

## The Book of Daniel: Preparing for the Final Kingdom

Daniel 12:4-13

November 10, 2019

1. The Book – “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” (12:4).
  - a. The Sealing of the Book: God will preserve these prophecies until they are fulfilled at the end of time (4a).
    - i. Sealing the book implied keeping it safe so that copies could be made from it.
    - ii. The fact that we have the Book of Daniel today is another proof that God preserves His Word!
    - iii. Matthew 5:18 “For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”
    - iv. Matthew 24:35 “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”
    - v. Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.”
  - b. The Understanding of the Book: God will give us more and more understanding of these prophecies as we near the end times.
    - i. As we near the end times, there will be many who search for truth and find it in Bible prophecy.
    - ii. God promises to give us greater and greater understanding of Bible prophecy with the passing of time.
    - iii. Dispensational theology would be a great example of the growth of our understanding of prophecy over the last century.
2. The Great Tribulation (12:5-7)
  - a. The Period of the Great Tribulation:
    - i. The worst part of the Tribulation Jesus calls the “great tribulation” which is the last three and a half years of the seven year tribulation (“time” 1 + “times” 2 + “an half” = 3 ½ years).
    - ii. 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.”
  - b. The Promise of the Great Tribulation: Daniel’s attention is then directed to two heavenly beings, One of Whom is the Lord Jesus Christ (6), Who makes an oath by God Himself to underscore the prophecy.
    - i. God used similar words when He promised Abraham a son, a land, and a nation (cf. Hebrews 12:13).
    - ii. We can have complete confidence that these prophecies will unfold exactly as God has promised.
  - c. The Purpose of the Tribulation: Daniel is told that the purpose of the last 3½ years of the Great Tribulation is to break the self-reliance of the Jews (7).
    - i. It will take the awful persecution of the Antichrist to prepare the Jews to finally lay down their reliance on their own righteousness so that they can accept the righteousness of Christ.
    - ii. Those who reject Him will do so to their own destruction (Matthew 21:33-44).
3. The Final Kingdom (12:8-13)
  - a. The Comfort and Rebuke (8-9):
    - i. The Comfort: God gave Daniel all he needed to know. In a similar way, God has given us all we need as well (2 Peter 1:3-4).
    - ii. The Rebuke: Daniel wanted to know more details than God was willing to reveal. In a similar way, Christians can come up with false doctrines when they try to make predictions that go beyond the Biblical text.
  - b. Cleansing and Condemnation (10)
    - i. Just as trials have always purified the righteous (Job 23:10), the Great Tribulation will refine the many who place their faith in the Savior.
  - c. Commencement of the Kingdom (11-12)
    - i. Christ will return 1260 days after the Antichrist commits the Abomination of Desolation (7:25; 9:27).
    - ii. 1290 Days – The additional 30 days may be the length of time that Christ will take to regather the nation of Israel from around the world, and potentially purify the land (11).

- iii. 1335 Days – It is possible that this additional 45 days is needed to set up all those who will rule with Christ in the Millennial Kingdom.
- d. The Comfort of the Promised Resurrection (13)
  - i. Daniel is told that he will die (“rest”) but will later stand to rule in Christ’s coming kingdom.
  - ii. We believe that Old Testament Saints as well as those martyred during the Tribulation will be raised to life again to rule with Christ in the Millennial Kingdom (12:1-2; Revelation 20:4, 6).
  - iii. One of the most thrilling aspects of Christ’s coming kingdom is that we will rule with Christ!  
2 Timothy 2:2 “If we suffer, we shall also reign with him:”

Conclusion:

1. Are you ready to meet the Savior?
2. Are you seeking to grow in your understanding of the truth?
3. Are you making yourself available to help those who are searching for truth?
4. Are you allowing trials to prepare you for Christ’s coming?