

Session 11 The Tribulation and Triumph of the Kingdom (Dan. 12)

I. INTRODUCTION AND OUTLINE OF DANIEL 12

- A. The victory of God’s people over the Antichrist (12:1-3)
Details about the Great Tribulation (12:4-13)
- B. In Daniel 12, a mighty angel assured Daniel of the ultimate triumph of God’s kingdom related to the Great Tribulation. The most dramatic, powerful, and important generation in history is coming.
- C. Details of the end times were shown to Daniel so that God’s people would prepare themselves. God wants His people to be *resolved* to be faithful, before deception, lawlessness, and persecution escalate. In Matthew 24, Jesus warned the Church more about *deception* in the end times than tribulation (Mt. 24:4-5, 11, 24; Mk. 13:5-6, 22; Lk. 21:8; 2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 3:13).

⁴“Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵For many will come...and will deceive many ...¹¹Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many...¹²lawlessness will abound... (Mt. 24:4-12)

- D. The deception that will trouble the Church in the end times will not mostly be about embracing a false eastern religion. I believe the distorted grace message is the primary issue of deception. Many use biblical terminology—love, justice, and grace—but without an accurate biblical definition. The primary deceptions are those which challenge the truths about the *nature of Jesus* and *His leadership* over our lives in calling us to embrace a godly life of obedient love for God.
- E. Jesus spoke of people being overcome with fear (Lk. 21:26) in the end times—even some of His own people—because they do not understand what the Word says about what is to happen in their generation. God’s people must be equipped with knowledge of His end-time plans so that they are not overcome with fear, deception, or confusion, but have confidence in His leadership.

²⁵“And there will be...on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; ²⁶men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth...²⁷Then they will see the Son of Man coming...with power. (Lk. 21:25-27)

II. THE CONTEXT: THE ANTICHRIST (DAN. 11:36-45)

- A. The Antichrist will be a king, or political leader, (11:36) in the generation of Israel’s deliverance at the end (12:1-3). He will invade Israel and establish his “headquarters” near Jerusalem (11:45). The fact that the Antichrist will prosper will confuse many. They will assume that he has God’s favor on him because he will prosper (for a short season)—in military, economic, popularity, etc.

³⁶“The king shall...shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished...” ⁴⁵“He shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas [Mediterranean Sea and Dead Sea] and the glorious holy mountain [Jerusalem] yet, he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.” (Dan. 11:36, 45)

- B. The Antichrist shall come to an end: no matter his wealth, the size of his army, or how invincible he seems, no human armies will be able to protect him from his God-ordained destruction.

⁸Then the lawless one [Antichrist] will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. (2 Thes. 2:8)

III. THE VICTORY OF GOD’S PEOPLE OVER THE ANTICHRIST (DAN. 12:1-2)

- A. Daniel 12:1-2 describes the full and final deliverance of Israel and the resurrection of the saints. This passage assures us of *God’s sovereign power* and of *eternal rewards* for those who are faithful. The choices that people make at this time will be a matter of life or death in time and eternity.

^{11:45}“He [the Antichrist] shall plant the tents of his palace...[near] the holy mountain [Jerusalem] yet, he shall come to his end... ^{12:1}“At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people [Israel]; and there shall be a time of trouble [the Great Tribulation], such as never was since there was a nation even to that time. And at that time your people [Israel] shall be delivered...²Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake [resurrection], some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.”
(Dan. 11:45-12:2)

- B. After describing the Antichrist’s invasion of Israel (11:45), the angel encouraged Daniel by assuring him that *Michael will rise up* to help Israel and that the *martyrs will rise up* in the resurrection.
- C. ***At that time***: Several things occur in the same time frame—the Antichrist has his headquarters near Jerusalem and is then killed (11:45), Michael stands up (12:1), the Great Tribulation occurs and Israel is delivered spiritually and militarily (12:1), the resurrection occurs (12:2). Some scholars think this most severe “time” of tribulation was fulfilled in 70 AD when Jerusalem was destroyed. Yet the tribulation and death toll of the two World Wars far surpassed what occurred in 70 AD.
- D. ***Great Tribulation***: This is the verse that Jesus referred to when speaking of the Great Tribulation (Mt. 24:21). Trouble “such as there never was” qualifies this as a very unique time in history.

***¹⁵“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet...
²¹For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.”*** (Mt. 24:15-21)

1. The abomination of desolation is the central political and religious event that will reveal the nature and timing of the Antichrist’s emergence onto the world stage. The abomination occurs when the Antichrist puts his image in the Jerusalem temple, demanding to be worshiped (Dan. 8:13; 9:27; 11:31; 12:11), as described by Paul (2 Thes. 2:3-4) and John (Rev. 13:11-18).
2. Jesus referred directly to Daniel 12:1 in Matthew 24:21—*tribulation such as has not been since the beginning of the world or since this time or ever again*. It will continue for 3½ years. It will be a totally unique time in history, referred to as “the” Great Tribulation (Rev. 7:14).

¹⁴He said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation...” (Rev. 7:14)

3. There will be an unprecedented number of martyrs in the end times. I do not believe it will be the majority of the Church, but the number will be large enough to make every believer face the possibility of losing their life for Jesus, causing all to decide if they are serious about Him.

E. ***Michael shall stand up***: Michael is an angelic prince, or archangel, (Jude 9); his assignment is to protect and stand watch over Israel. Michael “shall stand up”—he will arise to action. This indicates that an unprecedented increase of angelic activity will be manifest in the end times, as Michael leads a multitude of angels under his leadership. The book of Acts gives insight into the ministry of angels. Daniel saw how Michael intervened in the conflict in his generation (Dan. 10:12-14).

F. Michael and his angels will cast Satan and his demons out of heaven in the end times (Rev. 12:7-9). John elaborated on Michael standing up in the end times as prophesied in Daniel 12:1. Satan and his demonic principalities currently operate in the heavenly realm (Eph. 2:2; 6:12).

⁷And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan...he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him...¹²Woe to the inhabitants of the earth... The devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.” (Rev. 12:17-12)

G. ***Your people shall be delivered***: Daniel saw the Son of Man ruling with His saints (7:13-14, 27). The nations of the earth will surround Jerusalem with the intention of destroying the Jewish people. Israel will be delivered from their sin and unbelief and from the hostility of Satan and the Gentiles.

¹³“One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds...¹⁴To Him was given dominion...and a kingdom...²⁷The kingdom...shall be given to...the saints of the Most High.” (Dan. 7:13-14, 27)

²I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken...and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.³Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations. (Zech. 14:2-3)

IV. THE RESURRECTION (DAN. 12:2)

A. The Scripture teaches the resurrection of the righteous and the damned. Many believers will be martyred in the end times (11:33-35), but they only *sleep* until Jesus *awakens* them (12:2). In the resurrection, whatever blessings of money, friends, promotions, and reputation that the faithful lose by standing for truth will be multiplied in the resurrection 100-fold plus more (Mk. 10:29-30).

²Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake [resurrection], some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.³Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever.” (Dan. 12:2-3)

1. A believer is raised from the dead—that is, from their decomposed flesh, with the same DNA. Their body will be physically resurrected with their personal DNA in “perfection of beauty” of spiritually, physically, and emotionally with their personality, gifting, temperament, etc.
 2. **Shame:** Some will be resurrected to eternal shame and contempt. This includes angry feelings of scorn and regret, along with feeling worthless or despicable. We all deserve shame, but the Man who will deliver the nations from the Antichrist bore our shame and gave us His own righteousness as a free gift. *Only those who refuse His gift will bear their own shame forever.*
9...punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord... (2 Thes. 1:9)
- B. All of the dead will be raised—Jesus will speak to call forth all the godly and ungodly from history.
²⁸Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. (Jn. 5:28-29)
- C. Revelation 20 teaches two resurrections occurring at different times. The resurrection of the righteous will occur at Jesus’ return and the resurrection of the wicked at the end of the Millennium.
⁴I saw thrones, and they [saints, Rev. 19:14] sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded...who had not worshiped the beast...and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. (Rev. 20:4-5)
- D. Notice that the timing of the last trumpet corresponds with the timing of the resurrection, the rapture and rewards. The first resurrection will occur when Jesus returns at the sound of a great trumpet (Mt. 24:31; 1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thes. 4:16; Rev. 10:7; 11:15; cf. Isa. 27:13; Zech. 9:14).
⁵²...in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (1 Cor. 15:52)
¹⁵The seventh angel sounded...loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord...” ¹⁸Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants...” (Rev. 11:15-18)
¹⁶The Lord Himself will descend...with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive...shall be caught up [raptured]...to meet the Lord. (1 Thes. 4:16-17)
- E. The mighty angel’s last exhortation is in verse 3—it encourages us that “it is worth it” to be wise. The wise make strong choices to be loyal to truth—the truth about the *nature of who Jesus is* (as fully God and fully Man and the only way to salvation) and *truth about His leadership* in our life (as we set our heart to obey Him by seeking to walk in righteousness).
³“Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever.” (Dan. 12:2-3)

- F. Jesus emphasized God’s promise from Daniel 12:3 of the righteous shining like stars (Mt. 13:43).
⁴³“Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.” (Mt. 13:43)
⁴¹...for one star differs from another star in glory. ⁴²So also is the resurrection of the dead. (1 Cor. 15:41–42)
- G. Whoever does and teaches God’s commands will be “called great” in the age to come (Mt. 5:19). The life choices of the wise will be “called great” by the Lord Himself. Some call it “fellowship” when believers socialize, but the movies they watch, the video games they play, the jokes they tell, and the people and things they talk about often promote darkness more than true godly fellowship.
¹⁹Whoever...breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least...but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom. (Mt. 5:19)