

## Marching Orders

### Daniel 12:1-3

- Last month we went over what it means to “**Walk with the Lord**” and we came to the conclusion that it is glorious, as we saw that the closer you get to the Lord the more your desires and hopes become like the Lord, for you start to see things from the perspective of faith and not the flesh. This month were going to talk about what it means “**to be used for and by the Lord**”, and what that looks like in our individual lives and how that affects the lives of those around us.
- If you’re familiar with our church you’ve seen the blurb on the program that reads **Win, Disciple, Send**, and after each there’s a description telling you exactly what that means. In short it says “**Win people to Christ, Disciple people in Christ, and Send people out for Christ**” It’s something I saw early on in my Christian walk and I have tried to live my life out according to this saying.

### V1-3

- The Book of Daniel is a fascinating account of what would happen for Israel, the church and the world, in the near future and in the distant future, and wound tightly in the middle of all these prophecies is a charge to the believer to no matter what seek to **win souls**. In this chapter Daniel speaks of a time in which the world has never seen, it’s the worst of the worst as the Antichrist is wreaking havoc upon the earth, and Daniel although he would long be in glory, is given a vision to relay to all the saints current and future of the command God gives to His people.
- **V1a “at that time”** is the time of the end and refers to the tribulation period, this is part of the prophecy that Gabriel the angel is describing to Daniel of when the Antichrist has been revealed and he’s broken the Covenant with Israel and he seizes the temple and sets himself up as god demanding to be worshipped. **V1b** while Gabriel is the messenger angel, Michael is the Arch angel and usually linked with Israel, and he stands up this illustrates how troublesome things are at this point, and he is going to prepare for battle, I want us to look at a couple of things here.
- Michael is one of only two named angels in scripture along with Michael, and he has a specific job and that is to protect Israel and God’s people. This also shows how organized and strategic demonic activity truly is, and in many cases unless the Lord supernaturally intervenes there is absolutely nothing that we can do. In reading this it amazes me how so many believers are under the delusion that they will avoid the pitfalls of war and live a trouble free walk with Christ.
- **V1C** although there will be trouble notice there is still God’s grace and mercy and believers will be delivered who are written in the Book of Ilfe. The word used for “**trouble**” means tightness caused by an enemy, this refers to someone making it so difficult for you that you seemingly don’t have space to move, there giving you no way out, which means you can’t go around it, get over it, or away from it, you simply have to go through it, and that is where the Lord comes in.

- **Math 24:15-22** in describing this time he says don't regard your possessions, pray that it doesn't happen in the winter and woe to those who may be expecting during this time, and if it wasn't for the mercy of God in shortening the time even the very elect would be deceived by the signs and wonders and the hardship of this wicked time. As bad as this is we take comfort in knowing that this won't catch God off guard, in fact it shouldn't surprise us either because the writer says this is why the Lord tells us, there is something else it should do for us also if you let it.
- It should give "**hope**" despite all of the suffering and atrocities against the believer, scripture says if the saints continue to put God first, by keeping His Word, and His values, at the core of their being, no matter what the challenge may be, or the circumstance they face, or the immense pressure their under, they still can walk in the integrity of the Lord, and remain steadfast in Him. We have been reading about Daniel since he was **15**, and during this time he's been enslaved, threatened, falsely accused, thrown in the lion's Den, witnessed the fall of Babylon, so when he's writing this he's still following the Lord at the age of **90**.
- **V2** in the midst of all this horror going on in the Tribulation God is still reviving and evangelizing, in **Rev 20** it mentions **2** resurrections the **1<sup>st</sup>** has to do with shoe who resisted the antichrist and didn't take his mark, and since the church was long gone making preachers scarce the Lord raised up Elijah and Moses, as well as **144,000** Jewish Evangelist to preach the gospel, and if that wasn't enough He also had an angel flying across the skies sharing the truth as well amazing!
- **2<sup>nd</sup>** resurrection has to do with the unregenerate, the unsaved and the white throne judgment where those who rejected the gospel will give an account and the books will be opened and all their works and words and motives will be revealed, so no one will be able to say "**I didn't deserve judgment**". Daniel was shown this at the close of his life and not at the beginning, so thankfully he had lived in such a way that hearing and seeing this didn't alarm him personally.
- Without knowing all this most of what we know about Daniel he had lived as if he knew this already, but he didn't, many if not most believer's do know about much of this prophecy and yet it hasn't motivated us to truly examine ourselves. If you're here and your thinking with all that is going to happen prophetically then how should I respond presently **V3** answers that question.
- **Prov 11:30** says a **wise person invests** not in stocks, bonds or corporations but in **souls**. Prophecy is not merely meant to stimulate curiosity, I know people who say I love prophecy it's so interesting, but does it motivate you into activity or does it merely stimulate curiosity, that's not what its meant to do. Were told to be stars, lights, but not how the world defines a star, which draws attention on themselves for self promotion and glorification, we shine for Jesus. So when we do look up at the constellation that's how the Lord sees you; and it's all based upon what you do for others, using your light to radiate and help others to see and find their way.