

Daniel 12:1-13

“Rescue For Some; Resurrection For All”

Let's not forget that Daniel Ch's 10-12 all link together. They compose a single (& final) vision that Daniel received, detailing prophetically what would become the history of Israel from Daniel's day, all the way up to the time of the end & the return of J.C. to rule & reign upon the earth.

The angel informed him in Ch's 10 & 11 of how his people would be impacted 1st under the Persian empire, then under the Greek empire (highlighting Alexander the Great), going to incredible lengths to detail the events of Alexander's successors leading up to 1 king in particular (the one who would set up an abomination in the temple that would cause great desolation); Antiochus Epiphanes. The angel stopped to focus on *him* because he served as the *foreshadow* of that which will be fulfilled in another ruler in the world (perhaps I should say ruler *of* the world) the A.C.

Ch 11 actually gives us quite a bit of information about this man, concerning both his agenda & his undoing. We learn that he will be the epitome of the self-centered man in that he shall do according to his own will. **He will deny the True & Living God, & have no regard for the Son of God, he will speak blasphemies against God & exalt/magnify himself above anything that is called God. As a matter of fact Paul told the Thessalonians that he will himself sit as God, in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God (2 Thess 2:3-4).**

& Though he rises under a façade of peace, he will rule the world w/a heavy hand through military might, but in the end many nations of the world will come against him & J.C. Himself will destroy him & no one will help him...

So the angel informs Daniel how it's all going to end. It will give hope & understanding to the Jews who will be suffering tremendously in that day. Yet, he wants Daniel to understand that when he speaks of the suffering of Israel, that he can't over emphasize it, it'll be a time of suffering, the likes of which this world has *never* seen nor ever *will* see. So here in Ch 12 he speaks a little more into the context of what's to come (for the nation of Israel) during the time of the end. (Let's look at the 1st portion of the 1st Vs)

Vs 1a

You see? When the angel says, “At that time” he's not saying that this happens on the heels of Ch 11. But rather, w/in the same context of the goings on he's been speaking of (w/in the era of the times of the end). He says, “At that time Michael shall stand up.” The idea being that he will stand in defense of Israel.

Michael, (which means “who is like unto God”) that great prince (whom the bible designates as an archangel) will rise in defense (pointing to great spiritual warfare) on behalf of the nation of Israel... We’ve noted in a previous passage of Daniel that God is a very orderly God, & He has assigned rankings, power & purpose to the angelic hosts. & It would seem evident (as you study scripture) that He has assigned this particular archangel (Michael) over the nation of Israel.

We also see in scripture that he’s the one who deals most prominently w/Satan on God’s behalf... Understand that Satan is *not* the equal opposite to Jesus, he’s not the equal opposite of God the Father. Satan is a created angelic being. There’s no comparison between God & the devil. If you’re to look for the counterpart to Satan (in terms of power), Michael would be more accurate... **It was he who contended w/Satan over the body of Moses (according to Jude). He’s the one previously mentioned in the book of Daniel helping another angel reach Daniel who was in some way being hindered by a demonic entity identified as the prince of the kingdom of Persia. & Here we find that he will once again stand up at the time of the end in order to help, to defend & protect the nation of Israel (ultimately; from Satan’s agenda of total annihilation).**

You say, “How do you know that’s Satan’s agenda?” Because I’ve read my bible ☺. & What Daniel gives us here in summary, John explains in a bit more detail in the book of Rev. & If you’re interested in the happening “behind the scenes”, that is, a look at Satan’s agenda to devour Israel & Michael’s warring w/him, casting him once & for all out of heaven which sends him into a fury & a frenzy upon the earth to seek to destroy Israel, you might jot down & look up later Rev 12.

Once Michael once for all abolishes Satan from heaven, (right now Satan has access to heaven, the bible says that he accuses the brethren day & night before the throne of God [Rev 12:10]) the devil will hit this planet in a rage. We read in there in Rev 12, **“Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”**¹ & You learn there that he becomes enraged w/Israel & focuses his efforts on the total annihilation of the Jews.

Why? Why is he so set on destroying Israel? #1 Because Israel gave us J.C. (the Savior of the world) #2 Israel are God’s chosen people. #3 God promised to use Israel in a great, redemptive way in the world that’s still to come. There are many reasons...

¹ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). [Re 12:12]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

But what it's going to make for is a "time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time."

This is a reference to what you'll hear us talk about as "the Great Tribulation". The reason we call it the Great Tribulation is because *Jesus* referred to this time as the Great Tribulation. He said, "*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.*"² In Jeremiah Ch 30 this period of time is called "the time of Jacob's trouble". You know, Jacob, whom God changed his name to "Israel" & he had 12 sons who became the 12 tribes of Israel...

Not only will the Jews be undergoing the ramifications of the wrath of God in general during this time (the seal judgments, bowl judgments & trumpet judgments detailed for us in the book of Rev) they'll be the recipients of the focused fury & frustration of Satan himself seeking to erase them from the face of the earth...

Listen, when we read the words "such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time" or the words of Jesus, "great tribulation such as has not been *since the beginning of the world* until this time, *no, nor ever shall be*" it should send chills down our spine... Think of the tremendous persecution of the Jewish people throughout world history.

Just to highlight a few historical times of persecution, there was the effort to wipe them out entirely by Haman in the time of Esther, there was the total destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. (not to mention what we reviewed last week under Antiochus Epiphanes). The sad chapter in church history when the church persecuted the Jews during the Dark Ages, the pogroms of Europe, we think of the 20th Century Holocaust under Nazi Germany. We can say w/utmost certainty that Israel is no stranger to times of "trouble".

You understand that it's not uncommon for entire people groups to disappear from the planet due to war & persecution, yes? A people group can become so diminished through the destruction of their race that they simply assimilate into the cultures around them & disappear from the earth... the fact that Israel has survived & *thrived* throughout the ages is a miracle & a testament to God's promises in itself!

But for all they've suffered, I wish I could say that the worst is over for them... But biblically I have to say w/great sorrow & heaviness of heart the worst is yet to come... a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time.

² [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Mt 24:21). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Vs 1b

Despite the terrors of that time, deliverance is assured. God promises that He will preserve Israel from destruction. He made a promise to Ab & He is not a man that He should lie. God told Ab, *"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."*³

There will be a deliverance, a rescue (if you will), yet not for every last person of Jewish heritage, but for every one who is found written in the book. We're speaking here of the book of life. The bible is clear that in the time of the end (after the abomination that causes desolation) Israel (as a whole, not every individual, but as a nation in general) will come to trust in Jesus as their Messiah & be saved.

& There is a remnant (144,000, 12,000 of ea. of the 12 tribes, Rev 7:4) whom God will seal & Divinely deliver & use them throughout this time to evangelize the earth. & It's a great thing to think of God's Divine Deliverance of all who are found written in the book. But more than that it's important to ensure that *your name* is in that book, the book of Life.

One day the disciples were blown away that demons were subject to them in Jesus' name, & they were telling the Lord all about it. & Jesus said, "Look, I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven & it's true that I give you authority over all the power of the enemy..." *"Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."*⁴ There's nothing more important than to believe on the Lord J.C. & have your name written in the Lamb's book of Life.

Vs 2

This is one of the clearest references to the resurrection in the O.T. There are others (Job 19:26; Ps 17:15; Isa 26:19) but this points plainly to the fact that those who are dead (physically) will one day rise again bodily (Paul elaborates on the nature of the resurrection in 1 Cor 15).

Now; you may or may not realize that the bible points to more than one resurrection. There is a resurrection of the just (those who died in faith) & of the unjust (those who died apart from faith). Many also see a 3rd resurrection (which we won't rule out) for the O.T. (& tribulation) saints which takes place just at the establishing of the millennial kingdom of Christ.

³ *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Ge 17:7]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁴ *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Lk 10:20]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

& That's based on 1 Thess 4:16 which states that at the rapture of the church the dead *in Christ* will rise 1st (w/reference to the church) & then us who are alive & remain shall be caught up w/them to meet the Lord in the air. Then after the tribulation we see the resurrection (of which they say Daniel is speaking of here) that involves those who died in faith B.C. & the tribulation saints. It's certainly plausible.

I should also say that nowhere does the bible endorse or speak of "soul sleep". 2 Cor 5:8 is clear that to be absent from the body is to be present w/the Lord. The body sleeps (or dies), your spirit goes immediately into the presence of the Lord. What's in view is the resurrection of the body (again, I'd refer you to 1 Cor 15).

Let me also point out that just because Daniel reference a resurrection of the just & unjust (everlasting life, everlasting contempt) that doesn't in anyway allude to the fact that they happen simultaneously. They do not. Again, the resurrection of the believer happens at the rapture of the church. **The resurrection of the unbeliever doesn't happen until after the millennial reign of Christ just before the White Throne Judgment of God (Rev 20:11-15). The sea, death & hell will at that point all give up their dead to stand before the judgment seat of God.**

So Daniel is being consoled here, there are those who will be rescued (delivered physically) but all will be resurrected eventually. Some (those who died in faith) to everlasting life. Some (who didn't surrender to Christ) to everlasting contempt. Guys, if this truth could grip our hearts as it really should, it would profoundly change the way we lead our lives...

There is a resurrection that Jesus called (Jn 5:29) "the resurrection of condemnation". & Here's the kicker it's "everlasting". The terrors of hell will never end. Jesus (in quoting Isaiah) said, **"Their worm *does not die* And the fire *is not quenched*."**⁵ I know that there's a popular doctrine out there that teaches the annihilation of the soul. **Or that after a span of time in hell, *then* the soul is annihilated. The problem w/that doctrine isn't it simply isn't biblical. We might want it to be, but listen "everlasting" means "everlasting". When you read in Rev 20:10 of the torment that takes place "day & night forever & ever" there is no possible way to state more emphatically the everlasting punishment of the lost...**

⁵ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Mk 9:44). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Why? Why must it be forever? Because the sin dilemma is only settled 1 of 2 ways. Either we receive the payment Jesus made at the cross or we seek to make our own payment apart from Christ, in hell. The problem is that sin demands a *perfect* payment. Sin has to be paid for *perfectly* to make atonement; that's a problem because we are an *imperfect* people. You can never make a perfect payment being an imperfect person. That's one of the principles behind O.T. sacrifice, imperfect payments must be continual. & That's why the noblest person on the planet couldn't pay for our sins. We didn't need a good person, we needed a *Perfect Person* to make a *perfect* payment.

& God so *loved* us, He sent His only begotten Son *for* us, who was in all ways tempted as we are, yet w/out sin. Perfect, then He paid the penalty demanded of sin; death. But having no sin, death couldn't hold Him & 3 days later He rose from the grave; paid in full. That's why everlasting life is found *only* in Christ, there is no other way. Jesus is the way, the truth & the life & no one comes to the Father but by Him.

Vs 3

Jesus said that like this, "*Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.*"⁶ I'm gonna tell ya; the "stars" in God's eyes aren't academy award winners. They're not super bowl ring wearers or world title holders. They're those who seek to lead the lost to salvation by grace through faith in Christ. The mom who teaches her children about Jesus, the one who answers the questions in the hearts of their friends, the one who tells his buddies about Jesus... The C.M. teacher praying for the kids in their class. Those who turn many to righteousness. Who have a heart for the lost...

& Notice their glory isn't fleeting (anyone know off the top of their head who won the Academy award for best actor in 1986?) The glory of this world fades; it's fleeting, to invest your life into the things of eternity is to enter into glory that shines forever & ever. People consider it wise to invest for retirement. Spend 40-50 yrs preparing for 30-40 if you're blessed that way. It is wise. But how much more to spend time preparing for *eternity*...

Vs 4

"Daniel, there are things I'm sharing w/you that you simply aren't going to understand, but when the time is at hand they'll get it."

⁶ *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Mt 13:43]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Now; some point to the capability of world travel today; & how quickly knowledge is increasing today (time forbids but it's fascinating to realize the rate at which our total knowledge as humanity is doubling every few yrs now). And certainly there can be *application* there. But contextually what the angel is telling Daniel (the interpretation) is that as the time of the end approached, people would run to & fro (that is their eyes will search back & forth [through & through] for understanding prophetically) & their knowledge of prophecy will increase exponentially. It's the knowledge Daniel is seeking that the angel is referencing.

Vs 5-7

Have you ever asked a question you knew the answer to, but you asked it for the benefit of someone else listening? That's what we have here. Don't forget Daniel was on the bank of the Tigris river when this happened. One angel shouts to another on the other side, "How long shall the fulfillment of these things be?" **How long till the atrocities of the A.C. are accomplished? And another who was either walking *on* the water or perhaps hovering *above* the waters lifted his hands to heaven & swore by Him who lives forever & ever, "it shall be for a time, times & ½ a time" which we've already established twice before is 3 ½ yrs. Being the Babylonian calendar (360 day yrs) 1,260 days.**

We don't know as much as we'd like to about the 1st half of the Great Tribulation, but this time of Jacob's trouble the bible goes into great detail about & it'll last 1,260 days. & When it seems that Israel is all but completely crushed, Christ will return to rescue them. If you want to get a feel for what will be going on in the heart/mind of Jesus at that moment you might just write it down & read it later, Isa 63:1-6.

Vs 8-13

Daniel just didn't understand everything that was being revealed to him (sometimes we don't either). But the angel simply said, "Don't worry about it Daniel, it'll be understood when it needs to be." Interesting how much it's being opened up in recent history...

"Many shall be purified, made white & refined" the result of faith in the finished work of the cross. But the wicked shall do wickedly & the wicked won't understand (the natural man can't discern spiritual matters) however the wise will understand.

Some think they'll just wait to see if all this happens, then they'll turn to Christ... But if you don't love the truth now (before the great tribulation), what makes you think you'll love it *after* the tribulation? It'll be much more difficult then, than it is now. 2 Thess 2:9-12

Ok, we've done the math. 1,260 days until the return of Christ after the abomination that causes desolation is set up in the temple (A.C. claiming to be god).

What's up w/the 30 extra days in Vs 11, & then the *additional* 45 days beyond that in Vs 12? Truthfully? No one knows... It could involve the establishing of the kingdom of Christ on the earth. It could entail His judgment of the nations (Matt 25:31-46) & dividing of the Promised Land between the 12 tribes of Israel... We don't know... But we *will* know, because we'll be there & I can't wait 😊.

The book of Daniel ends w/encouragement. "Go your way", this is going to happen, but you need to be about is laying hold of that for which God has laid hold of you. God has a plan for each of us, & short of the rapture we'll all rest, we'll have our own end, & we'll rise again in the resurrection & receive our rewards. **Stand strong till the end, there is an inheritance that waits you eternal in the heavens where you'll shine as the sun in the kingdom of your Father... Amen? Amen.**

Prayer Points:

God we thank You for the book of Daniel. How You've declared the end from the beginning & given us the promise of Your word. Set our hearts on fire, may we be wise having a heart for the lost; turning many to righteousness. Be glorified in our lives & in this place, thank You for loving us...

I want you to be assured of that today. God loves you, & He's given His Son, the perfect payment for sin, for you. Call upon Him, surrender to Him & be saved today.