Daniel 12:1-13 – Knowing Where You Are Headed

Opening: Joke

- A little boy was waiting for his mother to come out of the grocery store. As he waited, he was approached by a man who asked, "Son, can you tell me where the Post Office is?"
- The little boy replied, "Sure! Just go straight down this street a coupla blocks and it will be on the right."
- The man thanked the boy kindly and said, "I'm the new pastor in town. I'd like for you to come to church on Sunday. I'll show you how to get to Heaven."
- The boy immediately refused, “No thanks!” he said somewhat sarcastically.
- The pastor, taken back by the abruptness of the boy’s response, probed, “May I ask why you aren’t interested in learning how to get to heaven?”
- The little boy replied, "I don't trust you... You don't even know how to get to the Post Office?!"

❖ Do you know where you are headed… and how to get there?
  a) We are all on a journey and we need to know the answer to those questions.

Introduction: We are concluding our study in the historical and prophetic of... Daniel.

1. Key Themes and Topics in this book include…
   a) Faith
   b) The Power of Prayer
   c) Not Compromising
   d) The Sovereignty of God – God is in control, even when we are not.

2. CONTEXT/HISTORY: These last three chapter Daniel all go together.
   a) Chapter 10 is the introduction to Daniel’s final vision. Chap 11 is the final vision, and Chap 12 is the conclusion of that vision and God’s messages to Daniel.

Let’s begin by reading: Daniel 12:1-4 (NKJV)i

1. I’ve summarized our passage today with Knowing Where You Are Headed.
   a) Chapter 11 ended with the Angel describing the Antichrist and the Angel’s message continues…
Daniel 12:1 1 “At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Everyone who is found written in the book.

1. The angel Michael’s job is to protect Israel. Recent examples of Israel’s supernatural protection and victories include…
   a) The War of Independence in 1947-49; Six Day War in June 1967; Yom Kippur War in October 1973
   b) Michael was contending with the Devil back in the times of Joshua over the body of Moses (Jude 9).
   c) Michael battled with the demon over Persia in the times of Daniel (10:13).
   d) This passage along with Revelation (12:7) reveal that Michael will be waging war with Satan in the End Times.
      i) Michael the archangel is a great angelic warrior, who many believe to be equal in power to Satan.
      ii) Michael’s name means Who is Like God.
      iii) Satan fell from heaven (Isaiah 14:12ff) because he declared, “I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God… I will be like the Most High.”
      iv) What’s the difference? Michael uses his powers under God’s authority to help and protect, Satan uses his powers in rebellion to God to divide, devour, and destroy.

2. The Angel in Vs 1 declares to Daniel, And there shall be a time of trouble… This is a reference to what’s called the Great Tribulation.
   a) Jeremiah 30:7 Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob’s trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.
      i) Notice that Israel, not the church, is the group affected during this time.
      ii) The church will have already been raptured/caught up into heaven (1 Thes 4:17).
   b) Concerning Jacob’s trouble, it will be Such as never was since there was a nation.
      i) The Jewish people endured being carried away to Babylon as captives. They were victimized by Antiochus IV Epiphanes, the Romans, and in the not too distant past, the Germans.
      ii) Yet this Great Tribulation period of trouble will be greater than any of these past events.
      iii) Jesus describes this period of time in Matthew 24:21, For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.
      iv) Pastor David Guzik explains, The trumpets, seals, and bowls of Revelation all described the horrific conditions of the world in general during this time. The Jewish people will be targets of the full fury of the devil and his antichrist during this period, and will live in a world that is in incredible upheaval because of the judgment of God.
3. Yet there is hope. The Angel declares, And at that time your people shall be delivered, Everyone who is found written in the book.

a) Though Satan’s aim is to destroy them, God will protect and sustain His chosen people through this time.

b) Romans 11:25–27 

\[25\text{ For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.}\]

\[26\text{ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;}\]

\[27\text{ For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.”}\]

c) This will occur when Jesus literally and physically returns at His Second Coming.

d) The prophet describes this future event in Zechariah 12:10–11  

\[10\text{ “And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.”}\]

e) When Jesus returns, then the Jewish people will finally recognize Him as their promised Messiah, but they will also mourn over their decision to reject Him at His first coming.

i) Upon believing, their names will be added to the Lamb’s Book of Life (Rev 21:27).

ii) Every one who is found written in the book will be saved, both Jew and Gentile.

iii) Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Daniel 12:2-3  

\[2\text{ And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake. Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.}\]

\[3\text{ Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.}\]

1. The Bible teaches that there will be two resurrections, one for the saved and one for the condemned.

a) Jesus, speaking of the resurrection said in John 5:28b-29 …all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

b) Believers who have died are with the Lord now, but without their resurrected bodies yet. Their souls are in some type of spirit state.

i) The resurrection of life is when believer who have died physically will receive their new eternal bodies that are not corrupted by sin.

ii) The resurrection of condemnation is when those whose names are not found in the Lamb’s Book of Life will be clothed with a body prepared for eternal condemnation in the lake of fire.
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(1) This will be their body prepared for their eternal punishment.

(2) The lake of fire is the place where it’s subjects are tormented day and night forever and ever (Rev 20:10).

2. Believers, however, will be bright like stars.
   a) Without sin marred bodies, we will truly be able to reflect the image of God that we were created in (Gen 1:26-27).
   b) In these present times, Jon Courson exhorts, “Be wise. In light of what’s happening prophetically, we should be motivated to be soul-winners, to evangelize, to share the good news. Prophecy is not meant to titillate our curiosity. It’s meant to motivate us to activity. If you are wise, if you want to experience the full capacity of what God intends for you in ages to come, be a soul-winner. Turn people to righteousness. Turn them to Jesus Christ and you’ll shine forever and ever.”

Daniel 12:4 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.”

1. Daniel’s prophesy was of future events related to the End Times, so the angel instruction him to seal or shut up the book.
   a) This isn’t like the emergency fire alarm lever behind glass – In case of emergency - Break Glass.
   b) When the time of the end draws near and is upon us, then the prophesy of this book will be more fully understood.

2. Many believe we are approaching the End Times with the fulfillment of Dan 12:4 for many shall run to and fro through planes, trains and automobiles.
   a) In mere hours we can get anywhere around the world.
      i) In about 40 hours I flew from Orlando to Jakarta Indonesia, including layovers in August of 2016.
   b) And with the internet and technology, new information now grows at expediential rates.
      i) Up until 1900, knowledge doubled about 100 years.
      ii) Starting in the 60s technology advances significantly accelerated the doubling of knowledge.
      iii) It’s estimated that the amount of all knowledge doubles in less than a year now.
      iv) IBM estimates that by 2020 knowledge will double every 11-12 hours.

Daniel 12:5-7 5 Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank. 6 And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?” 7 Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand.
and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.

1. This final vision began with Daniel standing by the side of the great river, the Tigris (Dan 10:4).

2. Two angels have appeared, one on each side of the river.
   a) Jesus is the one who is clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river.
   b) One of the angels ask Jesus how long until the fulfillment of these wonders be?
   c) Jesus appears to worship or pray with His hands toward heaven and then responds, a time [one year], times [two years], and half a time [half a year].
   d) This totals 3½ years or half of the Great Tribulation period.
   e) This is the same amount of time given in Prophesies found in Dan 7:25, 9:27; Rev 11:3, 12:6, 12:4, 13:5.
      i) The duration 42 months and 1,260 days is also given in Revelation; both are a duration of 3½ years.
      ii) These are the events that will occur during the second half of Daniels’s seventieth week, the second half of the Great Tribulation period.
      iii) Halfway into the Great Tribulation period the Antichrist will set up an image inside the Temple and demand that the people of the world worship this image.

  (1) This is the Abomination of Desolation. What will follow is 3½ years of intense tribulations.

Daniel 12:8 8 Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, “My lord, what shall be the end of these things?”

1. Daniel didn’t fully understand, and he says so to the angel.
   a) It’s okay if you don’t understand the Word of God as you read it, but don’t give up.
   b) Keep reading and in time the lights will come on, connections will be made, and it will make sense!

Daniel 12:9-10 9 And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. 10 Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.

1. Daniel would not receive the full interpretation of these visions and the command to Go your way meant that Daniel need not dwell on these things for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.
   a) No doubt, these words make much more sense to us here today than they did to Daniel 2,500 years ago.
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**Daniel 12:11-12**

11 “And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days. 12 Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.

1. Here the angel sets a time limit of 1,290, which is 30 days longer than Jesus’s timetable of 1,260.
   a) Then a period of 1,335 days is identified.
   b) David Guzik suggests, “At the end of the 1,290 days, Jesus’ government is officially installed. At the end of the 1,335 days the nations are judged (Matthew 25:31–46).”

**Daniel 12:13**

13 “But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.

1. In Verses 9 and 13 Daniel is told twice to “Go your way…”
   a) When Peter wanted to know about John’s future, Jesus responded to him in John 21:22, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.”

**Conclusion: What’s the big take away from this passage?**

1. How do we know where we are headed? By following Him! We are headed to the same place Jesus is going.
   a) As we walk along the way with Jesus, let’s shine like the light of a star now by being a soul-winner.

**Invitation: Revelation 3:20** Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

1 All scripture references, unless otherwise noted, are taken from The New King James Version. (1982). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.