

Doing hard things well

Daniel 12:1-3

- The final chapter of the book of Daniel shows us the importance of **invitation**, **exhortation**, and **inspiration**, as we are told of the reward that everyone will receive for sharing their faith, which should motivate us past any reservations we have for being quiet concerning the gospel. Daniel has seen firsthand the future of mankind, and it's filled with war, death, and suffering, now he's charged with writing about it.
- What do you say to those who are going to experience all these atrocities? Run and hide, look out for yourself, go into survival mode, for only the strong will survive. Surprisingly Daniel is going to leave us with a message of hope; that all these horrible things that he has written about and man is going to go through, are going to lead to something magnificent, which is the Return of our Lord and Savior amen!

V1-3

- Historians tell us that since 650 B.C. there have been over one thousand six hundred and fifty arms races between two major empires. We've seen it within the last hundred years between Germany and England, Russian and the U.S, now the U.S. and China, out of all those conflicts all but sixteen have eventually ended in a war between those two empires.
- Of those sixteen that didn't end in war the reason wasn't because they struck a peace deal with each other, it was because the arms race had caused one of the empires to collapse economically, and fall from being the dominant world empire in the world that it once was when it entered into this arms war. What an amazing fact and it doesn't give us much hope for peace in the future does it, but thankfully we have the Word of God to provide us with much needed relief that's on the way.
- **V1** Daniel is still receiving the vision about the future of mankind from the Angel Gabriel at the Euphrates River, and here he is seeing nation upon nation rise up in an attempt to control and conquer one another. It's a time of utter chaos ushered in by the leadership of the antichrist as from **11:36-39**- we see the rise of the antichrist, **11:40-43**- war and invasions because of the antichrist, **11:44-45a**- battle of Armageddon instigated by the antichrist, **11:45b**- return of Christ to defeat antichrist

- “**at that time**” is speaking of the middle of the tribulation period in which Israel is in trouble being attacked mercilessly as the antichrist breaks his covenant with them and seizes the temple and sets himself up as god demanding to be worshipped.
- It’s then that Michael the Arch Angel and protector of Israel and watcher of the nation “**stands up**” and when he does that’s when there’s trouble unlike the world has ever seen. What an amazing statement, Israel seen wars, atrocities, but nothing like this scripture says, that’s the amount of spiritual warfare that is going on
- The Hebrew word for “**trouble**” means a rival that causes tightness, its like someone putting a noose around your neck to hang you with. Think about this Israel has gone into captivity, been ousted from their homeland for centuries, endured the terror of Antiochus Epiphanes, Titus the Roman general, Hitler and the Holocaust, but nothing scripture says can compare with what they’ll endure during the tribulation.
- **Math 24:21** says a little about this time period, and **Rev 12:13-17** tell us what makes this time so terrible. It describes the fury of the Devil directed against the Jewish people, the trumpets, seals and bowls describe the horrific conditions of the world in general during this time. It shows that the world is in an incredible time of upheaval because remember this is from the judgment of God.
- In the midst of this there is hope for deliverance, but not for everyone > V1d only those who are found written in the book, the few who don’t take the mark of the beast, who refuse to worship him just to survive. Daniel saw this in his friends who withstood being thrown into the fiery furnace rather than worship the golden statue. Daniel himself was thrown into the lions den rather than pray to an idol, so he has witnessed what it means and cost to stay faithful to our God.
- **V2** I’m sure hearing the end of **V1** consoled Daniel greatly, but what he hears next had to have given him tremendous joy, for he is told that those who have died, even been killed for the faith shall be resurrected. Death no matter how painful and sorrowful is not the end, for in the midst of all this horror that is going on God is still in the revival and evangelizing business.

- Two resurrections are mentioned one is to everlasting life, while the other is to shame and everlasting contempt or death. **Rev 20:4-5** gives us more in depth information as those who resisted the antichrist and didn't take his mark are rewarded for their faithfulness. **2nd** resurrection happens for unsaved at the great white throne judgment where the books are opened and all their works, words, and motives will be revealed so no one will be able to say "**I didn't deserve judgment**".
- **V3** during this time the Church is long gone so **Eph 4:11** gifts for the equipping of the saints is long gone, but 144,000 Jewish evangelist are raised up and called to duty to preach the gospel **Rev 7**, they appear again in **Rev 14**. That is the far interpretation, but the near is for us the Church > **Prov 11:30**- says a wise person invest in souls, **2 Tim 4:5**-do the work of an evangelist. Prophecy is not meant to merely stimulate curiosity, its meant to motivate us into activity amen!