

Seven Key End-Time Events and Trends (Dan. 12:1-10)

I. THE LORD'S VIEW OF THE FUTURE (DAN. 12:1-10)

- A. Daniel 12 is one of the most important chapters in the Bible on the end times. A mighty angel gave Daniel an unusual amount of detail about what will happen in the generation of Jesus' return. This angel assured Daniel of the ultimate triumph of God's people related to the Great Tribulation. It will be the most unique, powerful, glorious, violent, difficult, important generation in history.
- B. The greatest victory for God's people will come in the context of their greatest persecution. 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 falling away.
- C. Daniel 12 emphasizes God's sovereign power over all—that history is heading towards a glorious future in which His people will prevail in victory. Our God knows the end from the beginning. Jesus is leading history and the nations into a time that will result in God's glory filling the earth. It will be the greatest hour in history and will be a great privilege for believers living at that time.
- D. The truths of Daniel 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*. Details of God's end-time plan were shown to Daniel so that God's people would prepare themselves spiritually.
- E. The wheat and the tares will mature together at the end of the age. (Mt. 13:30).
3"Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say... 'First gather the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" (Mt. 13:30)
- F. It is important to resolve to be faithful *before* the intensity of temptation and persecution escalates.
- G. ***Optimum environment***: We must see the big picture—the negative and positive aspects—knowing that 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 and cause them to mature. God uses the least severe means to bring the greatest number of people to the deepest level of love.
- H. Jesus called His people "to see" the *abomination of desolation* and pointed us to the book of Daniel to gain understanding of it (Mt. 24:15). Paul and John elaborated on it (2 Thes. 2; Rev. 13). The abomination of desolation is the *central event* that helps us see Jesus' view of the end times. This is the only political and religious event that Jesus identified to let His people know that they were in the generation of His return and that the Great Tribulation had started.
15"When you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand)...²¹then there will be great tribulation." (Mt. 24:15, 21)

- I. Two components of the abomination are the *image* and the *mark* of the Beast (Rev. 13:15-18). The abomination will include the Antichrist claiming to be God and forcing the nations, by law and with state resources, to worship him as God, under penalty of death.
- J. Daniel 11-12 describes *one vision* in which an angel continued in one long conversation with Daniel about the end times, speaking of the Antichrist's activities related to the *abomination of desolation* (Dan. 11:31; 12:11). See mikebickle.org for more on the *abomination of desolation*.
- K. Daniel 11:31-35 connects the *abomination of desolation* (v. 31) to what happens to God's people. Notice seven themes—knowing God (11:32a), doing miracles (11:32b), receiving understanding (11:33a), reaching “many” in the harvest (11:33b), facing martyrdom (11:34a), receiving God's help in persecution (11:34), and being brought to spiritual maturity with purity (11:35).

³¹*“They shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation...*

³²*But the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits [miracles].*

³³*And those of the people who understand shall instruct many...³⁴*When they fall [martyrdom], they shall be aided with a little help...³⁵*Some of those of understanding shall fall [martyrdom], to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end.” (Dan. 11:31-35)***

- L. Daniel 12:1-10 describes the full and final deliverance of God's people (v. 2) with the release of God's glory and righteousness (v. 3, 10) in the context of the *abomination of desolation* (v. 11).

¹*“At that time Michael shall stand up...and there shall be a time of trouble [Great Tribulation]... at that time your people shall be delivered...²*Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake [resurrection]...”³*Those who are wise shall shine like...brightness...and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever...¹⁰*Many shall be purified... (Dan. 12:1-10)****

II. SEVEN KEY END-TIME EVENTS AND TRENDS (DAN. 12:1-10)

- A. **#1 Time of trouble:** This trouble is referred to by Jesus as a time of great tribulation (Mt. 24:21). The verse before Daniel 12:1 describes the Antichrist being established in Jerusalem (Dan. 11:45).

¹*“At that time...there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation...”⁷*[an angel] swore...that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time [3½ years]... and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished. (Dan. 12:1, 7)**

1. **Great Tribulation:** Jesus referred to Daniel 12:1 when teaching on the end times (Mt. 24:21). He described it as being so violent that, if the time were not cut short, no one would survive.

¹⁵*“When you see the ‘abomination of desolation’...²¹*There will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time...²²*And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved [from physical death].” (Mt. 24:15-22)***

2. ***Some shall fall in martyrdom (Dan. 11:33)***: There will be an unprecedented number of martyrs in the end times. I do not believe the majority of believers will be martyred, but each will face the possibility and have to decide whether they will stand for Jesus. The martyrdom of believers will have a sanctifying, redemptive effect, causing other believers to be refined.
³³“They shall fall by sword...³⁵Some of those of understanding shall fall [martyrdom], to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end.” (Dan. 11:33-35)
3. ***Falling away***: The falling away from the faith and the revealing of the Antichrist on the world stage are two signs that Paul gave, which will alert the Church to the nearness of Jesus’ return.
³Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin [Antichrist] is revealed, the son of perdition. (2 Thes. 2:3)
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)
- B. ***#2 God’s people delivered***: God’s people will be fully delivered *physically* (from persecution) and *politically* (from oppressive governments) by Jesus’ return. Some will be supernaturally delivered in times of persecution (Dan. 11:34), just as angels opened prison doors for Peter (Acts 5:19; 12:7-11).
¹“Your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book.” (Dan. 12:1)
³⁴“When they fall [martyrdom], they shall be aided with a little help.” (Dan. 11:34)
- C. ***#3 Eternal rewards***: The saints will be emboldened by the certainty of the resurrection and eternal rewards (12:2-3). In the resurrection they will recover all that was lost in the persecution. Daniel was assured that the martyrs and the wise (who faithfully stand for the truth) would shine like stars forever. Jesus emphasized this promise (Mt. 13:43). It is worth choosing righteousness.
²“Those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake [resurrection]...to everlasting life...³Those who are wise shall shine...those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever.” (Dan. 12:2-3)
- D. ***#4 Supernatural ministry***: There will be great miracles (11:32), including much angelic activity by Michael and his angels (Rev. 12:7-9) and a global outpouring of the Spirit (Joel 2:28).
³²“But the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits [miracles].” (Dan. 11:32)
 1. ***Michael shall stand up***: This indicates that an increase of angelic activity will be manifested in the end times. Michael and his angels will cast Satan and his demons out of heaven to earth (Rev. 12:7-9). I believe this will result in angelic ministry increasing. Angels intervened to help the saints in the book of Acts (Acts 1:10; 5:19; 8:26; 10:3; 12:7-10, 23; 27:23).
¹“At that time Michael shall stand up...there shall be a time of trouble [Great Tribulation] ...at that time your people shall be delivered... (Dan. 12:1)

⁷And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon...⁹The great dragon was cast out...the Devil...he was cast to the earth... (Rev. 12:7-9)

2. **Prophetic spirit:** The Lord will pour out His Spirit on “all flesh”—*every believer*. This would have been a radical idea to Israel who saw the norm as the Spirit resting on male prophets, not women, children, or Gentiles. All prophetic insights must honor the written Word.

²⁸“...I will pour out My Spirit on *all flesh*; Your sons and your daughters *shall prophesy*. Your old men shall *dream dreams*, your young men shall *see visions*.²⁹ And also on My menservants and on My maidservants *I will pour out My Spirit* in those days. (Joel 2:28-29)

- E. **#5 The wise:** The *people of understanding* will understand God’s end-time plan (11:33; 12:10). The wise at the time of the end will understand, from God’s perspective, what is happening in the nations. Those who are wise respond in a way that is very different from those who are deceived, offended, and overcome with fear. The wise in this passage are wise in matters related to Daniel’s end-time vision (Dan. 11-12), having clarity from the Word about what is happening in the earth.

³³“And those of *the people who understand* shall instruct *many*.” (Dan. 11:33)

³“Those who are wise shall shine...those who turn *many* to righteousness like the stars...

¹⁰...and none of the wicked shall understand, but *the wise shall understand*.” (Dan. 12:3, 10)

1. The fact that they teach *many* indicates that *many* will be hungry to receive understanding. Someone without a public teaching ministry could teach many through social media.
2. **150 chapters:** There are over 150 chapters in the Bible focusing on end-times. We must not neglect these since they come from the same Bible, reveal the same Jesus, and are inspired by the same Spirit as the gospels. See mikebickle.org for a list of 150 chapters on the end times.
3. The *anger of the Lord* refers to His judgment of those who persist in rebellion at the time of the second coming of Christ. *Perfect* understanding speaks of *mature* understanding.

²⁰The anger of the LORD will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. *In the latter days you will understand it perfectly*. (Jer. 23:20)

- F. **#6 Harvest:** Many will know God, receive salvation, and turn to righteousness (11:32; 12:3). John saw a great multitude coming to Jesus during the Great Tribulation (Rev. 7:9, 14).

³“Those who are wise...those who *turn many* to righteousness...” (Dan. 12:3)

⁹“...*a great multitude* which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne...¹⁴These...come out of the *great tribulation*.” (Rev. 7:9-14)

- G. **#7 Righteousness:** The Lord’s plan will succeed as multitudes know and love Him, proclaim His wisdom, and walk in purity in the midst of the pressures in the end times (Dan. 11:33; 12:3, 10).

³²*“The people who know their God shall be strong...³⁵Some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end.” (Dan. 11:32-35)*

³*“...turn many to righteousness...” ...¹⁰“Many shall be purified, made white...” (Dan. 12:3, 10)*

1. **Know God:** As people encounter the heart of the Father and the beauty of Jesus, they will call young people to a righteous lifestyle through a lens of love that sees the beauty, liberty, and excellence of “love-based” righteousness, which is obedience (Jn. 14:15, 21).
2. Many will turn when they see the compelling beauty, value, and liberty of obedient love. They will see purity as freedom that liberates the heart to walk in true love. Many will embrace godly lifestyles and make the first commandment—to love God wholeheartedly—first in their lives. They will embrace deep purity in the face of the gross sexual immorality celebrated and promoted in the nations through the media, Internet pornography, and more.