

Session 14 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 of what will happen in the generation Jesus returns. The mighty angel assured Daniel of the ultimate triumph of God's people in context 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 context to 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 simultaneously with 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 in 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. Simultaneously the wheat and the tares will mature together at the end of the age (Mt. 13:30).
³⁰Let 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. We must be resolved to be faithful *long 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 include 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 the 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 more on the abomination of desolation in session 4 of this series.*
- 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 with righteousness (v. 3, 10) in context to 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...¹¹*From the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days [1,290 days]. (Dan. 12:1-11)****

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, even to that time”...⁷[an angel] swore...that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time [3½ years]... when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered... (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 that the majority of believers will be martyred, but each one will face the possibility of it, causing all to decide if they are serious about Jesus. The martyring of believers has a sanctifying, redemptive effect, causing others 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 to 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)
- B. **#2 God's people delivered:** They 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) even as angels opened prison doors for Peter (Acts 5:19; 2:7-10).
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:** In the resurrection the saints will recover all that was lost in the persecution. The saints are emboldened by the certainty of the rapture, resurrection, and eternal rewards (12:2-3). Daniel was assured that the martyrs and the wise (those who faithfully stand for the truth) will shine like stars forever. Jesus emphasized this promise (Mt. 13:43). It is worth it to choose 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).
³²But the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits [miracles]. (Dan. 11:32)
 1. **Great exploits:** The people who know God shall be strong and do great exploits or miracles.
 2. **Michael shall stand up:** This indicates 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 on a global level. In this vision, Michael fought the demonic principality of Persia or Iran (Dan. 10:13, 21). This same spiritual and physical battle from Iran is reemerging in the nations today. 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).

⁷And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon...⁹The great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil...he was cast to the earth and his angels were cast out...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. 12:7-12)

3. ***Prophetic spirit:*** The Lord will pour out His Spirit on *all flesh*—referring to “every believer.” This was a radical idea to Israel who saw the norm as the Spirit only resting on male prophets, not on women, children, or Gentiles. All dreams and visions must honor the written Word.

¹⁷“It shall come to pass in the last days...that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions... ¹⁸I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy.” (Act 2:17-18)

- E. **#5 The wise:** The *people of understanding* will understand God’s end-time plan (11:33; 12:10). The wise will understand from God’s perspective what is happening in the nations during their life. Those who are wise are contrasted to those who are deceived, offended, and overcome with fear. The wise in this passage are wise in matters related to this end-time vision (Daniel 11-12); they are those who will have clarity from the Word of God about what is happening in the earth.

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

³Those 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. Through social media, a person without a public teaching ministry could teach many.
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 related to 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).

³Those 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).

³²The 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...¹⁰Many 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 excellency of “love-based” righteousness or obedience (Jn. 14:15, 21).
2. Many will turn by seeing the compelling beauty, value, and liberty of love-based obedience. Purity will be seen as freedom that liberates the heart to walk in true love. Many will embrace godly lifestyles with the first commandment being established in first place in their lives. They will embrace deep purity even in the face of the sexual immorality that is celebrated and promoted in the nations through the media, Internet pornography, and more.