

Daniel 12

The Time of the End

12 "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.

2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. 3 And those who have insight will shine like the glow of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

4 But as for you, Daniel, keep these words secret and seal up the book until the end of time; many will roam about, and knowledge will increase."

5 Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others were standing, one on this bank of the stream and the other on that bank of the stream. 6 And someone said to the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, "How long will it be until the end of these wonders?"

7 And I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time; and as soon as they finish smashing the power of the holy people, all these events will be completed.

8 But as for me, I heard but did not understand; so I said, "My lord, what will be the outcome of these events?" 9 And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for these words will be kept secret and sealed up until the end time.

10 Many will be purged, cleansed, and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand.

11 And from the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. 12 Blessed is the one who is patient and attains to the 1,335 days! 13 But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will rest and rise for your allotted portion at the end of the age."

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Pauls Observations and insights

1. Michael stands as guardian over Israel. He is an angel called the 'great prince'. Up till now he has been Israel's protector but fairly passive, but now Michael stands.

2. 'To stand' is to prepare to do something that is in alignment with the will of God.

3. He says, the time that is coming will be very stressful, more so than any other time in Israel's history.

4. Daniel finally gets some encouragement with regards to his original request, as to what was going to happen to the nation of Israel.
5. Daniel is told Israel will be rescued. He is told that all whose name is written in the book will be rescued.
6. How do you get your name written in the book?
7. We get insight into death and what is happening in death, right now, from what Michael said.
8. To sleep in the dust is to be in death, not active, but asleep.
9. The angel says, at this time they will awake from their sleep.
10. Awake is to live.
11. Those whose name is written in the book will rise to everlasting life.
12. Those whose names are not written in the book to everlasting contempt. This is not a place you want to go to!
13. To be amongst those who have insight is to understand God's ways, revealed to us, from His word.
14. To shine is to deflect the glory of God.
15. Those who have lived to reveal God are like the constant glory of the stars.
16. The angel gives Daniel instruction to seal the books meaning. He says 'don't make its contents available to others. It is for the end of time.'
17. The end of time is when the worlds' clock stops ticking and the reality of the world we know is no more.
18. What does it mean to go back and forth and knowledge increase?
19. Daniel sees two more heavenly beings each side of the river.
20. One wants to know how long it will be until the end.
21. The angel said to him 'time, time and half a time'. What does this measure in actual time?
22. What is it to shatter the power of the people?
23. Even though Daniel heard, he did not understand, so he asked what the end would look like, but he is not told, only that he would go into death and one day would rise.
24. What is it to be purged, purified and refined?
25. The wicked will act wickedly, they will not understand as they will be unaware.
26. The people with insight will understand all that is taking place in the earth.
27. The angel gives a key landmark to watch out for - when the regular sacrifices are forced to stop and the abomination of desolation takes place in the temple.
28. The numbers 1,290 days and 1,335 days, who are they that wait for the 1,335 days.
29. Daniel is instructed to live until the end of his life, he is told he will go into his rest - death is a Daniel rest, or death is a death of torment.
30. So, a Daniel death is to know, even though you have gone into death, you will rise again at the end of the age.
31. Do you know that you will rise again at the end of the age?