

## Bible Study – Daniel

### Week 15 – Chapter 12

#### I. Daniel 12:1-3

<sup>1</sup>“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. <sup>2</sup>“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. <sup>3</sup>“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.

- A. Verses 1-3 are a continuation of prophecy Daniel was receiving in chapter 11. The final verses of chapter 11 described Antichrist’s military and political career. Chapter 12 picks up describing the oppression of Israel.
- B. Angels are described as being “princes”. Michael here is described as “the great prince”, giving credence to the fact that he is very powerful. In Jude 9, he is called “the archangel”. There are many different types of angels.
- C. “distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time” – This describes the Great Tribulation – Zechariah 13:7-9
- D. Matthew 24: 29-31
- E. “the book” – Refers to the book of life – Revelation 3:5
- F. Sleep is an expression for Death, NOT “soul sleep”
- G. Soul sleep is a doctrine believed by Jehovah’s Witnesses and Seventh-day Adventists. This is the belief that when a person dies, a person ceases to exist. At the time of the Resurrection, their soul is remade and the individual is recreated.
- H. This view is refuted by 2 Corinthians 5:8 among others
- I. At the Resurrection, believers and unbelievers will receive their glorified, eternal bodies. Some will spend eternity with the Lord, and others will spend eternity in Hell.
- J. Resurrected Saints will receive great honor and reward. Saints receive their crowns only to throw them at the feet of Jesus whom we submit to as Lord. – Revelation 4:10-11

#### II. Daniel 12:4-7

<sup>4</sup>“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.” <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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?” <sup>7</sup>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.

- A. According to Custom, a seal was placed on a document in order to preserve it. Jeremiah 32:9-12 gives an example of this. Two documents were created in the event of a purchase. One document was sealed by both parties to preserve it, and the other document was an exact copy that could be examined.
- B. The instruction here could have been for Daniel to preserve the words of the vision for the people in the end times as they will be the ones that will need it.
- C. “Knowledge will increase” – Not necessarily scientific knowledge, this could mean that the people in the end times will have a great desire to understand the Scriptures and Prophecy, so in studying the Word of God, their knowledge of events will be greatly increased.
- D. Christ is the one dressed in Linen – the fact that the angels were asking Him for knowledge further suggests that He was superior to them.
- E. Raising both hands to Heaven and swearing an Oath before God gives the greatest possible assurance that these events will take place.
- F. The Great Tribulation will be 3 ½ years
- G. The purpose of it will be to “finish shattering the power of the holy people”
- H. The Holy People speaks of Israel
- I. The intention here is that Israel will be defeated by their enemies and all of their resistance to God and the Messiah will be destroyed as well

### III. Daniel 12:8-13

<sup>8</sup>As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, “My lord, what *will be* the outcome of these *events*?” <sup>9</sup>He said, “Go *your way*, Daniel, for *these* words are concealed and sealed up until the end time. <sup>10</sup>“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. <sup>11</sup>“From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there will be* 1,290 days. <sup>12</sup>“How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days! <sup>13</sup>“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.” <sup>1</sup>

- A. Daniel didn’t understand what all was happening in the vision, so he inquired.
- B. The Angel doesn’t rebuke him here, but rather tells him to go live his life and not to be concerned about these things.
- C. Verse 10 could be referring to people throughout time, but given its context, it is probably mainly focused on the Great Tribulation

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<sup>1</sup> *New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update* (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995), Da 12:1–13.



- D. The Abomination of Desolation occurred when Antiochus IV set up the statue of Zeus in the Temple. The Antichrist will do something similar in the new Temple. As soon as this happens, the Great Tribulation begins – Matthew 24:15-22
- E. The Jewish calendar has each month as 30 days. Three and a half years would be 1260 days. Verse 11 indicates there will be 1290 days. This discrepancy is hard to be dogmatic on, but it could be one of two ideas:
  - a. The “Time, Times, and Half a Time” could be a rounded figure. The 1290 days could be an exact number of days where as the previous time frame was more general.
  - b. The additional 30 days could be a period of Judgment for the nations of the world.
- F. It is also to be dogmatic about the 1335 days, but the additional 45 days on top of the 1290 could be a transition period that precedes the implementation of the Millennial Kingdom.
- G. The Angel then tells Daniel to rest and rise again. The vision he was given was not for him but for the future which Daniel was not going to be present for.

#### **IV. Important Lessons from the Book of Daniel**

- A. God is omnipotent
  - a. Trust in the Lord with all your heart – Proverbs 3:5, Mark 12:30
  - b. Follow the rules of the government unless they conflict with a commandment of God
  - c. God will provide for those who trust in Him
- B. God is omniscient.
  - a. God knows the future, and gave us proof of that in Daniel.
  - b. The plan has already been written. We who believe should look forward to these events with anticipation as the coming of the Lord is imminent.
- C. God is omnipresent
  - a. When you pray, He hears you immediately
  - b. An answer may be forthcoming, but could be delayed until the proper time