised portions.
- Note: This is in no way a complete list of what will take place upon Christ' return to earth, but gives a picture of some of what will transpire at that time.

V.13. Daniel is assured a part in these events after his resurrection. He has a promise of being there, and, of his taking part. And by the grace of God, I intend to be there with him. How about you?