

A Biblical View of the Future: 5 Key End-time Trends (Dan. 11-12)

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I. JESUS DIRECTED HIS PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND THE VISION IN DANIEL 11-12

- A. There is only one Old Testament vision about the end times that Jesus *directly* called His people to understand, and that is the vision of the prophet Daniel, recorded in Daniel 11 and 12. Jesus pointed us to this vision in Matthew 24:15; therefore, we should take time to understand it.

¹⁵“When you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet...whoever reads, let him understand...²¹For then there will be great tribulation.” (Mt. 24:15, 21)

- B. There is coming a time of unprecedented trouble that will result in an unprecedented victory for God’s people. A great revival and harvest of new souls will occur at the same time as the end-time falling away. The wheat and the tares will mature together at the end of the age (Mt. 13:30).

- C. In this vision in Daniel 11-12 we find good news, such as the assurance that many will *know God*, experience the *miracle-working power* of the Spirit, *gain understanding* of what God is doing, etc.

³¹...shall...place the abomination of desolation³²...the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits...³³And those of the people who understand shall instruct many.” (Dan. 11:31-33)

- D. Details of God’s end-time plan were shown to Daniel so that His people would prepare themselves spiritually. The truths of Daniel 11-12 will give God’s people confidence and courage to stand for truth and to live godly, instead of yielding to *fear, offense, confusion, deception, and compromise*.

- E. **Optimum environment:** God is establishing the optimum environment for His people to walk in love, power, and purity. What the devil means for evil, God will use for good to train His people. *God uses the least severe means to bring the greatest number of people to the deepest level of love.*

II. THE ABOMINATION THAT CAUSES DESOLATION

- A. Jesus drew attention to one phrase that Daniel emphasized twice—the *abomination of desolation* (Dan. 11:31; 12:11). By understanding this phrase we can understand some of the major themes of end-time prophecy. The abomination of desolation is the only political and religious event that Jesus gave to let His people identify when they were in the generation of His return.

“When you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet...” (Mt. 24:15)

- B. The “abomination” speaks of a *great evil*—one that will cause “desolation,” or great destruction. In other words, it speaks of a future evil event that will result in great destruction in the nations. Two main components of the abomination are the *image* and the *mark* of the Beast (Rev. 13:15-18).

- C. Paul and John give more information about the abomination of desolation (2 Thes. 2; Rev. 13).
See mikebickle.org for more on the abomination of desolation.

III. THE “ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION SECTION” OF DANIEL 11-12

- A. Daniel 11-12 describes one vision reporting a long conversation between Daniel and a mighty angel who mentioned the abomination of desolation *twice* in one section of the vision (11:31; 12:11).
B. In Daniel 11-12, an angel described five trends occurring on the earth associated with Jesus’ return.

1. **The first description** (11:31-35) connects the *abomination of desolation* (11:31) to five key themes—knowing God and understanding His plans (11:32-33), doing miracles (11:32b), reaching “many”—both saved and unsaved—who will be purified (11:33b, 35), God’s people facing martyrdom (11:34a), and receiving God’s help in persecution (11:34).
*³¹“Then they shall...place there [the temple in Jerusalem] the abomination of desolation...
³²The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits [miracles].
³³And those of the people who understand shall instruct many...³⁴When they fall [martyrs], they shall be aided with a little help...³⁵Some of those of understanding shall fall [martyrs], to refine them, purify them...until the time of the end.” (Dan. 11:31-35)*
2. **The second description** (12:1-11) connects the *abomination of desolation* (12:11) to five themes—increased angelic activity (12:1a), great trouble (12:1b), the deliverance of God’s people (12:2), embracing righteousness (12:3, 10), and receiving understanding (12:10).
¹“At that time Michael shall stand up...there shall be a time of trouble [Great Tribulation] ...your people shall be delivered...³and...turn many to righteousness ...¹⁰Many shall be purified ...but the wise shall understand...¹¹and the abomination of desolation is set up...” (Dan. 12:1-11)

IV. FIVE KEY END-TIME TRENDS: SUMMARY OF BOTH DESCRIPTIONS (DAN. 11:31-12:11)

- A. **Premise:** The trends that will *come in fullness* at the time of Jesus’ return are *occurring now* and will *continue to increase* until He comes. He will release the greatest revival and harvest in history.
- B. **#1 Time of trouble:** Jesus referred to Daniel 12:1 when referring to the tribulation (Mt. 24:21). Many will fall away from the faith in the end times (2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:1-7; 4:3-5).
¹Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons...³forbidding to marry... (1 Tim. 4:1-3)
- C. **#2 Supernatural ministry:** There will be great miracles (11:32), including much angelic activity by Michael and his angels (Dan. 12:1; Rev. 12:7-9) and a global outpouring of the Spirit (Joel 2:28).
- D. **#3 God’s people delivered:** They will be delivered by Jesus’ return and the resurrection (12:1-2).

- E. **#4 Many walking in righteousness:** Many will walk in righteousness and purity (Dan. 12:3, 10).
³“...those who turn many to righteousness...” ¹⁰“...many shall be purified...” (Dan. 12:3, 10)
- F. **#5 Increased understanding to know God and His plans:** The Lord will raise up “people of understanding,” who will *know God* and make His heart and plans known to “many” (11:32-33).