



## Silverdale Baptist

STAND. A STUDY IN DANIEL • STAND UNTIL THE END • DANIEL 12:1-13 • 8/1-2/2020

### MAIN POINT

God rescues those in distress, resurrects the dead, controls the future, and rewards faithfulness.

### INTRODUCTION

**Have you ever experienced great suffering in your life? How did you see God at work through it?**

**What has been your greatest challenge during COVID?**

**What hope do Christians have in the middle of trying circumstances?**

On this side of heaven, there is no avoiding pain and suffering. It isn't a matter of if, but when. God's people have been no strangers to suffering throughout history. Yet, they have never been consumed by it. Even in the worst imaginable circumstances, God is with His people.

The book of Daniel teaches us the God of Israel, has ultimate control and charge over all things. He holds history in His hands, despite the actions of sinful people. Trial and tribulation will last for a time, but God's plan and His people will endure.

### UNDERSTANDING

Daniel 11:36-45, the immediate context for Daniel 12, describes the Antichrist. The Antichrist will be evil incarnate. "He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods" (Dan. 11:36). But, in the end, at the appointed time, he will be destroyed.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ DANIEL 12:1-4.

**How will the end of the ages look?**

**Who is rescued? How are they described?**

**What do you learn about the resurrection from these verses?**

**What is Daniel told to do with the prophecy?**

**In verse 4, how is the "time of the end" described?**

At the time of the great conflict described in Daniel 11, Israel's angel, Michael, will not leave God's people unguarded. This period of tribulation will mean suffering on this earth like never before. But, remember, not even death will have the final word for God's people. For those who have died—whose names are written in the book—will be raised again to life.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 5:28-29

**In these verses, what does Jesus teach about the resurrection?**

**How does this compare to Daniel 12:2?**

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ DANIEL 12:8-13.

**What is Daniel's question in verse 8?**

**What is the answer?**

**What might the messenger mean when he says, "Many will be purified, made spotless, and refined..."? How is a person purified and made spotless today?**

**What is the final word to Daniel in verse 13?**

"Many will be purified, made spotless, and refined..." refers to salvation. In the last days, in the worst of times, people will still be turning to God. Even in the end, people will step out of darkness into the light. That fact should bring hope to all of us as believers. The gospel is powerful and unstoppable.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 CORINTHIANS 3:13.

**What do you learn about the final judgment for the people of God?**

The rest and reward the messenger promised Daniel isn't just for Daniel, but it is for all believers. Ultimately we will be rewarded for our faithfulness, and we will rest from our struggles.

At this point, Daniel was probably in his nineties. He had lived most of his life in a foreign land, under foreign rule, serving unholy leaders. Yet, he endured, keeping his eyes on God, and on the hope of the life to come. Like Daniel, our hope in the future and in the final resurrection is greater any threat or suffering on this side of heaven.

## APPLICATION

**Studying the book of Daniel, how has your view of God shifted? What aspects of His character have become more real to you?**

**How does this final chapter shape your view of suffering? What does it mean to endure with hope?**

**How does the hope of resurrection inform how we live in the present? How does it shape the way we engage with a lost and broken world?**

## PRAYER

If you are in a season of suffering in your own life, pray earnestly that the Lord would meet you in your pain. Ask Him to strengthen you, that you might be found faithful to the end. If you are not currently suffering, intercede for someone you know who is experiencing trial and hardship. Finally, praise God for the hope that comes with resurrection. Praise Him for the fact that suffering, sin, and even death will not have the final say—but only Him, the One who is making all things new.

## COMMENTARY

| DANIEL 12:1-13

12:1 At that time refers to the events predicted in the previous paragraph (11:36-45), which details the Antichrist's furious attempt to destroy and annihilate the Jewish people (11:44). Then the archangel Michael... who stands watch over the Jewish people will rise to their defense to preserve them (cp. Rev 12:7). This will be necessary because the great tribulation (the second half of Daniel's seventieth week; Dan 9:27) will be a time of unprecedented distress. Despite the horrific nature of the persecution of Israel, the result will be that the surviving remnant of the Jewish nation will turn in faith to their Messiah Jesus (Zech 12:10; Rm 11:25-27) and He will deliver them. The book refers to the heavenly Book of Life in which the names of the elect are listed (Ps 69:28; Php 4:3; Rev 13:8; 17:8; 20:15).

12:2 Following the deliverance of Israel, there will be a resurrection of those who sleep in the dust. This verse does not imply any kind of soul sleep before the resurrection since the faithful go to be with God instantly upon dying (2Co 5:8; Php 1:21-23) and the faithless go to a place of suffering also immediately upon dying (Lk 16:22-23). The word "sleep" is used as a metaphor to emphasize the temporary state of bodily death before being physically raised at the resurrection (cp. Jn 11:11-15). Although telescoped together here (as is common in prophecy), the resurrection of the faithful and the unfaithful are two distinct events separated by the one-thousand-year messianic kingdom (Rev 20:4-6). Daniel 12:2 contains the clearest statement of resurrection in the OT, but by no means is it the only one (cp. Job 19:25-27; Isa 26:19).

12:3 The phrase those who are wise refers to those with the wisdom to turn in faith to the Messiah Jesus. As a result, they will lead many others to faith and righteousness.

12:4 Although it is possible that Daniel was told to keep these words of the vision secret, an alternative rendering of the Hebrew is to "close up the words" and seal the book, a reference to preservation of the text of Daniel until the time of the end. Preserving Daniel's prophecy was necessary because in the end of days, many will roam about seeking answers that will be found in the book of Daniel. Moreover, in that day, knowledge will increase, possibly referring to the understanding of Daniel's prophecies as informed observers recognize the fulfillment of his predictions.

12:5-7 Daniel saw two others, meaning angels, who served as witnesses for the oath of the linen-dressed angel (10:5). Two was the minimum number of witnesses necessary for an oath (Dt 19:15). One of the witnessing angels asked how long until the end of the predicted time of distress. The angel dressed in linen answered that the time of the great tribulation (the second half of Daniel's seventieth week) would be for a time, times, and half a time, or three and one-half years (7:25; Rev 12:7). By the end of the great tribulation, the power of the holy people Israel will be shattered, causing them to turn in faith to their long-rejected Messiah Jesus (Zech 12:10). At that time, He will return and deliver them (Zech 14:1-21) and all these things will be completed.

12:8-10 Daniel's statement that he heard but did not understand does not mean that he did not comprehend that his prophecy was about the end of days but rather that he did not understand precisely how these events would happen. Daniel was told to go on his way, because the words are secret (or "closed") and sealed until the time of the end, meaning they would not be fully recognized until their fulfillment at the end of days. At that time, the wicked will fail to comprehend their situation but the wise will understand the fulfillment of Daniel's words and turn in faith to the God of Israel and His Messiah Jesus.

12:11-12 Two periods of time were revealed to Daniel. First, from the middle of the tribulation when the Antichrist stops daily sacrifice and commits the abomination of desolation until the end, there will be 1,290 days. The great tribulation is said to be three and one-half years (v. 7) or 1,260 days (Rev 12:6; 13:5). Here it is 30 days longer, probably to include time for the judgment of the nations (Mt 25:31-46). Second, a blessing awaits the one who... reaches 1,335 days, a period that includes not only the 30 days for judging the nations but an additional 45 days, perhaps to establish the government of the messianic kingdom. Those who enter that kingdom are said to be blessed because they will be part of the most glorious world, governed by its greatest King, the Lord Jesus Himself.

12:13 The angel told Daniel that he was to continue to the end of his life, at which point he would rest, a euphemism for death. Yet he was given the promise that he too would rise from the dead at the end of the days (v. 2).