

## The Book of Daniel: Light for the Darkest Time

Daniel 11:36-12:3

November 3, 2019

Just as Daniel 11:1-35 was a light to the nation of Israel during the 400 turbulent years between the Old and New Testaments, Daniel 11:36-12:3 is a light to those living in the Great Tribulation and the days preceding it.

### 1. The Prophecy of the Final Gentile King, the Antichrist (11:36-45)

#### a. The King of the End Time (36)

- i. He will be an absolute dictator (36)
- ii. He will exalt himself above every God (36)
- iii. He will blaspheme the name of God (36; cf. 7:25)
  1. 2 Thessalonians 2:4-5 "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."
- iv. His reign will be short – "and shall prosper until the indignation shall be accomplished" (36)

#### b. The Final World Religion (37-39)

- i. He will be a godless man, possibly of Jewish decent (37)
  1. He will not regard the God of his fathers.
  2. He will not regard the Messiah – "nor the desire of women"
  3. He will not regard any god – he will abolish all world religions.
- ii. He will make himself a god of warfare to be worshipped by all (37-38).
- iii. He will divide and conquer (39)

#### c. The Final World War (40-43)

- i. The King of the South, likely a coalition of southern nations allied with Egypt will launch a counteroffensive against the antichrist (40).
- ii. The King of the North, likely a coalition of northern nations such as Syria and even Russia, will also attack the antichrist with a great host (40).
- iii. The antichrist will overwhelm them and enter into their countries and overflow and pass through them, maintaining his position of world domination (40).
- iv. The antichrist's victory will be great, but not complete, which is the beginning of the unraveling of his empire (41-43).

#### d. The Final Battles (44-45)

- i. The antichrist then must defend his empire from a coalition of armies from the north and the east (44). The army of the east will number 200 million (Revelation 9:16).
- ii. The antichrist will launch counterattacks that will result in the death of many people (44).
- iii. He will make Jerusalem his headquarters (45).
- iv. He will come to a swift end when Christ returns (45; cf. Revelation 19:17-21).

- e. Application: The antichrist's rule will be the ultimate display of the wickedness of the heart of mankind. He will promise peace, but he will ultimately be powerless to deliver that peace. He will finally be dethroned by the Prince of Peace! The nations of this world would have us to believe that peace comes from government. Don't believe it! Peace only comes through Jesus, the Prince of Peace!

### 2. The Prophecy of Great Tribulation of Israel (12:1)

#### a. Michael the archangel will defend the nation of Israel during the Great Tribulation.

- i. Matthew 24:21-22 "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."
- ii. Zechariah 13:8 "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."

- b. In spite of satanic efforts to exterminate the people of Israel, a godly remnant will be ready to greet their Messiah when He returns.

- i. Zechariah 12:10 “And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.”
  - c. Those believing Jews have their names written in the Book of Life (Ex 32:32, 33; Ps 69:28; Rev. 13:8; 17:8; 20:15; 21:27).
  - d. At the second coming of Christ, not every Israelite is spiritually prepared for His return (Ezekiel 20:33-38).
  - e. Application: Is your name written in the Lamb’s Book of Life? If so, what are you doing to tell others how their names can be written in that all important book?
- 3. The Prophecy of the Resurrection of the Dead (12:2)
  - a. Going all the way back to Abraham, the resurrection is the believer’s hope.
    - i. Abraham believed that God would resurrect his son Isaac (Genesis 22:5; Hebrews 11:19).
    - ii. Job 19:25-26 “For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.”
    - iii. Psalm 16:9-10 “My flesh shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.”
  - b. Old Testament saints and those who are martyred during the Tribulation will be resurrected at Christ’s second Coming. Those who died during the church age are resurrected in the rapture (1 Thessalonians 4).
  - c. The resurrection of the wicked will occur after Christ’s 1,000 year reign (Revelation 20:12-13).
  - d. Application: Are you ready for Christ’s return?
- 4. The Prophecy of the Reward of the Righteous (12:3)
  - a. The wise are those who turn many to righteousness.
    - i. Proverbs 11:30 “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.”
    - ii. 1 Thessalonians 2:19 “For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?”
  - b. Those who turned others to righteousness will be rewarded.
    - i. Their reward is eternal!
    - ii. 1 Thessalonians 2:19 “For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?”
  - c. Application: Just as the righteous Jews will be rewarded for turning people to righteousness through their words and testimonies, you can be rewarded for doing the same. Who are you seeking to turn to righteousness?

Conclusion:

1. Who are you looking to for peace? If you look to government, you will be terribly disappointed. Look to Christ, the Prince of Peace!
2. Is your name written in the Lamb’s Book of Life?
3. Are you sure that you have eternal life? Do you have hope that you will be resurrected?
4. If you could say yes to the questions above, who are you trying to turn to Christ?