

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

[Dan 12:1-13 NKJV] 1 "**At that time** Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands [watch] over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of **trouble**, Such as never was since there was a nation, [Even] to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book.

The chapter begins with the words, at that time, What is this in reference to?

This is referring to the time that the end of chapter 11 spoke about – the time of the antichrist – or the time of the seven year tribulation period known as the Great Tribulation – when the Antichrist is going to persecute the Jews and the nation of Israel.

For the last two chapters, Daniel has been given a vision telling him how his people are going to suffer persecution after persecution from king after king – much of the persecution is history to us – and occurred just like God said it would.

However, there is still a greater persecution that awaits the Jews – so the angel provides Daniel how God is going to deliver His people once again.

It is at this time, that Michael – the archangel will step up to protect God's people.

We saw Michael back in chapter 10 when he was involved in the spiritual battle to help the angel who is now delivering this message to Daniel.

Turn with me to Revelation 12 -

[Rev 12:7-10 NKJV] 7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

Question?

This battle **has not yet occurred.**

This is going to occur at the midway point of the tribulation.

It is at this point that Satan doesn't have access to heaven anymore.

This is hard for many to comprehend – that Satan still has access to heaven.

But we must remember that right now, he is still there accusing us before the throne – read Job 1.

So when Satan's access to heaven is taken away, that is when he turns his wrath against the Jews.

Look at verse 13.

[Rev 12:13 NKJV] 13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male [Child].

The woman in chapter 12 – is the nation of Israel.

And as you continue to read chapter 12, you can read it for homework, you find out that God provides protection to the woman as it flees into the wilderness.

It will be during this time, that they will realize that Jesus Christ is the true Messiah.

Where does it say this in the scriptures???

Turn with me to the book of Romans

[Rom 11:25-27 NKJV] 25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will

come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; 27 For this [is] My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

The "blindness" will be removed from Israel when the "fullness of the Gentiles" comes about.

Right now, we are living in the time when God is primarily working through the Gentile church.

I believe there is a "number" in God's mind, and when the church reaches the size of that "number", the Rapture will take place, we'll be taken to heaven, and God's time clock with the nation of Israel will once again begin – starting the seven year tribulation period.

As the Jewish nation begins to turn to Jesus as their Messiah, and the antichrist shows his true colors, they will flee into the wilderness and be "saved".

I had you make a note of the word trouble –

You can write Jeremiah 30:7 – next to the word "trouble" because Jeremiah warns his people that a time will be coming – like no other and he refers to it as Jacob's trouble the same word that is used here in the book of Daniel.

At the end of verse one, it refers to those that will be delivered as being found in the book.

The book refers to the book of life, where the names of those who are saved and belong to God.

If your name is not in the “book”, you will not go to heaven.

(Re 20:15 NKJV) And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

How do we end up in the book of life?

[1Jo 5:11-13 NKJV] 11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may [continue to] believe in the name of the Son of God.

Back to Daniel -

2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame [and] everlasting contempt. 3 Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.

The angel is speaking to Daniel about the concept of resurrection here in verses 2 and 3.

Jesus was the first to rise from the dead with a body that would never die again. He wasn't just a spirit – He had a physical body.

Now, when a person dies, they are separated from their body and their spirit will go to one of two places: to be with Jesus or to hell.

People in both locations will be conscious and alive but without a physical body until...one of the resurrections.

The bible clearly teaches two resurrections, one for the saved and one for the condemned.

Turn with me to Rev 20,

[Rev 20:4-6 NKJV] 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then [I saw] the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received [his] mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This [is] the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy [is] he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

This resurrection will be of all those who have come to trust in Jesus after the Rapture, during the Tribulation, but who ended up dying for their faith.

They will rule the earth with Jesus and with us for a thousand years.

There is still one large group of people who have died and have not yet received new physical bodies. The unbelievers.

[Rev 20:11-13 NKJV] 11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is [the Book] of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

It's at this point that all the unrighteous dead from the beginning of history are given new bodies, and will stand to face the judgment of God.

4 "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

The implications here in verse four in the instructions given to Daniel is that he should secure these words because they were intended for a latter day and people would lack the understanding of the content.

It wasn't going to make sense to people until the time got closer to the prophesy being fulfilled.

5 Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank. 6 And [one] said to the man clothed in linen, who [was] above the waters of the river, "How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders [be]?" 7 Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who [was] above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that [it shall be] for **a time, times, and half [a time]; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these [things] shall be finished.**

Back in Daniel 10, Daniel was on the banks of the Tigris river when he was first introduced to a "man clothed in linen" whose face was shining and whose words were like the voice of a multitude.

I mentioned during the study that this man clothed in linen very much resembled the vision of the Son of Man that John had in Revelation 1 –which speaks of Jesus Christ.

Now this individual is joined by two others, presumably angels. These two new angels are standing on opposite sides of the river bank.

So there are three individuals + Daniel.

So, one of the angel is asking the man dressed in linen - How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders [be]? Meaning “how long from the time of Dan 12:1 – when the antichrist begins to persecute the Jews – how long until the return of Jesus Christ.

And the man in linen responds with, it shall be for a **time, times, and half a time**.

We’ve seen this phrase of words before in the book of Daniel, when it is used to describe this same exact period of time when the antichrist will be running wild:

(Da 7:25 NKJV) He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then *the saints* shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.

This is 3.5 years.

A time (one year)

Times (two years)

Half a time (half year)

The prophecies of Daniel are geared toward using a Babylonian calendar where a year is 360 days and not 365 days.

3 ½ years comes out to 1260 days.

From the time that the antichrist commits the abomination of desolation, declaring himself to be “god” in the temple in Jerusalem, one can start counting on a calendar 1260 days, and Jesus will return and deliver the Jews.

Turn with me to Isaiah 63,

[Isa 63:1-6 NKJV] 1 Who [is] this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This [One who is] glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength?--"I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save." 2 Why [is] Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? 3 "I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one [was] with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes. 4 For the day of vengeance [is] in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come. 5 I looked, but [there was] no one to help, And I wondered That [there was] no one to uphold; Therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; And My own fury, it sustained Me. 6 I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, Made them drunk in My fury, And brought down their strength to the earth."

Here in Isaiah 63, we have Jesus executing judgment as He rescues the Jews.

When Jesus came the first time, it was with grace. When He comes the second time, it will be in judgment.

8 Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, "My lord, what [shall be] the end of these [things]?"

Daniel hears the first question that is asked by the angel but apparently he doesn't seem to be understanding the vision. It starts off with his people being delivered but then in the last verse it spoke about the power of the Holy people being shattered.

9 And he said, "Go [your way], Daniel, for the words [are] closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

Daniel didn't understand the vision but that is ok because the vision was not given to him to understand – it was for the people of the time of the end.

10 "Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.

Here we have the two responses that the people are going to have during the tribulation period.

Many will suffer great persecution and even die because of beliefs during the tribulation period.

While others will continue to live their lives in a wicked manner –

Their hearts are going to be so hardened that the Lord is going to give them over to the lie that they believe in.

(2 Th 2:9–12 NKJV) —9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Some people are under the mistaken idea that they will just wait until after the Rapture happens, and then accept Christ.

The problem with that thinking is this – if you do not love the truth enough now to believe in Jesus before the Tribulation, what makes you think that you will change after the Tribulation starts?

Rejecting the truth now is only making it harder for you to accept the truth later.

Each time you reject the truth, you make your own heart a little harder against the things of God.

11 "And from the time [that] the daily [sacrifice] is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, [there shall be] one thousand two hundred and ninety days.

12 "Blessed [is] he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.

Wait a minute –

I thought the number was 1260 days???

Why di we have verse 11 say 1290 days and verse 12 say 1335

Here's what some solid scholars suggest, since the angels doesn't spell it out here.

All we have are days, not what takes place.

But we do know from other passages that after Christ returns to earth, there are some judgments and events that have to be fulfilled.

First of all – after Jesus returns, all the Jews who have been driven from or have fled from Israel will have to be regathered to their homeland.

Bear in mind that one of the purposes of the Millennial reign of Christ is to fulfill all the promises and covenants that God made with Israel.

So they will be regathered from all the nations of the earth and settled in their land, in peace, finally!

Foretold in Ezekiel 20 and other passages, this will take 30 days to accomplish.

So Jesus comes back 1260 days after the abomination of desolation is set up.

30 days later, once all the Jews have been regathered and settled in their land, then the Nation of Israel will be finally realized AS GOD ALWAYS INTENDED IT TO BE.

But then another 45 days are needed – for what?

For the formal beginning of the Millennium.

What has to happen before the Millennium can begin?

The nations have to be judged – Matt 25 tells us this

Only those nations deemed worthy will be allowed to enter the Millennial Kingdom.

And that's why the angel says,

“Blessed is he who waits, [or “endures”] and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.”

The only ones who will endure and arrive at the 1335th day are those who pass judgment and are allowed to enter the Millennium.

13 "But you, go [your way] till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days."

The angel gives a personal message to Daniel here in verse 13 – in the same way God had demonstrated his faithfulness by delivering His people, He was going to do the same with Daniel.

One day, his life was going to come to an end and he will one day be resurrected and rewarded for his faithfulness.

But God didn't want Daniel spending all his energy and time speculating on things that he didn't understand. Instead, God wanted Daniel to continue to live an obedient life until the end – the same thing that we are all called to do.

Amen.

Let's pray...

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