

The Book of Daniel is a prime example of “history before it happens.” This morning we complete this fascinating and amazing book! A book about the future...glimpses into future events, future people, future judgments and future blessings. It’s why the book is so remarkable. And next week, we’ll be starting our new series in Revelation. More glimpses into the future. I’m really excited about diving back into Revelation.



Interestingly, it’s been since 2009 that we were in Revelation on Sunday mornings. But for this morning we conclude this marvelous book with the conclusion of what we started last week, Part 2 of “The Coming Great Tribulation.”

Daniel 12:4-13

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. ⁵ Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream. **⁶ And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream,**^[b] “How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?” **⁷ And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time,** and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished. **⁸ I heard, but I did not understand.** Then I said, “O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?” **⁹ He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.**¹⁰ Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. **And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand.** ¹¹ And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days. **¹² Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days.** ¹³ **But go your way till the end.** And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days.”

Can I tell you something else that’s so encouraging about prophecy...God giving us history before it happens? It’s because God doesn’t want us to be afraid when things look bad. God tells us about the future because He wants us to be comforted and to always be assured that He’s in 100%, total control. But there’s another reason for prophecy and it’s directed toward the lost. God wants to warn the them like a bright yellow warning sign that says, “ROAD OUT AHEAD! STOP!! DETOUR!!

It’s true...the road is out ahead, and trouble’s coming for those who don’t know Jesus AND it was no different in Daniel’s day for those who didn’t obey and serve God. Yet, God gave Daniel comfort and hope for the future by way of visions that described...yes...tumultuous times for His people...but hope for those who knew God. His visions had been explained by an angel...so what was Daniel to do now? That’s verse 4.

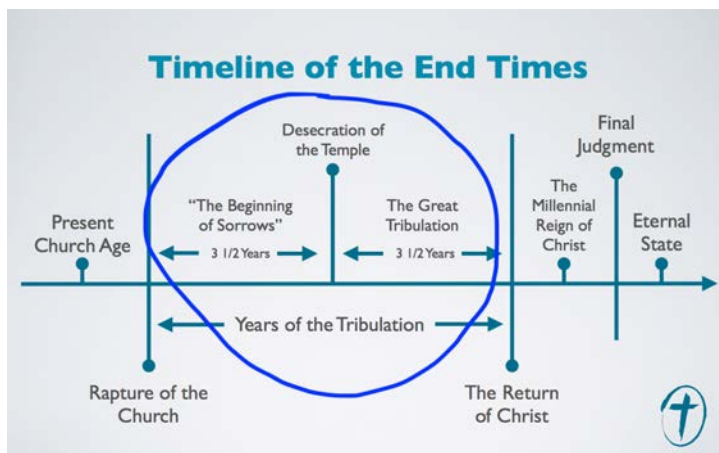
Daniel 12:4

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.”

Church, why do you think Daniel was told to “shut up the words?” What does that mean? I mean...we’re reading them today...so, they’re not shut up...unattainable, right? Right. It’s interesting, the word’s “shut or close up,” in Hebrew, means to “preserve.” Got anything like this in your house?



Canned goods? It’s kind of fallen out of favor through the years... We’re pretty much dependent on the grocery stores to provide our food...but back in the day, people canned and they PRESERVED THEIR FOOD. This is what Daniel was told to do with this prophecy. Preserve it. It will be preserved until the time of the end. What is the time of the end? Well, we’ve seen that’s been identified as Daniel’s 70th week...what we know of as the Tribulation Period...the time of Jacob’s Troubles. See the Blue Circle.



That’s the tribulation period... This prophecy will be pulled off the shelf to be read during the Tribulation. You say, “Pulled off the shelf?” Church family, listen...God’s Word is falling out of favor. In some places, even in America, the Bible is seen as hate-speech because the Ruling Class Elite along with their alphabet agenda, have said as much. Saying Roman chapter 1 is unloving and bigoted.

But you and I need to always remember...the Word of God will never pass away...even though people are trying to bury it today...and I do believe the Bible continues to fall out of favor and it may be that one day it will be illegal to have a copy of it. According to the prophet Amos, there will come a time when there will be “famine of the hearing of the Word of God.”

Amos 8:11-12

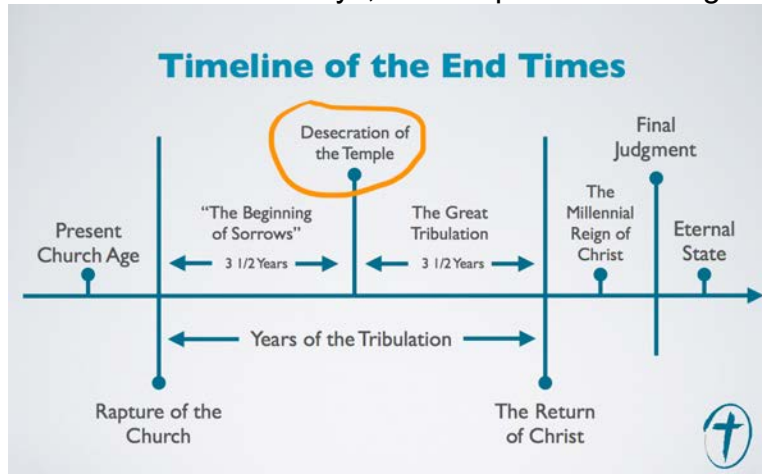
¹¹ “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord God, “when I will send a famine on the land—not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. ¹² They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the Lord, but they shall not find it.

Church, during the Tribulation, people will “run to and fro” recover the Word of God. All the Christians will have disappeared in the Rapture...and people will look for answers. The Word of God...having been safely preserved (pulled off the shelf...never passing away), will seek answers. And they’ll need it during this season of trouble. Trouble. That’s when you really need the canned goods...during an emergency...and there will be one on this earth. The book of Daniel will be food for the soul for those who choose to follow Jesus during the Tribulation and they’ll read the Bible and understand those days they’re living through as clearly as if they were reading the daily headlines...because all of the events they’ll be reading about, will come to pass right before their eyes. The saved will have listened to the preaching of the Gospel by the two witnesses and the 144,000 sealed by God to spread the truth and I believe they’ll use the book of Daniel as part of their testimony. Verse 5.

Daniel 12:5-7

⁵ Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream. ⁶ And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream,^[b] “How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?” ⁷ And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.

Now remember, after the Rapture...the Antichrist will bring peace and calm to the earth by brokering a peace treaty with Israel and for the first 3 ½ years of the 7-year Tribulation. He’ll be their protector and many will follow him...including many Jews who will believe He is the actual Messiah...but, he’s the “false-Christ,” the Antichrist. And he’ll turn on Israel and the world when he sets up that image of himself in the middle of the Tribulation and says, “Worship me.” See it again, the orange circle.



It’s during this season: “Israel’s/Jacob’s Trouble” Israel will be purified through this season...to be made a “HOLY PEOPLE,” as the end of verse 7 says. Now the back half of the Tribulation period...the last 3 ½ years will take place and is often called (by Bible Scholars), “The Great Tribulation.” Verse 8.

Daniel 12:8

⁸ I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, “O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?”

I did not understand...oh, those words bring comfort to me...because truly...that's how I have felt quite a bit trying to study and prepare to teach through this glorious book. I DID NOT UNDERSTAND...well, that's how Daniel felt. And I was reminded of the plight of the prophets that Jesus described while he was here on this earth:

Matthew 13:16-17

¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷ For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

The Apostle Peter said this:

1 Peter 1:10-12

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time^[at] the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

We're so blessed to have the entire Word of God. The OT prophets only had the OT...and not even all of it, for most. Well, the angel responded to Daniel's grief...when he said: "I don't understand."

Daniel 12:9-11

⁹ He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.¹⁰ Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand. ¹¹ And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days.

That phrase, "the wicked shall act wickedly" struck me. I was reminded of Revelation 22...the very last chapter in the Bible... It's interesting what the angel told the Apostle John about his vision...

Revelation 22:10-11

¹⁰ And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. ¹¹ Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy."

In other words, just lock it in...just keep doing what you are doing. Let me ask you...how are you living right now? "Let the filthy be filthy." Is that you? Or are you seeking to obey the Lord...to do righteous? Let the righteous do right...and the holy still be holy! He deserves that! Live it! Lock it in!

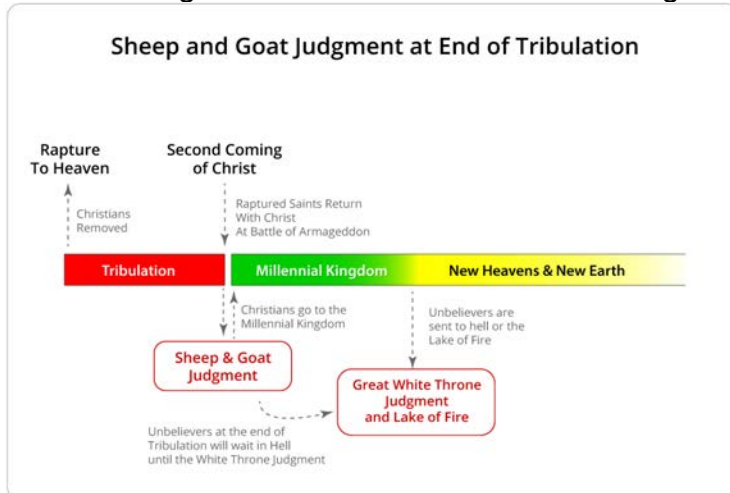
You see for the wicked in the Tribulation...it will be locked in...on their forehead or wrist, as they have taken the mark of the beast...there's no going back then. BTW did you notice...the angel gave a different number to Daniel in vs 11...1290 days. What is that? All we've seen and heard has been 1260 days, which is 3-½ years via the 360-day Hebrew calendar. This is 30 more days. What is that? Well, some scholars say this extra 30 days is for what is called the "Judgment of the Nations," or the "Sheep/Goat Judgment." It's found in the Olivet Discourse found in Matthew 25. Now, not all scholars believe in this particular judgment...a third judgment, if you will. Jesus describes what I believe is a separate judgment for those who have gone through the Tribulation period.

Matthew 25:31-33

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from

another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.

The sheep, Jesus is describing, are those who are saved during the Tribulation period; the goats are the unsaved who survived the tribulation and all the supernatural judgments of God. Scholars say the sheep will go into the Millennium to rule with Jesus and the goats that were killed during the Tribulation because of all the judgments of God poured out on those with the mark of the beast will be eventually raised to life and brought to the Great White Throne Judgment. Look at this chart...



You'll see the Tribulation (Red Bar) and then the Sheep and Goat Judgment (underneath) that judgment is sandwiched between the Tribulation and the Millennial Kingdom (the green bar). There is where the potentially extra 30 days, so say scholars. The goats are then judged with all the "lost" of all ages between the Millennial Kingdom and the New Heavens and New Earth (yellow bar) see the Great White Throne Judgment listed below a the bottom. Now, again, this is all arguable...but I do hold to this idea.

But there's more numbers...more days...

Daniel 12:12

¹² Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days.

1335 days...wait a minute...what is that? That's another 45 days. What is that? Well, church, there's all kinds of suppositions...some say the additional 45 days is for the regathering of the nation of Israel...some say it's that and for the setting up of Christ's government...the government finally being on his shoulders...but, can I be blunt. We can't know for sure...we're simply not told the exact reason. We're just told that those who arrive to the 1335 days are blessed. So, I'm going to go with that.

So, we're now to the last verse of this glorious book...

Daniel 12:13

¹³ But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."

"Go your way." What does that mean?" Simple. Keep living your life, Daniel. Here's a man who's approaching 90 years old and he's told...don't worry about all of this Daniel...just keep living. **That's good advice isn't it. Just keep living...go your way...even when you don't understand it all!**

Daniel didn't understand it all, did he? No! Even at the end of his book...we find that he still didn't understand it all. And we won't either. So, we can take the words of the angel to Daniel and live by them as well... GO YOUR OWN WAY TILL THE END. Keep trusting the Lord and His promises

You might ask, "What end? What does that mean?" A resurrection...

Daniel 12:13b

13 And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days.

Daniel was told he will die...but will stand again...and that's a resurrection. Church, I'm convinced we'll see Daniel during the Millennial Reign of Christ, walking the streets of Jerusalem. He will be back in his homeland...Israel. A place he never got to return to while he was alive...but, he'll be there again one day.

Do you think the thought of that put wind in his sails? Oh, you better believe it. He had been through so much in his life. Hauled off as a teenager to a pagan land...stripped of his heritage, emasculated...name changed...thrown into a lion's den, but refused to give in to the culture. He endured faithfully through it all...he never wavered.

That's good instruction and encouragement for us. So, I'll ask you: "Will you press on in the midst of your difficulties and hard times?" You say, "Pastor Kevin, but I didn't see the visions that Daniel saw...I haven't had angels come visit me. I just don't see it. I'm struggling to see God in all that I'm going through."

I get it. I guess we'll have to be like the father who was awakened in the night by his little boy. Apparently, the small boy was having a nightmare and he was scared to death. He cried out, "Daddy! Daddy!" His father ran into his room. It was pitch dark...the nightlight had burned out. He said, "Daddy, are you here?" He said: "Yes, son, I'm here." "Daddy," he said, "is your face looking at me?" The father answered, "Yes, son." The little boy...suddenly at ease, said, "Okay daddy. I know you're there even though I can't see you. I think I'll go to sleep now. I love you Daddy...night, night."

What changed for the little boy? He trusted his father's voice...his word... He didn't have to see him. And the same is true for you and for me! The face of our Savior sees us! He's looking at you right now and you can rest, because everything is going to be okay...for those who don't, I pray you will come to Jesus.
