

1. Last week we completed our study of Daniel chapter eleven.
2. When time expired I was in the process of teaching an introduction to Daniel chapter twelve.
3. I want to review some of that learned and then pickup with new material at point five.

Introduction:

1. Daniel chapter twelve is the high point of the book of Daniel and the climax of Daniel's prophecies. It is comparable to Revelation 19, the high point of the last book of the Bible.
2. The chapter division at this point is unfortunate as the narrative of chapter 11 naturally extends through the first three verses of chapter 12. Added to the previous revelation are these important disclosures:
 - 2.1 that the time of the end has a special relationship to "the children of thy people," that is, Israel,
 - 2.2 that Israel will experience at the end of the Tribulation a special deliverance to be realized by regeneration, and
 - 2.3 that the "resurrection" which climaxes the time of the end is the special hope of the Old Testament saints and the saints of the Tribulation.
3. The entire section from Dan 11:36 to 12:3 constitutes a revelation of the major factors of the time of the end:

Dan 11:36 "The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place.

Dan 11:37 He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all.

Dan 11:38 Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his fathers he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts.

Dan 11:39 He will attack the mighties fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him. He will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price.

Dan 11:40 "At the time of the end the king of the South will engage him in battle, and the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood.

Dan 11:41 He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand.

Dan 11:42 He will extend his power over many countries; Egypt will not escape.

Dan 11:43 He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and all the riches of Egypt, with the Libyans and Nubians in submission.

Dan 11:44 But reports from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many.

Dan 11:45 He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain. Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.

Dan 12:1 "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people--everyone whose name is found written in the book--will be delivered.

Dan 12:2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

Dan 12:3 Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

4. These factors may be summarized as:

4.1 a world ruler,

4.2 a world religion,

4.3 a world war,

4.4 a time of great tribulation for Israel,

4.5 a deliverance for the people of God at the end of the tribulation,

4.6 a resurrection and judgment, and

4.7 a reward of the righteous.

5. All of these factors are introduced in this section.

6. Elsewhere in Scripture we find additional related facts:

6.1 that this time of the end begins with the breaking of the covenant by the Antichrist;

Dan 9:27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

6.2 that the "time of the end" will last for 3 1/2 years (Dan 7:25; Rev 13:5);

Dan 7:25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.

Rev 13:5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.

6.3 that the time of the end is the same as the time of Jacob's trouble and the great tribulation (Jer 30:7; Mat 24:21).

Jer 30:7 How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it.

Mat 24:21 For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now-- and never to be equaled again.

7. Many additional details relating to this period are supplied in Revelation chapters 6-19.

8. The fact that the opening section of chapter 12 is obviously eschatologically future, constitutes a major embarrassment to liberals who attempt to find Antiochus Epiphanies in Dan 11:36-45.

9. Chapter 12, which is naturally connected to chapter the preceding section, clearly does not refer to Antiochus Epiphanies but to the consummation of the ages and the resurrection and reward of the saints.

10. Now let's see what we can learn from Dan 12:1.

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Dan 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

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Dan 12:1 "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people - everyone whose name is found written in the book-- will be delivered.

Principles:

1. The opening phrase of chapter 12, "and at that time" makes clear that this passage is talking about the same period of time as the previous context, that is, "the time of the end" (Dan 11:40).

Dan 11:40 "At the time of the end the king of the South will engage him in battle, and the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood.

2. The action here in verse one is not subsequent to the preceding events but coincides with them chronologically.

3. Chapter 11 had dealt primarily with the political and religious aspects of the time of the end. Chapter 12 relates the events to the people of Israel.

3.1 Here is stated in clear terms that this is the time of trouble for the people of Israel, "such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time."

4. To take the expression "the children of thy people" in any other sense than that of Israel is to ignore the uniform meaning of thy people throughout the book of Daniel. The people involved are a nation, that is, the nation Israel.

5. The unprecedented time of trouble here mentioned is a major theme of both the Old and New Testament. As early as Deu 4:30, it was predicted that "in the latter days" the, children of Israel would be "in tribulation."

Deu 4:30 When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to the LORD your God and obey him.

6. Jeremiah had referred to it as "the time of Jacob's trouble," in his lament, "Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it" (Jer 30:7).

Jer 30:7 How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it.

7. Christ described the great tribulation as beginning with "the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet" (Mat 24:15), a reference to the breaking of the covenant and desecration of the temple in Dan 9:27.

Mat 24:15 "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel-- let the reader understand--
Mat 24:16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Mat 24:17 Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house.

Mat 24:18 Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak.

Mat 24:19 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!

Mat 24:20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.

Dan 9:27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

8. Christ's warning to the children of Israel at that time was that they should "flee to the mountains," not taking time to secure clothes or food.

9. Christ graphically described the period in these words, "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

Mat 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Mat 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

10. This description of the time of the end confirms Daniel's revelation that the time of the end will be a period of trouble such as the world has never known, trouble of such character that it would result in the extermination of the human race if it were not cut short by the second coming of Jesus Christ.

11. This is made clear from a further study of Revelation chapters 6-19 where the great catastrophes which overtake the world in the breaking of the seals, the blowing of the trumpets, and the emptying of the vials of divine judgment decimate the world's population.

12. All of these Scriptures agree that there is no precedent like this end time trouble. Even liberal expositors find it impossible to harmonize Daniel 12:1 with the persecutions of Antiochus Epiphanies in the second century B.C.

13. Numerous other allusions in Scripture up to this period indicate that it is indeed a time of supreme trial for Israel.

Zec 13:8 declares of this period, "And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein."

14. Zechariah goes on to picture the refining process until the people of Israel acknowledge the Lord as their God. The next chapter of Zechariah in fact describes the final struggle for Jerusalem and the second advent of Christ Who delivers Israel.

15. This time of trouble is parallel to the warfare described in Dan 11:40-45. In their distress, the children of Israel are especially aided by Michael, the archangel (Jude 9).

Jud 9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

16. As the head of the holy angels, Michael is given the special responsibility of protecting the children of Israel. Although Calvin preferred the interpretation that Michael was the person of Christ, there is no justification for confusing Michael and Christ.

17. Earlier in Daniel, mention itself was made of Michael (Dan 10:13), where Michael participated in the angelic warfare which had prevented the messenger from reaching Daniel promptly.

Dan 10:13 But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

18. Michael is indeed a "great prince" among the angels whose activity is especially directed to the children of Israel in their time of great trouble.

19. Because of the purpose of God and the ministry of Michael, it is revealed to Daniel that "at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book of life."

20. This obviously refers to the end of the Tribulation, at which time some of the children of Israel, who by the miraculous intervention of God had been preserved; these ones will be delivered from their persecutors (Dan 7:18, 25-27).

Dan 7:17 'The four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth.

Dan 7:18 But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever--yes, forever and ever.'

Dan 7:25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.

Dan 7:26 "'But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever.

Dan 7:27 Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.'

End Lesson Taught 5-11-2003