

“THE FINAL INHERITANCE”

DANIEL 12:1-13

Theme: God’s faithfulness to His people, Israel, in providing them an inheritance includes the refining experiences of the Great Tribulation.

I. The Pledge through the Tribulation – 12:1-3

A. The Distress of the Tribulation – v. 1a

1. Carrying on from the previous chapter, the angel reveals to Daniel some of the details concerning the period of time when the Antichrist will be in control of the world.
2. *“Now at that time . . .”* makes it sound like chapter 12 follows the judgment of the Antichrist mentioned in the last part of chapter 11.
3. However, it is better to translate it *“Now during that time . . .”* and identify the references in chapter 12 as part of what happens during the Antichrist’s reign.
4. When the Antichrist turns on the Jewish people and begins the intense display of his antagonism against the Jews, *“Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise.”* Ostensibly, the reason is to actively defend the Jewish people.
5. *“And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time”* – an indication that these would be the worst imaginable times for the Jewish people – cp. [Jeremiah 30:4-7](#); [Matthew 24:15-21](#).

B. The Deliverance through the Tribulation – vv. 1b-3

1. However, Israel will not be stamped out and annihilated as the Antichrist attempts to do – *“and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued”* – cp. [Jeremiah 30:7, 11](#).
2. This rescue is accomplished at least in part through the efforts of Michael – cp. [Revelation 12:6-17](#).
3. This deliverance occurs only after a large number of the people of God are slaughtered – cp. [Zechariah 13:8-9](#).
4. The time of this deliverance is clearly when the Antichrist is judged as described in [Daniel 11:45](#) – cp. [Revelation 19:20](#).
5. Once the Antichrist has been judged and the people of God delivered from his hand, *“Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life”* – a clear reference to Old

Testament saints, most clearly those who had recently died in the persecution of the Antichrist, who gained as their reward eternal life.

6. The angel continues and informs Daniel that *“the others [will be raised after the Millennium] to disgrace and everlasting contempt”* – that is, only the godly OT saints are raised at the beginning of the Millennium; the wicked from both OT and NT will be raised at the conclusion of the Millennium during the Great White Throne judgment – cp. ***Revelation 20:4-6, 12-14.***
7. The inheritance of those who resisted the Antichrist and remained true to God is described for us in verse 3: *“Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”* – cp. the parallel reference to those who resisted Antiochus in ***Daniel 11:33-35.***

II. **The Purpose for the Tribulation – 12:4-7**

A. **The Desire to Perceive – vv. 4-6**

1. Daniel is charged with the responsibility to take what revelation had been given to him (throughout the entire book) that pertained to the end times, and *“conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time;”*
2. At the end of the age, when the Tribulation begins and the Jewish people are up against the wrath of Antichrist, *“many will go back and forth”* – searching for what had been entrusted to Daniel, and they will receive comfort from it – *“and knowledge will increase.”*
3. Then Daniel observes two angels who had gotten caught up in the revelation and whose curiosity prompted them to begin asking questions concerning the events predicted – cp. ***1 Peter 1:12.***
4. The question that is raised was the logical question: *“How long will it be until the end of these wonders?”* – ***v. 6.***

B. **The Design to Subdue Pride – v. 7**

1. The original angel, apparently of higher rank than the other two angels standing on either side of the river, *“raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time.”*

2. Thus, he defines that the Great Tribulation will last for 3 ½ years – cp. Daniel's "**70th Week**" of 7 years; also ***Daniel 7:25***.
3. Then God reveals the reason or design behind this horrible time that is described as worse than any other – *"and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these events will be completed."*
4. Satan will be given the freedom to *"shatter the power of the holy people"* – that is, to bring them to an end of their self-sufficiency and pride; thereby preparing them to seek redemption outside of their own resources – cp. ***Romans 11:25-32***.

III. **The Plan for the Tribulation – 12:8-13**

A. **The Direction from Scripture – vv. 8-10**

1. God intends that the people suffering under the tremendous persecution by the Antichrist turn to the Word of God for their comfort and guidance.
2. Daniel, still not fully understanding the events described, says: *"As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, 'My lord, what will be the outcome of these events?'"*
3. The response of the angel sent from the Lord was a mild rebuke – challenging him to accept what revelation he had received and believe that those going through the dilemma of the Tribulation would possess all the guidance needed – *"Many will be purged, purified and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand."*
4. This describes the shattering of the power of the holy people – cp. ***Zechariah 13:8-9***.

B. **The Docket for Settlement – vv. 11-13**

1. He then provides a bit of orientation concerning when the events will occur at the end of the Great Tribulation when God delivers the people of Israel from the hand of Antichrist.
2. *"From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up [to the conclusion of judgment], there will be 1,290 days."* – a reference to the 1,260 days of the last 3 ½ years of Tribulation plus 30 days for the completion of judgment – cp. ***Matthew 25:31-46***.
3. *"How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!"* – a reference to the 45 additional days beyond the period of time

Christ is judging after the Tribulation that it took for the establishment of all the governmental organization of the Millennial Kingdom and its inception.

4. Then the promise is given specifically to Daniel that he should carry on until such a time as he died with the confidence that at the appropriate time that he too would be raised: *“But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age.”*
5. Hence, the final inheritance of the believer is promised at the *“end of the age”* – and that we are to not lose heart.
6. John Walvoord wrote: *“This concluding revelation of Daniel’s prophecy, acting as a capstone on all the preceding tremendous revelations, establishes the book of Daniel as the greatest and most comprehensive prophetic revelation of the Old Testament. Its counterpart in the New Testament in the book of Revelation provides the final word of God concerning the prophetic program of the ages. In the light of world conditions today, which would seem to anticipate the fulfillment of Daniel’s time of the end, it is possible to understand Daniel today as never before in history. The hour may not be far distant when faithful saints in the midst of trial in the great tribulation will turn to these pages of Scripture and find in them the strength and courage to remain true even though it means a martyr’s death.”*¹

The God’s faithfulness to His people Israel in providing them an inheritance includes the refining experiences of the Great Tribulation.

¹ John Walvoord: Daniel: The Key to Prophetic Revelation, p. 296.