

Soul-winning: Analogy – Daniel 12:1-3

I. Introduction:

A. **Daniel 12:1-3** is a prophecy about the upcoming seven-year tribulation.

1. Even though it will affect every man, woman and child on earth, it's primary purpose will be to bring Israel to her knees before God.
2. It will be *"a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time."*
3. In some places it is called *"Jacob's Trouble,"* referring to its purpose in Israel.
4. According to scripture, the Michael of this chapter is an Archangel of God (**Daniel 10** and **Revelation 12**), and he will be directly involved in fighting for Israel and for the glory of God.
 - a. His area of responsibility is always Israel, not New Testament saints or Christ's churches.
 - b. His presence helps to illustrate that the New Testament saints will have been removed from the earth by the time of the fulfilment of these verses.
5. God has a program for Israel which has not been usurped by Christ's churches.
6. It is theological theft and a crime against souls and the glory of God to say that Old Testament references to Israel are actually references to the New Testament saints and churches.

B. However, there are some statements in this scripture which can be made to apply beyond the Tribulation.

1. For example, *"every one that shall be found written in the book of life"* shall be delivered.
 - a. I believe that is a reference to the *"Lamb's Book of Life,"* in which God's elect from all nations and from all time are named.
 - b. The Israelite, David, and pre-Israelite, Abraham are in that Book as well as Paul, Peter & today's saints.
 - c. That reference to *"the book of life"* stretches beyond the time of the Tribulation.
2. And **verse 2**, which speaks about *"resurrection,"* could also be made a general statement.
 - a. It doesn't differentiate between resurrections prior to the tribulation or after it.
 - b. But it does suggest there are different resurrections for the saved and the lost.
 - c. As the Lord Jesus said in **John 5** – *"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."*

C. I believe there will be multitudes of people, hundred of thousands, if not more, saved during the tribulation.

1. Probably the majority will be Israelites, but I will not rule out the salvation multitudes of gentiles as well.
2. Perhaps people who have rejected the gospel today, will be left in their unbelief during the tribulation, but there will be apparently be others.
3. And just as it is today, the Holy Spirit will use a variety of means to bring the elect to Himself.
4. Among them will be His employment of people whom we might call *"soul-winners."*
5. For example, there will be the 144,000 Jewish evangelists, but there may be many others as well.
6. Here they are described as *"wise,"* because they will see through the problems of the day toward what is truly important.
 - a. They are wise in that they will have learned that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
 - b. But in addition to that they will have learned that the most important thing in life is salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. They will see, as we should see, that to share Christ's righteousness with lost people is extremely important. It is wise, kind, caring and loving to share Christ with lost souls.
8. *"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."*

D. For this last lesson in our series, I would like to point to the people of this verse and make an analogy.

1. I readily admit that this verse isn't speaking directly about you and me.
2. It's context is Israel and the Tribulation, but I would like to make an application, using it as **analogy**.
3. In fact the verse itself suggests an **analogy** – *"And they that turn many to righteousness (shall shine) AS the stars for ever and ever."*

- E. Our recent winter storm tells us that we are quickly coming up on a new year.
1. And during the next five or six weeks, there are all kinds of televised awards programs.
 2. I don't watch them, and I can't tell you who sponsors them or what they mean.
 3. But I do know a few names. There Tony Awards, Oscars, and Golden Globe awards.
 4. Then there are several music awards. There is an award show or two for every variety of entertainment.
 5. There are awards for news casts, sports telecasts, sports stars, and there are awards for children' shows.
 6. Don't quote me, but I believe there is one for Soap Operas. They seem to go on for ever.
- F. And in every genre there is a special brand of "star."
1. These "stars" are the people who have made it to the top of their category.
 2. Some have cheated and clawed their way to the top, stabbing a few backs in the process.
 3. Some have gotten to the top by sweat and pain, such as exercise and steroids.
 4. But for every star there are a thousand others who are still waiting on tables, parking cars and trimming grass.
- G. You and I will never become a "star" according to any of the world's definitions. Or at least that is my hope.
1. But there is something else. In another way, we **can** be "stars."
 2. We can be stars in the sight of the saints and even perhaps in the opinion of the Lord Himself.
- H. As I hinted earlier, **verse 2** reminds us that everyone who has ever been born shall one day live again.
1. Some who now sleep in the dust shall awake to shame and everlasting contempt.
 - a. The dead small and great shall stand before God who sits upon the Great White Throne.
 - b. Multitudes will be separated from God's sheep to be cast into the Lake which burns with fire and brimstone.
 - c. They will spend eternity in a hell so hot that there will be no corner in which to escape.
 - d. There won't be a single drop of water to ease their pain.
 2. On the other hand the dead in Christ shall rise to glory.
 - a. They will be invited to inhabit mansions prepared by the Divine Architect.
 - b. They will receive rewards laid aside for them, made of gold and silver, plastered with precious stones.
 - c. Among the many victor's crowns, such as the crowns given to faithful church elders.
 3. And among them all will be those wise souls who shall shine as the brightness of the firmament.
 4. *"They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars for ever and ever."*
 5. You and I can be in that number even though we've never pastored a church or died as a martyr missionary.

II. Who are these shining ones?

- A. They are only described as wise, and they that turn many to righteousness. Can we be more specific?
1. Let's begin with the fact that the Bible says that there is a wisdom which does not descend from above.
 - a. There is plenty of wisdom which is earthly, sensual and devilish.
 - b. **1 Corinthians 3** talks about a wisdom of the world which is foolishness with God.
 - c. **Romans 1:22** speaks about people who profess to be wise, but who are obviously fools, because they live and die without the Saviour.
 2. But the wisdom of **Daniel 12** is obviously entirely different. Who are these people?
- B. Job 28:28** tells us that there is a wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord.
1. *"Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding."*
 2. And **Proverbs 4:7** suggests that this wisdom is the most valuable commodity on earth.
 - a. *"Wisdom is the principle thing; therefore get wisdom; and with all they getting get understanding."*
 - b. But again I say, it is not the wisdom of the world or scientific understanding of natural things.
 3. This wisdom is the principle thing – with all thy getting of wisdom in this world, make sure that you get this wisdom.

- C. The doorway to this wisdom is “*repentance*,” and humble repentance is the foyer of heaven.
1. There must be a correlation between those two.
 2. No one is going to have access to the presence and eternal blessings of God without the wisdom of repentance.
 3. This kind of wisdom is not natural or native to sinners like us – it is a gift of God.
 4. The wise people of **Daniel 12**, are “*gentle, unto all men, apt to teach (and) patient. In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth*” – **II Timothy 2:15**.
 5. The wisdom of our text knows full well the true nature of the human heart.
 - a. It has driven that evangelist to the Saviour and causes him to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b. And it motivates him to share what he knows of the Lord with his neighbors, revealing even more of his wisdom.
 6. A wise man will hear and increase in learning and attend unto good counsels.
 7. “*If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God who giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not*” – **Ja. 1:5**.
- D. Have you ever witnessed an accident where there were serious and semi-serious injuries?
1. Maybe there were some broken bones, a compound fracture and blood running into the street.
 - a. Then along came someone who knew enough, and was composed enough, to take charge.
 - b. Maybe he was a civilian, or he could have been an off-duty EMT or policeman.
 - c. Immediately he began shouting orders to make bandages and he quickly splints a broken bone.
 - d. He throws his coats over a person in shock and orders are issued to call 911.
 2. The experience and wisdom of the stranger quickly shine through and take over the accident scene.
- E. When someone is properly filled with the wisdom of God, and is yielded to the Holy Spirit, he cannot keep that wisdom hidden; he cannot keep his relationship to God quiet.
1. He is a person who is aware of the spiritual condition of others.
 2. He is a person concerned for people’s spiritual welfare, trying to prevent the eternal death of his neighbor.
 3. He who has this wisdom and shares this wisdom will eventually shine as the brightness of the firmament.
- F. We have a wisdom to share with the nations, that may be used of the Holy Spirit to turn their hearts to the Lord.
1. “*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise*” – **Proverbs 11:30**.
 2. This is the duty of everyone who claims God’s wisdom, but it is not always a duty faithfully carried out.
 3. **Jude** says: “*Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference. And others save with fear pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.*”
 4. There is a wisdom which belongs to the spiritual first responder.
- G. We all know that fire-fighting is dangerous business, and requires specialists.
1. But if **we** came on a house fire, and there was someone trapped inside, most of us would do whatever we can to rescue that person.
 2. That is the condition of this world. This world is on fire, and it is intensifying.
 3. We are in that burning house.
 4. It is set on fire of hell, and the people upon this planet are in grave danger.
- H. How do we turn them to righteousness? We begin by telling them the truth.
1. We tell them that all their righteousnesses are as filthy rags.
 - a. We tell them that except their righteousness exceeds the rightness of the religious, they shall burn in Hell.
 - b. We tell them that Christ is their only hope for righteousness.
 2. They that be wise use their lips to turn many to righteousness.
 3. And they use their every day lives to illustrate their testimony.
 4. And they do all that they can to bring others into a meeting with the Saviour.

III. These people shall be rewarded, they shall shine as the brightness of the firmament and as stars.

- A. There are hundreds of sports figures across this country who are considered “stars” by their fans.
1. For example, Denver, Colorado has had two very special football players, who have been stars in their sport.
 2. They’ve been revered and almost worshiped by their fans, because they have taken their teams, along with those fans, to victories in several championship games.
 3. But physically speaking, both of them are rather homely, if not actually funny looking.
 4. And yet they are stars in the heavens to Colorado football fans, because physical appearance isn’t important.
- B. **To whom** will the wise soul-winner be as a star?
1. My mind wants to say that it won’t be in the eyes of the Lord.
 - a. Because no soul-winner has ever saved a soul.
 - b. There is only one Saviour, and God the Father will permit no human being to usurp the glory of Christ.
 2. And as far as the Lord is concerned soul-winning should be common among the saints.
 3. There should be as many spiritual stars in God’s heaven as there are stars in the night sky.
 4. And probably, along with the Lord, God’s angels will not look upon the soul-winner as a “star.”
- C. To whom will the soul-winner be like as a star? To those individuals they have pointed to the Saviour.
1. When sinners come to understand the depths in which they wallowed before their salvation...
 - a. When they finally realize what the holiness of God really is...
 - b. When they see what a miracle was necessary for that holy God to save their wretched souls, they will be so filled with love and gratitude to God that they’ll be filled with His praise for ever and ever.
 2. But it appears that the Lord will grant the soul-winner just a little bit of recognition, at least in the heart of the man who led him to Christ.
 3. That soul-winner will be like a tiny twinkling of a star in the midst of a million others.
 4. But then when the true Light appears, those stars will hide their tiny faces.
- D. Stars shine brilliantly – locally.
1. Most of them shine more brightly than our own sun, if they were put side by side.
 2. Why can’t we see those stars more clearly or more often?
 - a. Is it because we are too much occupied with things of the earth?
 - b. Oh, how we get our priorities all confused.
 3. We set aside a day to honor Mothers and Fathers, and the founding of the nation, and so on.
 - a. There is a Grandparent day every year, and a Bosses day, etc and etc.
 - b. And, of course, most people celebrate their own birthdays.
 4. But if people die without Christ, there will be an eternity when they curse the day that they were born.
 5. If you leave this life without the Saviour, you may curse your parents for bringing you into the world.
 6. But of course, that you died without Christ will be on your shoulders alone.
- E. On the other hand, if the Lord sends someone into your life with the message of God’s love and sacrifice...
1. If you are born again by the grace of God, you will have a connection with that person which will last throughout eternity.
 2. That soul-winner will have become more important than your earthly father and mother.
 3. No, that person didn’t save you, and the honor you give him will not be the same as what you give to the Saviour, but perhaps God will permit you to remember him for ever.
- F. And I say “for ever.” Notice that these wise ones will **shine eternally**.
1. *“They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars for ever and ever.”*
 2. They will be more like stars than like comets which come and go.
 3. Some professional soul-winners are like shooting stars, but the ones true to the Lord will shine for ever.
 4. They will appear with Him in glory and shine brightly there for eternity.

- G. People on earth, today, may ignore them and even hate them.
1. Football fans in Cleveland may hate the name of John Elway, and say he's the ugliest man on the planet.
 2. And the world today may hate the missionary or the evangelist.
 3. But the Lord loves those that turn many to righteousness.
 4. By His grace they shall shine.
- H. How shall the wise shine? Each one shall shine uniquely.
1. Every star in our sky shines in a different quadrant, with a different brightness and different color.
 2. It will also be so with the glorification of each of the children of God.
 3. The indolent and selfish Christian will not lose his eternal home, but it will not be with the same glory.
 4. Some saints are more genuine servants of God than other saints, and Christ will honor them as such.
 5. The tightwad and spiritual miser will be saved if he is trusting Christ, but he shall be saved yet so as by fire.
 6. While they that turn many more to righteous shall shine more brightly than any celestial star.
- I. You may sincerely mean from the bottom of your heart that you would be pleased to enter Heaven as nothing but a spiritual pauper.
1. You may say that you deserve nothing, and you are happy just to be saved by God's grace.
 2. But I believe that the Lord is not satisfied with that.
 3. He wants us to be stars in His eternal constellation.
 4. He wants to give His children crowns of gold, silver and precious stones.
 5. That means we must follow His leadership, grasping His power and obeying Him as we let our little light shine.
 6. It is our God-given responsibility to shine our light upon the face of the Redeemer in an effort to turn other sinners, like ourselves, to the Saviour.
- J. Wouldn't you like to shine as a star in God's heaven?
1. Who have you pointed to Christ lately?