

XX. Daniel in Biblical Perspective  
“The Final Word”

Daniel 12

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We are in the last chapter of Daniel and this is the 20<sup>th</sup> study. This study will complete our study in the book of Daniel, Lord willing. So where are we headed next? I thought I would go to a topical study of what we call a topical expositional series where we go to texts based on the topic. Next Sunday will be celebration times in our fifty year celebration at Briarwood. After next Sunday we'll be starting a news series on Sunday night with a simpler subject on the doctrines of heaven and hell. As is my practice I like to get good literature in your hands in using either books of the Bible that we're studying or subjects to recommend things to you. I highly recommend this very simple yet faithful and helpful study of the doctrines of heaven and hell bound up in one volume and it's by Edward Donnelly. They have this in the bookstore and I think you would enjoy going through that as we go through our study the rest of this fall. Then finally in relationship to that if you really want an in depth study on the doctrine of hell beyond what we'll do in this sermon series and in this booklet, there is John Blanchard's book called Whatever Happened to Hell? It is an excellent study that looks at the history of the doctrine as well as the text of the doctrine, objections to the doctrine and why it has been so avoided. I want to start out as to why I believe it's important when we start our series. There has been no reformation or awakening that was not accompanied by a full and clear exposition of the doctrine of hell. None in all of history and yet we avoid in our pulpits like the plague and maybe that's one of the reasons why we haven't been visited with revival and awakening. So we'll cover heaven and hell which actually the text in this study brings us to anticipate as well.

As we come to this text tonight we conclude our study by looking at this last chapter in Daniel, as we wrap up the book in general and the visions that are given. The book falls into basically two categories. The first is the memorable memoirs and messages of Daniel which covers the first six chapters of Daniel that deals with the life of Daniel through 80 years, two Empires and six kings. The second category takes up his visions, the visions that the Lord gives Daniel as we anticipate the flow of history. There are first of all the visions that give us the movement of history for the Babylonian captivity to come to a conclusion in 70 years as prophesied in Jeremiah 25. Then the fulfillment of that then leads into these times of distress that would take place over the next four centuries leading up to the birth of Christ. Then of course we have the flow of history through the empires of not only the Babylonian Empire, the Assyrian Empire, the Greek Empire but also the Roman Empire and how that transformed to the second coming of Christ as well. This is the last of those visions.

I want you to see in a time frame here what has happened as the book of Daniel has pointed to this in the Middle East. There is the planting of the kingdom of Israel, the Assyrian Empire capturing the ten tribes, the Babylonian Empire capturing the two tribes, the Medo-Persian Empire in which Daniel is also an officer of the court and then throughout history. There is the Roman Empire which is prophesied in the book of Daniel. There is six expansions of Islamic Empires and their attempt to dominate the

earth in which we are now experiencing a seventh. There is the small movement of the crusader in the midst of it. There is another Islamic Empire called the Saladin Empire. There is the Ottoman Empire. Then there is the colonization age down to the present.

The visions of Daniel point us in this direction. The anticipation of the coming of a Messiah and what was unknown at the time is the Messiah actually had two advents, the first one for salvation and the second one for judgment. Before He comes the first time there will be a time of great distress and one will rise up against the living God and the people of God who is Antiochus Epiphanes and becomes a type of the anti-Christ. Then there is the Roman general who comes and brings the abomination of desolation in 66 to 70 A.D. with all of that anticipating another anti-Christ prior to the second coming of Christ in which this last vision of Daniel gives us a glimpse of both, Antiochus Epiphanes and through him the anticipation of the anti-Christ.

So let's take a look at the conclusion that began in Daniel 10 through Daniel 11 and now concludes in Daniel 12. The vision continues in Daniel 12:1-4 which says **1** *“At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. 2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. 4 But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”*

This is the conclusion of the vision and we want to know what he is saying here. The first thing we see is the appearance again of Michael. This is the second time Michael appears. At the beginning of this vision in Daniel 10 we saw Michael coming in response to the prayers of Daniel, to deliver Daniel and be a part of the deliverance of the covenant people of God from the Medo-Persian Empire after the 70 years captivity back and he had been engaged in warfare to accomplish that. Daniel 10:13-14 says **13** *The prince of the kingdom of Persia (a demonic fallen angel that is working upon the kingdom of Persia) withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes (there does seem to be ranks among the angelic and Michael along with Gabriel seem to occupy a position of a chief prince called an archangel), came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, 14 and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come.*

So Michael tells Daniel he has come to help him with understanding of the deliverance of the people and now we find out in Daniel 12 that part of Michael's responsibility and role as a chief prince is the care of God's covenant people. The Bible tells us that all around us in angelic ministry that takes place that we're not aware of. The awareness of it is very limited in the Scripture but the presence of it is continual. It's our awareness of it when they make themselves known is limited and sporadic according to God's sovereign desire to reveal it but it's always there and always present.

We see this wonderful text of Scripture of singing to God praises of His care and providence of His people in Psalm 91. It is how God is our refuge and our fortress. Psalm 91:11-13 says **11** *For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. 12 On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a*

stone. **13** *You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.* He is not giving us a direction for life here where you go fight lions and walk on snakes. He is saying that even these things that could kill you in life that God has given His angels to deliver us in a dangerous world. He has given us in the charge of His angels and it seems as if Michael has a chief responsibility there.

Michael's awareness in the Scripture doesn't end with these Old Testament references but we also find him in the book of Revelation. I want to look at one text and then I want to use two other texts concerning Michael in connection to things we are looking at in this study. In Revelation there is another war going on. In the Old Testament we saw the war with Michael and the principalities of the blasphemous pagan empires. Now look at Revelation 12:7-10 which says **7** *Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, 8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.*

Here Michael is engaged in war on behalf of Christ in the defeat of Satan and casting him out of his position of usurpation of the authority and glory of the One true and living God. What's interesting is that Michael is really a humble angel and yet look at the great victory he has. Now why would I say Michael is a humble angel? Let's slip back one book in the Bible to the book of Jude and I'll show you. Jude has an interesting statement concerning Michael. Jude 1:9 says **9** *But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.”* It's interesting to note that Michael is over all the angels, anointed in his position as a chief among the angels as he deals with Satan and on behalf of Christ he does not put his confidence in himself.

This is one of those interesting things where I have been in situations of confronting evil spirits in various situations and on the one hand we have the high church view of ritual of throwing things, sprinkling things, incantations and that gets rid of them. On the other hand we have the low church view of stepping in and stomping around and saying “I command you in the name of Jesus to leave” and yet you don't see that kind of spirit in Michael. On the contrary Michael does not command Satan, he fights him but he doesn't rebuke Satan. The Scripture is very clear where he takes great pains not to rebuke Satan. Michael says “The Lord rebuke you.” So pastor what does that mean for me? That means in prayer and the Word of God when you confront the spiritual warfare that is against you, your witness in your family, your church, the ministries and the cause of Christ you bring the authority of Christ through His Word and prayer against the evil one and darkness has to flee light. It's not a superstitious incantation of ritual and it's not a pompous ostentatious boasting of oneself. It is a humble but bold proclamation of the Word of God lifting up Christ that sends evil away. So we see Michael in his humility yet his confident courage in the Lord and then we see it coming to culmination in this

glorious victory of the heavens where Satan is cast down in the name of Christ through this angelic warfare.

I'm pretty confident of what I have said up to this point but now I'm going to start speculating just a little bit here. I want to look back at Revelation 20. As Satan has been cast down and victory has been won but the victory has not been consummated yet. We then anticipate this reign of this King Jesus who has defeated Satan and the struggle of Satan defeated yet back against him. Revelation 20:1-3 says *1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. 2 And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, 3 and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.* I think it is talking about Michael here. I think it is consistent with his role and responsibility and I think it is consistent with what he has done and what he is called to do in taking care of God's people on behalf of Christ and in confronting the evil one. As the evil one is defeated it is to Michael the responsibility to cast him into the abyss. The Lord says, "I saw him falling from heaven and the strong man has been bound, now go plunder his house." That is that ministry of Michael.

Why do I bring this out? It is because that is a ministry of restraint upon the evil one in light of the victory of Christ on the cross but yet a further releasing of him after a period of time. Who will release him? It is obviously the authority of the sovereign Christ but I think the instrumentality again is Michael. Let's look at 2 Thessalonians 2. The Bible tells us there is an end coming where one on behalf of Satan is doing his work which is the anti-Christ. We spent some time on this in the last study of Daniel so I will do this rather rapidly. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 says *1 Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, 2 not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed (that is the anti-Christ), the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.*

Let me put this back in context. In the book of Daniel this is prophesied. It is prophesied first centuries after the return of Israel from Babylonian captivity. It is prophesied through the initial fulfillment. Many times prophesy has an initial fulfillment, a further fulfillment and a final fulfillment. The initial fulfillment of this anti-Christ who will do the abomination of desolation is by Antiochus Epiphanes when he desecrates the temple prior to the second coming of Christ. The after Christ comes and brings His glorious work there is another fulfillment as a Roman general comes in and destroys the temple and puts a pagan god there from 66 to 70 AD, which is an anticipation of the final anti-Christ that will come before the second coming of Christ, the man of lawlessness. When he comes he will exalt himself. He will be a political, economic, military and religious power. We have seen that with tyrants throughout the ages – these little anti-Christ's that have arisen since the ascension of Jesus. There is a final one.

Look at 2 Thessalonians 2:5-10 says *5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And you know what is restraining him now so that he*

*may be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.* The key to the elect standing firm under the onslaught of evil, whether on the normal onslaught or this final ferocious onslaught in which many believers will very likely be losing their life as they have throughout 2000 years and as they are doing even as I speak throughout the world today, is by knowing the truth, the Word of God. It is the truth that keeps the elect of God.

Why is it that they so easily follow the anti-Christ? The answer is in the next couple of verses. 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 says *11 Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, 12 in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.* What will this anti-Christ do? He'll do false signs, wonders and miracles with power so the experientially oriented church that builds their theology from experience instead of building theology to interpret experience, will easily fall prey to delusion and deception. I am not speaking of an emotionalist Christianity. I am speaking of emotions and experiences that are instructed by the Word of God because we know the truth and therefore our passions are directed by the Spirit of God through the Word of God.

It's interesting to note that this anti-Christ will do his work in accord with Satan's activity and when will he do it? 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8 says *7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.* There is a lot of discussion on this and I have a lot of friends who will disagree with me. They will say that's the work of the Holy Spirit. I would disagree. I believe the Holy Spirit will still be at work in the hearts and lives of His people and may to some degree not be working in common grace as He is today, but I believe He that restrains is speaking of the angelic ministry of Michael. That Michael will no longer restrain the evil one whom the Lord used him to bind and set aside by Michael removing restraints that allows The anti-Christ, not the many that have risen, who will come up.

Now let's go back to Daniel 12. Daniel has now come to protect the people of God and to communicate that there's coming a time of trouble. Daniel 12:1b-2 says *I ... And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.* Now is he speaking of the dire distress in the days of Antiochus Epiphanes? I don't think so. The language says the distress will be like there never has been since there was a nation. I think this is not looking at the stress of the times of difficulty and barbarity that will take place with Antiochus Epiphanes centuries after their restoration from the Babylonian captivity but this is looking beyond him to the end and the work of the anti-Christ. It is at that time that Michael will take care of God's people that the elect will not be deceived. Who will not be deceived? It is those whose name is written in the Book – the elect of God. And Jesus will use Michael as part of His ministry so that the elect, those who are written in the book, are delivered.

How far will they be delivered? It's interesting how many think the resurrection of the body is a New Testament thing but just take them right to this text in Daniel. Abraham believed in the resurrection and that's why he told Isaac and his servants he'd be back when they were going up to slay Isaac but here Daniel very clearly from a pagan empire proclaims a resurrection. Daniel 12:2 says **2** *And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.* The redeemed of God will be resurrected to everlasting life, to heaven. Let's do a study on heaven to find out about that. Okay, we'll start in a couple of weeks. Then some will be raised to an everlasting contempt. So how about we do a study on the doctrine of hell which is the everlasting contempt and judgment that will be brought upon those who do not believe in the One true and living Savior.

In the meantime, what about us? Daniel 12:3 says **3** *And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.* We in the meantime are turning men and women by His righteousness to Him. Do you know how hard it is to restrain myself from going back to the Sermon on the Mount right now? That is, the righteousness of God's people will attract men and women from death unto light/life in the meantime. You will be so blessed to be called stars of the living God as He sends His light through you into the lives of many that your righteousness will cause others to want to see Him. That is your changed life by God's grace will turn others to Him. It's not what you do to get to heaven but it's what you're doing because God is bringing you to heaven. You changed life in this meantime will be used of God to bring the elect to Himself as we minister as the stars lights of the Gospel.

A final word on this is Daniel 12:4 which says **4** *But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.* So He is telling Daniel to seal this prophesy, bring it to a conclusion and then archive it, keep it to the end. He's not saying to go hide until the end but He's saying to preserve it because people will need it all the way to the end. Seal it up. Preserve it. Keep it. Make it there and have it available. Don't lose it. God's preservation of this His Word – Daniel and 65 other books – will be used so that God's people will know how to live all the way to the end. God will preserve His Word for that purpose.

What is Daniel's response? Daniel 12:5-7 says **5** *Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream. 6* *And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, "How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?" 7* *And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time (1), times (at least 2), and half a time (could it be a 3 and a half year span as we've already learned in Daniel 7), and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.* Will they be shattered in the days of Antiochus Epiphanes? Yes. Will God's people be attacked in the days before the coming of the anti-Christ? Yes. Will many be killed? Yes. We are called to do two things. We are called to be a witness and be martyrs. You die to and for Christ even to the end.

Daniel 12:8-10a says **8** *I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, “O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?”* **9** *He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.* **10** *Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly.* As we move toward the end, God’s Kingdom is going to grow and the kingdom of darkness is going to become more vile. God’s people will grow in grace and the kingdom of darkness is going to grow in evil. Harry, is it going to get worse as the end comes? Yes. Is it going to get better as the end comes? Yes. The Kingdom of God will grow and the kingdom of Satan will respond with greater and greater ferocity. So you have the rising of this cataclysmic final war of the heavens and upon the earth. It goes on to say in Daniel 12:10b *And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand.* The truth of God’s Word that has been preserved shall save them.

Daniel 12:11-13 says **11** *And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days.* **12** *Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days.* **13** *But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days.”* Many have made great emphasis that from the time of Antiochus Epiphanes until the time of the desolation of the temple was approximately three and a half years, time, times and a half of times. Notice that this 1,290 and 1,335 days are approximately three and a half years although it is three and a half years plus one month and three and a half years plus one month plus 45 more days when you calculate those days out. But why are those numbers there? We can try and fit them into the time of Antiochus Epiphanes or fit them in when the Romans came in and desecrated the temple in the abomination of desolation that Jesus said would happen in Matthew 24. Or it may be the three and a half years that happened prior to the coming of Christ, in that sense.

What could be done here is that these definite numbers are given not to detail a calendar but to tell us two things. One is that God has determined the end and it’s definite. So why is one 45 days longer than the other? Remember what He said? He said, “If necessary God can shorten the time for the sake of the elect.” God’s preserving providential Hand is always there as He works in the affairs of men He is able to lengthen and shorten the dynamics of time that He has decreed. His providence is part of His decree and so He is giving us that confidence in this text that God has determined the end from the beginning but He accomplishes it not by sending a fate upon the earth but by working through angels, people and situations by His Spirit in the name of the victorious Christ. He accomplishes His decrees through the instruments He has put into place and then He, our God, interacts with His people.

Here are a couple of takeaways from this text and this final concluding chapter. The first one I have already mentioned but here it is again. God’s providence and decrees are personal and achieved through the agency of beings including angels. I’d like to use the Sermon on the Mount here. In that God says to be anxious for nothing for your Father knows what you need and cares for you. How does your Father know what you need? It is because He is omniscient. How can He care for you? It is because He is omnipotent. This omniscient and omnipotent God cares for you through angels, through circumstances and through people. Sometimes you have entertained angels and you didn’t know it, like Abraham. Sometimes God has sent the angelic ministry through His people and I’m not saying His people have become angels. Let’s not get sentimental

about this but many times God does that through His People. Examples of this are when you come home in need of groceries and there are some groceries there on your porch or when someone says to you, "God has just moved upon my heart to give this to you." That is God taking care of you through the agency of others.

So when I hear the Sermon on the Mount my first thought is not okay God You're going to take care of me but it's who do You want to take care of through me. Who is it You're going to work to for their good through me as You accomplish Your purposes. My favorite illustration of this was when my wife Cindy had surgery my second year at Briarwood as pastor. I just happened to mention one Sunday from the pulpit that I don't know what in the world I'm going to do because I have a hard time popping popcorn. Praise the Lord for microwaves. The next thing I know I have meals all over the place. There were so many meals that I didn't know what I was going to do. There were meals everywhere and I couldn't eat all that food. So the next Sunday I mentioned from the pulpit that God had blessed me through you but now you have given me another problem because now I have to go out and buy a freezer or all this food will go to waste. My Scots Irish blood sure didn't want it to go to waste. I get home from church that Sunday and there's a freezer already there. So the next Sunday I thought about saying, "My car hasn't been working too well."

God's providence is not a fate that comes down. When God's people die in the Hands of providence trusting in the Lord it's not God fatalistically grinning and bearing it where it's all going to work out. It's my Father working in my life through angels, circumstances, governments – good ones and bad ones – and His people, sinners saved by grace. So here in this text we see Michael, we see Daniel being called to be an instrument and all of those things at work.

The second takeaway is the importance of God's preserved work. What is it that will keep us to the end? It's the truth so what does He say to Daniel? He tells him to preserve it. I am going by the Holy Spirit not only to give you this one book of the Bible that you preserve and will go with 65 other books of the Bible, but I am going to have this book preserved so that it is inherent, infallible and there for My people to have it preached to them, taught to them, for them to read it, examine it, memorize it and meditate upon it so that by the truth they shall be saved all the way to the end. So the importance of God's Word is established for God's people.

The third takeaway is the surety of the resurrection and the surety of judgment and only two destinations. The destinations are either to everlasting glory or everlasting contempt, heaven or hell. And there is a truth of a resurrection that all will be raised and appear before God. Some will be raised to life in Christ and others to eternal condemnation. As one man said, "You're in this and you're not getting out alive unless you know Christ." It is appointed unto man once to die and there have only been two exceptions. It is appointed unto man once to die and then the judgment. Daniel has so declared this in his recording of this vision that all will rise, some to glory and some to everlasting judgment.

The fourth takeaway is now but not yet. Remember the Lord has won the victory. Daniel, My people are free but not yet has it been consummated. Christ has won the victory but not yet has it been consummated. We are victors in Christ but in the meantime you may die, you may be a martyr, you may give up your life but we have conquered in Him who has conquered and won the victory. So I am now perfect in Christ but not yet



has perfection been given to me in the experience and performance of life. I am growing in grace. I am now redeemed but not yet perfect. I now have the spirit of adoption but yet it is to be revealed my adoption as sons. There is the now but not yet. Now, Daniel I have decreed this but not yet has it been consummated.

Then what is it Daniel that you need to do? Harry, what is it that I need to do in light of this? I love Daniel 12:9 where He says "Daniel go your way." Go live your life for Christ and bring many to the Savior. Light the way for many to come to Christ. Go your way Daniel, whether it's Israel, Babylon or Medo-Persian, wherever I have appointed or called you to do, go your way and may Jesus Christ be your way because He is the Way, the Truth and the Life." May as you go your way through Him who is the Way, may others be brought to Him and He becomes their Way as well.

Do you know what some people do in light of the second coming of Christ? Here is a quick 10 minute story that I'll give you in about 30 seconds. My daddy after he left baseball owned an auto parts store and decided to own more stores. So he went to buy one in another area of town and out there was a little Christian church, over the edge, always talking about the second coming and they put a date on it. One of the guys who owned the auto parts store went to that church and they had set the date as to when Jesus was coming back. My daddy said to the man that he'd like to buy his auto parts store. The man said to my dad, "You don't want to buy the auto parts store because Jesus is coming back on such and such a date." My dad said, "Well, just in case you're wrong can I buy it?" The man said, "Sure" and gave him a price and then he laughed at daddy as he bought it. When that day came the people in that church literally went to the church yard and climbed up in the trees so that they would be the first ones to meet Jesus.

Do you see how silly we can become? Listen, if you know Jesus is coming back tomorrow go to bed tonight. That is what you are supposed to do. Have your family devotions tonight. That's what you are supposed to do. If He still hasn't come at 6 AM then go witness to somebody for Jesus and get up and go to work. Go live your life for Christ because He is coming for you who are faithful to the end. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the time we have been able to spend together in Your Word and thank You for all the joys in gathering for worship together. We give You praise and glory for God there is none like You. You are our God and glorious are You to be praised. Come quickly Lord Jesus and when You come find us by Your grace through Your Word and Spirit, protected by the angels and loved by each other, find us faithful. Lord, even make us fruitful and I pray this in Jesus' Name, Amen.