

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL

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A TIME OF TROUBLE

Daniel 12:1

“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.”

Daniel 12:1b

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The last three chapters of the book of Daniel constitute one final vision that the Lord Jesus, himself interprets for the prophet. Chapter 11 speaks of the characteristics of the Antichrist. The last five verses of chapter 11 are about a time that Scripture calls the Tribulation. This is seven years when the Antichrist will be the cruel leader of the nations of the earth. Verse 45 of chapter eleven speaks of his demise in the words, *“He shall come to his end, and none shall help him”*.

Chapter 12 begins with the expression, *“And at that time.”* This time will begin when the Antichrist desecrates the Temple and presents himself as God. *“That time”* refers to the time of the Tribulation discussed in the final verses of chapter 11. It is described in verse one as *“a time of trouble.”* In Jeremiah 30:7 that day is referred to as *“the time of Jacob’s trouble.”* (Jer. 30:7) The prince of Israel, Michael, will stand in battle in the spiritual realm for the people of God. Therefore, they will come through the

Tribulation and they *“shall be delivered.”* Jeremiah also says that the people of God *“shall be saved out of it.”* Daniel tells his reader that the Tribulation will be *“a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time”* (Vs. 1) *“The whole course of Prophetic Scripture moves toward that same revelation that history is consummated in a time of indescribable and unbelievable turmoil and conflict.”* (Criswell. Vol. 4. P. 171) In the New Testament Matthew tells us, *“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.”* (Matt. 24:22-21) *“Though especially Israel’s tribulation, it is a time of divine indignation over all the earth as well; so others will suffer (Isa. 26:20; Dan. 11:36; Rev. 16:10).”* (Wycliffe. P. 798) The Tribulation will begin just after the Lord Jesus returns to receive His bride the Church to himself. We refer to this as the Rapture of the Church. Those who know Him as savior will be caught up to meet him in the air and

will be with Him in Heaven for the next seven years. Anyone who rejects Christ as their Savior will be left behind on earth and will endure the Horrors of the Tribulation. *“Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand”* (Joel 2:1b)

Verse two speaks of the resurrection of the dead at that day. “Since Scripture knows nothing of a special resurrection for the Israelites, the ‘first resurrection’ predicted in Rev. 20:6 will include this company.” (Wycliffe. P. 798) *“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power”* (Rev. 20:6) Daniel warns and encourages with these words. *“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. 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.”* (Vs. 2-3) Death is not the end of existence for the human. Those who have Christ will be raised again to live in glory with the Lord Jesus. Those who reject Christ’s offer of

salvation will also be raised again “to shame and everlasting contempt.” The lost ones will stand before the Lord in Judgment and will be cast into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:15) They will be judged out of the books. *“I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”* (Rev. 20:12) Daniel also refers to those who will *“be found written in the book.”* (Vs. 1b) This refers to the Book of Life (Rev. 21:27) in which are written the names those who have eternal life through the Lord Jesus. They will be raised to life eternal. *“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”* (I Cor. 15:51) These are they who will *“be wise¹ shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.”* (Vs. 3)

Daniel was beside of the river Hiddekel as he received this vision. (Daniel10:4) Now at the conclusion of the experience he sees the Lord Jesus (the man clothed in linen) communicate to two people on the other side of the river. They ask him a question, *“How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?”* (Vs.6) The Lord Jesus answers that these things shall be for “it shall be for a time, times, and an half” (Vs.7) (3 ½ years, 1260 days or 42 months) “That last one-half week of years is an important consideration in prophecy, because in it takes place the chief events of consummation.” (Wycliffe. P. 799) The final half of the 7-year Tribulation is called the Great Tribulation (Matt.24:1; Rev. 7:14) At the midpoint of the Tribulation the Antichrist will desecrate the alter of the temple. Daniel refers to this in verse 11 as *“the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate”* After this event, it will take 1335 days for the drama to come to an end. Scripture is not clear as to why there is added 75 days to the 1260 (3 ½ years) to the last half of the Tribulation. Scofield suggests that the extra time is to accommodate the

final events that are to take place after the consummation. (see Scofield notes on Daniel 12:12)

At the beginning of the vision “a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long.” (Dan. 10:1) We know now that the thing would take thousands of years from Daniel’s time to be fulfilled. Daniel was told to live his life and “rest” in death for he would not see the fulfillment in his life time. Child of God we are living in the times of the end. We have the completed Scriptures and from them we see more clearly the things that are to come to pass as the age comes to an end. We are challenged by the Apostle Peter with the words, *“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.”* (II Peter 3:11) Do we live as though the coming of the Lord is imminent? Do we look for his appearing? Are there things in our lives that would change if we knew He would come today? The fact of the Tribulation is a truth we find in Scripture and

see coming to pass as we observe the events of our world. Let us live today with the thought, maybe today He will come!

Notes
