

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

BOOK OF DANIEL

RIISING (DANIEL 12:1-4)

WE HAVE ALREADY MET THE ANGEL MICHAEL

Earlier we asked if he could possibly be designated specifically to Israel, and v1 alludes more to that

- Angelic involvement for Israel's behalf is mentioned in Joshua 5, 2 Kings 6, Isaiah 37, and Revelation 12 where Michael is clearly identified

A "TIME OF DISTRESS" LIKE NO OTHER

Jesus mentions this in Matthew 24:21, showing the prophecy relates to the Last Days and particularly the Great Tribulation with which life as we know it comes to an end

- With the help of Michael and the grace of God, a remnant of Jewish believers will persevere through, therefore fulfilling God's promise (Jeremiah 31:35-37)

PEOPLE FOUND "WRITTEN IN THE BOOK"

This is referring to the Book of Life first mentioned in Exodus 32:33 and Revelation 20:12 that contains the names of saved believers

IS THIS CHAPTER THE JEWS, OR ALL OF US?

It seems as though it is talking about the Jews so far, but talk of the coming resurrection of believers would apply to all Christians

THE RESURRECTION OF THE SAINTS (V2 AND REVELATION 20:4-6)

The time after the 7 years of persecution, God's wrath, and the 2nd coming of Christ

- There are 2 resurrections. The first is right before the 1000 year reign when martyred saints throughout history and the 7 years of tribulation will reign with Christ on a newly repopulated earth. The second is after that 1000 years

"LIKE THE STARS FOR EVER AND EVER" (V3)

The imagery is amazing! The angel of God is talking about the honor God shows the people that stood strong during the most difficult oppression and persecution

- **Even if we are not persecuted, God honors humility, hard work, compassion, and obedience.** We see this over and over in the Gospels

SEAL THIS UP AND KEEP IT SAFE

We have the Book of Daniel in our hands today because it has been preserved by God for every generation, even more so today as we grow closer to Christ's return

"... KNOWLEDGE WILL INCREASE"

Probably not talking about academics, but more the knowledge people will discover when they are frantically looking for answers in an increasingly confusing world

- These answers **will come from the Bible**, specifically Daniel and John's contribution. As prophecies roll out, the evidence will become clear.

A BOOK OF UNCANNY ACCURACY

Though much criticism is present, it comes from much ignorance. A time will come, and I believe is already here, when many will discover the relevance and accuracy of the Word of God and it will change many lives as times become more turbulent

TIMING (DANIEL 12:5-8)

BACK AT THE BANK OF THE TIGRIS RIVER

Chapters 10-12 all happen at the bank of the Tigris. At this point, Daniel sees 2 more angels on the ground and one hovering above the water

- One on the bank asked the one in the air, "How long until the end of these extraordinary things?"

RAISED BOTH HANDS AND SWORE BY HIM

Hebrews raised a hand to signify an oath, so the raising of two might have been in effect doubling the impact.

- He says, "it would be for a time, times, and half a time." This was also mentioned in Daniel 7:25 and is the same as the 70th Week in chapter 9

THE LAST HALF OF THE 7 YEARS OF TRIBULATION

The time (1 year), times (2 years), and half a time (1/2 year) add up to second half of the 7 years in which the Antichrist is in full power

- At the beginning of the 7 years he will make a treaty with Israel, but in the middle he will not only break it, but launch massive persecution on anyone not wearing his mark: Jews and Christians

MANY WILL COME TO KNOW CHRIST IN THIS TIME

The great 2nd century leader Tertullian said, "**The blood of Christians is seed**" referring to the tremendous growth Christianity has had in times of persecution

- God will break the "power of the holy people" (v7) in order to turn many Jews and non believers to Him before He returns, fulfilling Matthew 24:14

BUT HOW? (V8)

Daniel is highly educated, so he understands what is being said, but cannot comprehend how such amazing things can take place

- **We must rest in our trust of God and His sovereignty**, because the details are not completely clear until the time in which they refer to.

RESTORATION (DANIEL 12:9-13)

YOU'VE DONE YOUR JOB

The message God gave to Daniel was sealed up and protected until the appropriate time, so the angel instructs him to "Go on your way..."

- Like Daniel, we need to rest in the assurance of God's promise that **He, and us through Him, will be victorious against evil**

IF OUR HEARTS ARE COLD, WE BECOME BLIND

The angel says in the last days, people with **open minds and desire to seek truth will find it** and be "purified, cleansed, and refined"

- On the other hand, selfish, arrogant, unteachable people will not understand times are growing darker and humanity is falling into more depravity (Matthew 13:10-13)

PARALLELS FROM ANTIOCHUS TO ANTICHRIST

There will be another "abomination that causes desolation" similar to the one Antiochus did in chapters 9 and 11.

- In the middle of the tribulation, the Antichrist will set up an image to be worshiped "in the temple." Many believe this is not literal, but the forcing of Christians and Jews to worship the Antichrist

1290 AND 1335 DAYS DOESN'T ADD UP...

The 3 1/2 years mentioned earlier would consist of 42 months of 30 days each, totaling 1260 days. So, what's with the extra days all about?

- Matthew 25:31-46 mentions a time of judgment by Christ immediately after He comes to power at the close of this period. The added 30 and 45 days could be that time.

THERE IS ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE

Many take these numbers figurative, not literal, because of the use of figurative numbers in ch. 9 and that there is no clear explanation for the 1290 and 1335 days

- This group looks at the numbers as symbolic of a set period of time that believers will have to persevere in times of persecution

THE ANGEL REPEATS HIS COMMAND (ALSO REVELATION 20:11-12)

"...go on your way to the end; you will rest, then rise to your destiny at the end of days" is a fascinating command!

- This makes it clear ch.12 is unfulfilled prophecy. Daniel will die, but when he wakes up from his "rest," he will inherit his "destiny." This will be at the 2nd resurrection.

THE 2ND RESURRECTION

Revelation 20:11-12 is mind blowing! Think of everything God has ever created "fleeing" from His presence. He undoes everything He created. (2 Peter 3:10)

- The only thing remaining during the time of judgment is God, His throne, the books of our lives, the Book of Life, and us

THE EVIDENCE USED FOR JUDGMENT

The Book of Life contains the names of those who have given their lives to Christ. This book has always existed, showing God's foreknowledge and sovereignty

- **The books of our lives** contains the actions of the individual. This will be used to determine our reward in heaven (Matthew 16:27)

NAMES NOT FOUND GO INTO THE 2ND DEATH

The 2nd death isn't actually death at all, but eternal separation from God. Whether it is literal fire and torture is irrelevant, an existence without **God naturally gravitates towards chaos, destruction, and pain.**

WE HAVE ONE SHOT

- This life is a migration period, and what we do with it resonates for eternity.
- Where does our time go? What are our core values? What have we invested in?
- Who have we impacted? What are our goals? What's our work ethic? Do we dream?
- Who do we love?

FOREVER IS A LONG TIME

- Though there will be eternal repercussions for our decisions, it is never too late to receive the grace and forgiveness of God.
- When our time comes to stand in front of the Great Judge, will we receive the same destiny as Daniel?
- Will Christ welcome us with "well done"?