

1. Last week I completed an exegesis of Dan 12:2 and when time expired I was about to begin the exegesis of Dan 12:3.

2. I want to review some of that learned and then we will resume our study of Dan 12:3 but first let me give you an expanded translation of Dan 12:1-2.

Dan 12:1 During the Tribulation Michael, Israel's guardian angel, will establish himself as the protector of your people. Although Israel will experience great distress, Michael will make certain that all which occurs is in the permissive will of God. The trauma will be without parallel. In that period of great persecution true Israel shall be delivered - in fact all whose names are left in the Book of Life shall rule with Him on earth in the Millennium.

Dan 12:2 Many who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake; some will be raised and live forever in ecstatic happiness and others will be raised for judgment, shame and everlasting contempt.

3. Now let's see what we can learn from verse three.

KJV

Dan 12:3 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.

NIV

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.

Principles:

1. Following the resurrection of the righteous, their faithfulness will be rewarded. It is significant that no mention is made of the punishment of the wicked.

2. Their resurrection will not occur until a thousand years later, according to Revelation chapter 20; the final judgment at the Great White Throne will include the judgment of those who have opposed Christ; it is here unbelievers will be assigned eternally to the lake of fire.

3. Revelation chapter 20 makes clear all saints, whether living or dead, may look forward to a glorious reward at the conclusion of the Great Tribulation when Christ returns.

4. From Dan 12:2, it is learned that they will receive everlasting life. As Young states, "This is the first occurrence of this expression in the OT. In addition to receiving eternal life itself, those who are among the resurrection to everlasting life will be rewarded by glorification."

5. They are described as "wise" in that they were able to see through the unbelief and wickedness of their generation and put their confidence in the unseen eternal values of their faith in Christ.

Dan 12:3 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.

6. They behaved themselves wisely; that is, they were obedient to God. Because of this, their reward is that they will fulfill the same function of the firmament which "declares the glory of God" (Psa 19:1).

Dan 12:3 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.

Psa 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handiwork.

7. In a natural Hebrew parallelism, they are also described as having turned "many to righteousness." The lot of those who have influenced others to faith will also be to shine as the stars forever.

Dan 12:3 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.

7.1 This part of Dan 12:3 is a prophecy of the reward accruing to the believer for divine good, a product of doctrine in the soul.

8. Carl Keil in his book *Biblical Commentary on the Book of Daniel* has summarized the teaching of this passage in these words:

The salvation of the people, which the end shall bring in, consists accordingly in the consummation of the people of God by the resurrection of the dead and the judgment dividing the pious from the godless, according to which the pious shall be raised to eternal life, and the godless shall be given up to everlasting shame and contempt. But the leaders of the people who, amid the wars and conflicts of this life, have turned many to righteousness shall shine in the imperishable glory of heaven."

9. Before we study verse four, I want to give you an expanded translation of verse three.

Expanded Translation

Dan 12:3 Those throughout the ages who wisely believe on the Lord Jesus Christ to come will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to the Lord will shine like the stars forever.

10. Now let's see what we can learn from Dan 12:4.

KJV

Dan 12:4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

NIV

Dan 12:4 But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.

1. After experiencing the road expense of the revelation beginning as it did with the kings of Persia in c. 539 B.C, extending through the Maccabean period in c. 147 B.C. and perhaps as late as 131, then leaping to the end of the age and the Great Tribulation, and including the resurrections and reward of the righteous--Daniel is now instructed to "shut up the words, and seal the book."

2. In this statement, it is made plain that the revelation, although enlightening and reassuring even to Daniel, was not intended for the Jews of his generation or those who would immediately follow.

3. The prophecies thus were to have primary application to those Jews living in "the time of the end." God in His omniscience knew Israel would not listen until they were in the "frying pan." There would naturally be special secondary application to Gentiles living at the end time but Daniel's message is one to his people, God's people.

4. In fact, the entire revelation, even the portions already fulfilled through Dan 11:1-35, were designed to help those seeking to trust in the Lord in their affliction at the climax of the age.

4.1 This because the Lord knew of Israel's almost total indifference to prophecy; it is as though (pardon the sarcasm) He knew of the prohibition of so many Rabbi's who throughout the Jewish age and extending even today in the church age have prohibited the study of Daniel.

5. It is significant that today, even though some twenty-five hundred years have elapsed, the prophecies of Daniel have never been more relevant to an understanding of history and the impending future events of eschatology.

6. The close of verse 4 with its statement, "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased," is difficult to translate; and commentators have not been in agreement as to its precise meaning.

7. Walvoord writes:

"The familiar interpretation that this phrase is a reference to increased travel in modernity certainly makes sense, as never in the history of the world has there been more travel."

8. In the context the search for knowledge seems to be the main idea and probably has application to history in general. Montgomery interprets it in the light of Amo 8:12.

Amo 8:12 "And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it."

9. John Calvin translated this verse, "Many shall investigate, and knowledge shall increase." Leupold interprets the verse to mean, "Many shall diligently peruse it, and knowledge shall be increased."

10. In the Hebrew the word for knowledge is Hadaat or better Ha Daat, literally, the knowledge, that is an understanding of that which will occur near the end of the ages. Thus the knowledge is a knowledge of eschatology.

11. Some consider the phrase "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" as referring to the eyes of a reader running "to and fro" in reading the Word of God.

11.1 Whether or not physical wandering and travel is involved, the implication would certainly seem to describe a knowledge of end time truths. Until the actual end time Israel will travel all over the world and seek "knowledge" but never coming to a knowledge of the truth.

12. John Walvoord again writes,

"Young agrees with Montgomery in finding the key in Amo 8:12 and states, "The verb appears to describe a vain traveling about in order to discover knowledge." As Young goes on to explain, what the angel is saying to Daniel is that for the immediate future, attempts to understand these prophecies will be in vain, but in the time of the end, when these prophecies will become especially pertinent, additional understanding will be given." It would seem to me Daniel is making clear that a twentieth-century interpreter of Daniel may understand these prophecies with greater clarity and be able to relate them to history in a way that was impossible in the sixth century B.C.

13. Seal it up says the angel until the end time when Israel will finally get interested. Even today Israel in the main hates books on eschatology and especially given their popularity today.

13.1 An official Rabbinic Publication out of Israel scathingly denounced the Jerry Jenkins/Tim LaHaye books. The publication proclaimed "we, Israel want to be ok today, not later when the rapture occurs and we turn to Christ." The article went on to say "the Christian view of a rapture and the tribulation when Israel is made ready by divine discipline for the return of Christ is absolute Anti-Semitism."

14. There is also the intimation that Israel's ceaseless search for knowledge will in the main go unrewarded except and until the rapture.

15. No doubt, Jews living in the time of the end will have far greater understanding of these things than is possible today. This because the rapture will make clear that "something spooky has happened."

16. As will be explained later, believers of the Church Age will find eschatology most interesting; the sealing applies only to Jews, Daniel's people and not to the church.

17. Before we study Dan 12:5-8, I want to give you an expanded translation of Dan 12:4.

Expanded Translation

Dan 12:4 Close up and seal the scroll until the time of the end. From then until now, your people will travel all over seeking knowledge but they will not acquire an understanding of the end time. It is only during the time of the great tribulation that Israel will receive comfort from end time doctrines.

End Lesson Taught 6-1-2003