

ISRAEL AND THE LATTER DAYS

Daniel 12:1-4

Intro: The nation of Israel is particularly in view in Daniel twelve. Twice in the very first verse of this chapter we read the words “thy people”, referring to the people of the prophet Daniel, the children of Israel.

Jerusalem is the center of the Bible world. This is particularly true when it comes to prophecy. No city is more loved and yet, more controversial than Jerusalem. Jesus wept over this beloved city: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!”

During the tribulation period, the Land of the Bible and Jerusalem, the Beloved City, will continue to have the eye of the world upon them.

In verses 1-4, we have several very interesting facts about the future, the Latter Days:

- There are facts about the salvation of Israel.
- There are facts about the resurrection of the dead.
- There are facts about the importance of reaching others with The Gospel.
- There are facts the sealed book and the increase of knowledge.

I. Vs. ISRAEL IN THE GREAT TRIBULATION

A. “And at this time.” This time is clearly the end of time; the end of the world as man has known it, excepting Adam and Eve.

1. “This time” the scripture says, “shall be a time of trouble”. Jeremiah calls it “the time of Jacob’s trouble” (30:4-7) Matthew 24:15-22 gives us a glimpse of this trouble. Some say that this has already happened, that these events are past. Not so, for Matthew 24:29-30 tells us of the events that take place at the very end of this “time of trouble”. These events have not yet taken place as recorded here.

a. During the time of trouble, Israel will be drawn into the city of Jerusalem and put through the refiners fire because they have “become dross” (Ezekiel 22:17-22). This is also emphasized in Malachi 3:1-3. God could be ready to put America into the furnace for we are but dross?

b. This time of trouble is not for the New Testament

church. The church will not go through the tribulation. Revelation 3:10 says; "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, [Greek peirasmos-affliction, trial, adversity sent to test] which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell on the earth." When the tribulation comes, we, New Testament believers, will not be dwelling on the earth. 1 Thessalonians 5:9 declares that "God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."

- c. Although Israel has greatly suffered through the years, her greatest suffering is yet to come. "Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." (Matthew 24:22)
- B. "At this time shall Michael stand up...for the children of thy people." Michael is going to stand up for Israel, the people of Daniel. Others may not, but Michael will! It is important that we continue to stand with and for God's people, Israel. "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee..." (Genesis 12:3).
- 1. Twice in Daniel ten, Michael is called "the great prince", (VSS. 13,21). In verse 13, he is in battle with "the prince of Persia."
 - 2. In the little book of Jude, Michael is called "the archangel."
 - 3. In the Revelation 12:7, Michael and his angels fight a pitched battle against Lucifer and his demons.
 - 4. The active service of Michael is to fight for God's people.
- C. "At this time" believing Jews, "found written in the book" will be delivered from their sins. They will accept their Messiah (Zechariah 12:10). Also a remnant will be delivered through the tribulation; they along with the Gentile believers and surviving heathen, will populate the earth during the millennium.

II. VS. 2, ISRAELITES RESURRECTED

- A. This verse, in context, speaks of the resurrection at the end of the tribulation. The dead will be raised. To better understand this verse and the Biblical application here, we need to look at

Bible resurrections.

1. Bible resurrections:

- a. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ. There would no resurrection unto eternal life if Christ had not risen from the tomb. “..If there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ is not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain...But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept” (1 Corinthians 15:13-14;20.). The Gospel is: “how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.” When we deal with the subject of resurrection unto everlasting life, we must begin with the resurrection of Christ.
- b. The Spiritual Resurrection. To have a part in the resurrection of the just spoken of in this verse, you must first have a spiritual resurrection. The Word of God teaches that we are all sinners, and because this, we are dead and need resurrection. Ephesians 2:1 say: “And you hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins.” All believers have experienced the new birth, they have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit (Titus 2:5).
- c. The Bodily Resurrection. The spirit of man is eternal and will never cease to exist. It is the body that dies and is planted as a seed awaiting the resurrection of the just, if the person is born again, or the resurrection of the unjust if the person is lost eternally. In context of what we are studying here, the just who have been martyred during the tribulation will be resurrected at the close of the seven year tribulation period. The lost will not be raised until after the 1,000 year reign of Christ (Revelation 20:4-6).
- d. The National Resurrection of Israel. The nation of Israel will one day come to Christ and be saved. They will experience spiritual reviving. Isaiah 66:8 says that after much travail the Jewish nation will come to Christ and be saved. Because the Jews

rejected Christ, we, Gentiles, have been grafted in as the Apostle Paul says: “For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?” (Romans 11:5)

III. VS. 3, IN REWARD FOR POINTING OTHERS TO CHRIST

- A. The wise are going to shine. The firmament above is so very beautiful on a dark, moonless night. The twinkling of the stars in the heavens are beyond description. In the brightness of the day, the Sun is so magnificent in its duty of bringing warm the weary soul.
- B. The Bible teaches us that to be wise we must fear God. Proverbs 9:10: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.” To be wise, we must fear God.
- C. “They that turn many to righteousness,” speaks of those who give the Gospel to the lost.
 - 1. Proverbs 11:30: “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life and he that winneth souls is wise.” It is a wise thing to give out the Gospel.
 - 2. During the tribulation, the 144,000 Jewish evangelists will be circling the globe with the Gospel. Also the two witnesses will be preaching in the city of Jerusalem. Countless others will not be ashamed of the Gospel and many shall be turned to righteousness (Romans 1:16).

IV. INSTRUCTION TO SHUT UP THE BOOK

- A. The book was to be shut until the time of the end. Now is the time to open and study the Book of Daniel; the Holy Spirit is breaking open the seal to believers as we see the truths of Daniel being fulfilled around us. Yet, this is not the primary meaning of the words of the angel.
- B. When the Great Tribulation comes upon the earth, the scales will fall from the eyes of many Jews, and they will behold the Christ.
 - 1. Right now there are a few Jewish people being saved, but multitudes will be born again during the last three and a half years of the tribulation.
 - 2. Romans 11:25b-26 says: “...Blindness in part is

happened unto Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.”

- C. “Knowledge shall increase”– While it is true that we live in the age of knowledge and innovation, this verse is speaking of an increase in the knowledge of the Lord and God and His Son Jesus Christ. The days are coming when the knowledge of the Lord Jesus will come shining into the hearts and minds of the nation of Israel. 2 Corinthians 3:14-16 tells us that the veil will be lifted and the Jews will see Jesus.

Conclusion: In the little book “Daniel: God’s Pattern for the Future,” Chuck Swindoll sums up the first four verses of Daniel 12 with these thoughts:

1. *Man honors the famous and soon forgets them, but God honors the unknown and never forgets them.*
2. *Man gives his rewards now, but God saves His until later.*
3. *Man’s methods are connected with time, but God’s are connected to eternity.*

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