Session 12 Details About the Tribulation (Dan. 12:4-13)

I. REVIEW OF DANIEL 12:1-3

A. In Daniel 12, a mighty angel assured Daniel of the ultimate triumph of God’s kingdom related to the Great Tribulation. The most dramatic, powerful, violent, important generation in history is coming.

In session eleven last week, we looked at the first three verses of Daniel 12. I want to give a very short snapshot of the first three verses just to get us in the flow of what is happening in this very significant end-time chapter, Daniel 12. We are going to focus our attention tonight on Daniel 12:4-13, but I will give a little review first.

What is happening in Daniel 12 is a mighty angel—meaning an angel of extraordinary glory that is revealed in Daniel 10—is giving Daniel the assurance of the ultimate victory and triumph of God’s kingdom and God’s people. The reason this assurance is so important is because he has described what Jesus called the Great Tribulation: the most severe and intense and the most difficult hour of human history. What the angel is saying is that yes it will be uniquely difficult, but it will also be the greatest hour of deliverance. There will be angelic activity, there will be the release of the glory of God, there will be a spirit of purity, victory, and dedication in the midst of the Church like never before.

The generation in which the Lord returns is the most dramatic, most powerful, most important generation in all of human history, and that is the generation that is before us. As I have said many times, it is my personal opinion we are in the early days of that generation. That is not a prophecy, but it is an observation that I have made from the biblical signs of the times. It is the most difficult, the most glorious, the most important, the most unique generation in human history. It is an hour for the Body of Christ to be fully engaged with the Lord, not half and half, not undecided, not quite resolved to be dedicated.

B. Daniel 12 emphasizes the sovereign rule of God over all, namely that history is heading towards a most glorious future and that God’s people will prevail with victory. Our God knows the end from the beginning. Many will accept Jesus and commit to lives of purity during this time. These truths will give God’s people boldness and courage to live godly and refuse compromise.

I am saying it again, that in Daniel 12 what the angel is emphasizing is God’s sovereign rule and power and victory over all the plans of the enemy, all the power of darkness. That is the primary theme of this chapter. History is headed towards a glorious future. History is not like a train that is off the tracks, just heading into chaos. History is headed in a very dynamic direction, and God’s people are going to prevail. He is the God who knows the end from the beginning. He knows what is going on. He knows what the enemy’s strategies are, and He is going to use the enemy’s strategy to bring the glory of God to the nations, to bring victory in the Church.

The reason we need to be familiar with these truths is because they will give us boldness. They will give us boldness and courage in this hour of history as it unfolds. Again I believe we are in the early days of that generation. We may be further along than we think, maybe not quite as far as we think; I do not know. I know one thing: things are picking up with an intensity that is very obvious. All you have to do is just read or hear the news and the headlines. The daily headlines are alerting everybody that things are escalating in a very intense way where good is happening and the greatest numbers of people are coming to the Lord of any time in history, but evil is escalating and darkness is escalating.
C. Daniel 12:1-2 describes the full and final deliverance of Israel and the resurrection of the saints. The Antichrist will be a king or political leader (11:36) in the generation of Israel’s deliverance at the end (12:1-3). He will invade Israel and establish his “headquarters” near Jerusalem (11:45). The wise and those who turn people to righteousness shall shine like the stars forever (12:3).

Daniel 12:1, the angel says, “But know this, Michael shall stand up.” The idea is the host of angels is going to arise. There will be an increase of angelic activity second to no time in history. Not only that but you have to be braced. You have to be girded for action, because this mighty angel says that it will be a time of great trouble.

Jesus went on to emphasize that it will be the generation facing the most trouble in human history. The angel mentions that there will be trouble such as never was. Jesus even says it in a more direct and emphasized way. Though you may lose courage, the angel says that it is at this very time that the nation of Israel and the Body of Christ will find the greatest deliverance anytime in history. There will be an intervention of God. The deliverance against all odds will be manifested. It will be a remarkable intervention of God.

Verse 3, the angel is saying that the most important issue for us in a personal way is that we are people of wisdom in that we understand what God is doing and we are agreeing in our lifestyle. The angel says, if you have wisdom, if you grasp what is going on from the prophetic scriptures—and that is why we are studying them—and if you will turn people to righteousness—not talk people into compromise as a believer using Bible verses to give people confidence to compromise but rather to go the other way—turn people to righteousness, convince believers and unbelievers alike that righteousness, obedience to the Lord is the way forward, this angel says that then you will shine in the resurrection like a star in the glory of God forever. It really will matter if you grasp what is going on in that generation of history and you make right decisions and convince other people to follow right decisions.

Again I believe we are in the early days of this generation and yet so much of the Church is lethargic and sleeping as though things are just going to just ebb along you know, or maybe they will pick up a little bit. At
the same time there is a part of the Church—and it is millions, not just a little, not just a few—that is responding to the radical call of the Spirit to go wholeheartedly before the Lord. I am talking about believers all over the nations, all over Asia and Africa and Latin America and Europe. Believers are making new decisions to be radical before the Lord.

D. **Great Tribulation:** Jesus referred to Daniel 12:1 when speaking of the tribulation (Mt. 24:21). He described this time as being so violent that if the time was not cut short that no one would survive.

15 Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet…
16 Then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world…
22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved… (Mt. 24:15, 21-22)

Here in Matthew 24:21 Jesus adds His words to what this angel said. Jesus is actually referring to this angel saying this is going to be a time of trouble like none that has ever been seen. Jesus adds in Matthew 24:22 that this trouble will be so intense, it will be the most intense generation in history in terms of violence, in terms of trouble. He says that it will be so intense—now He adds this; Daniel 12 does not say it but Jesus the great Prophet, yea more than a prophet, says—that unless those days were cut short no flesh would be saved.

He is not saying that nobody would be born again. He is saying that nobody would physically survive the violence of that hour of history. Nobody would survive it! That how intense it is going to be, but there is a resurrection. God is leading the nations into His direction, and it is going to result in the glory of God filling the earth before it is all over.

E. The abomination of desolation is the central political and religious event that will reveal the nature and timing of the Antichrist’s emergence onto the world stage. The abomination occurs when the Antichrist puts his image in the Jerusalem temple, demanding to be worshiped (Dan. 8:13; 9:27; 11:31; 12:11), as described by Paul (2 Thes. 2:3-4) and John (Rev. 13:11-18).

We mentioned last week is that the abomination of desolation is the central political event and the central religious event that reveals the nature and the timing of the Antichrist emergence onto the world stage. The reason I am highlighting that again today is because in a few moments we are going to see in verse 11 how this mighty angel is going to tie these events into the abomination of desolation. Jesus said that when you see the abomination of desolation, you know that the Great Tribulation has begun. You know the Antichrist is on the world stage when you see that political event which is also a religious event.

In one sentence—though I have already spent a whole session on what the abomination of desolation is, and we have that session on the website if this is a new term to you—it is in essence when the Antichrist walks into the temple in Jerusalem and declares himself to be God. It does not end there. He demands, at the threat of physical death, that all the nations worship him as God, and **that** is the abomination. That a man would claim to be God and he would have unusual political and demonic power and military and economic power, and he would use it to threaten the individuals of the nations with physical death, if they do not worship him as God, **that** is the great abomination that leads to desolation in many, many lives, many cities, and many nations.

F. Details of the end times were shown to Daniel so that God’s people would prepare themselves. God wants His people to be resolved to be faithful before deception, lawlessness, and persecution escalate. In Matthew 24, Jesus warned the Church more about deception in the end times than tribulation (Mt. 24:4-5, 11, 24; Mk. 13:5-6, 22; Lk. 21:8; 2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 3:13).
The reason Daniel is getting these details from this mighty angel and the reason these details are important to know is that the Bible calls it wisdom to understand these details. God gave the details so the people of God could prepare themselves according to those details. There is a very irresponsible attitude in the Body of Christ, very naive and very irresponsible. I have heard many good people, men and women of God say it. There is a certain sincerity about it, but it is very irresponsible and dangerous and very naive. They say, “Well, prophecy will just take care of itself. I mean God is in control. It will all pan out.”

I like how Allen Hood says it, “Yeah, it will pan out, but how will it pan out for you?” That is the issue because many people who do not know what is going on, even believers, will be swept away with deception in that day. It will have disastrous results for their life if they do not grasp what is going on. They will be so vulnerable to fear and confusion and deception.

This idea that “I do not really need to bother what the Bible says about end-time prophecy; it will take care of itself” leads one to ask, “Will your life just ‘end up’ right?” I would not disregard the importance God puts in the Scripture on that. What He said about that generation of history, I would not disregard it lightly and say that it will just take care of itself.

The Lord’s testimony would say, “I gave you 150 chapters in the Bible in which the primary subject was that generation.”

So we want to prepare ourselves. We want to be resolved before the deception increases, before the lawlessness increases which is the sin in the culture, before the persecution starts against taking a stand. Before those three things increase, the Lord wants His people individually to be resolved, “I am going to go deep. I am not going to back down. I am going to grasp what is happening and be resolved before the escalation of these negative things.” This is the hour to make serious decisions, not waiting until it gets more intense and then hoping that you will jump in and it will just all take care of itself. I mean the grace of God will be present then, but, beloved, this is the easiest time it will ever be in your life to make that resolve.

Five years, ten years, twenty years from now it will be far more intense with far more resistance, far more lawlessness in the culture, far more persecution against taking a stand. As I said last week that Jesus warned the Church more about deception than He did tribulation or persecution. Sadly, we are more concerned with tribulation and persecution. I mean this is a big subject: tribulation and persecution. Jesus did warn the Church about that, but He warned more about deception than tribulation. Yet in the Western culture we are far more focused on the tribulation factor or the persecution/resistance factor.

G. Why did Daniel’s visions put so much emphasis on the Antichrist? The counterfeit glory of the Antichrist will deceive many who are not established in the love and knowledge of the truth. Hitler’s rise to power created a dynamic optimism that swept many church members into deception.

Why did Daniel’s visions put so much emphasis on the Antichrist? I have been asked this question over the years. It is a very important one. Daniel had four primary visions in the latter years of his ministry and life. Why did Daniel’s four visions in his latter years put a surprising emphasis on the Antichrist? I mean they mention the revival, they mention the true Christ, but the emphasis by far in the four visions is on the Antichrist and the nature of his deception, his cruelty, and his evil ways.

You think, “Lord, why?” Why did a man that Jesus pointed us to—Daniel—put so much energy and focus on the Antichrist? Why not put all that attention on the Christ and the great revival? I believe that one of the
reasons is because of the counterfeit glory that the Antichrist will possess. It will be a false glory, a counterfeit glory that will be manifest in his life. He will have signs and wonders and power. He will bring a seeming unity to the nations. He will bring economic prosperity. There will be so much apparent goodness that many in the Church will be swept away by the grandeur of what this man is accomplishing with power. It is demonic power, but it will not appear that way without great discernment.

What happened in Nazi Germany is that Adolf Hitler—one of the most demonized men that ever walked the planet as far as I am concerned—was applauded by many in the Church as the answer to their prayers. Many in the German Church were swept away by the dynamic optimism of what was happening in their nation. People were attributing it to “God has answered our prayers. The Lord has heard us. He is with us.” It was almost the devil incarnate—not quite, that is a little exaggerated—but certainly he was one of the most demonized leaders ever to be in leadership of a nation. Many in the Church in that nation were captured by the dynamic optimism in their culture about him and the goodness of what he was doing. Because they were not established in the knowledge of the truth about the enemy’s plans to give the counterfeit, many were swept into deception.

So in Gabriel’s very first visit in the Bible—he only makes four visits—in Gabriel’s first visit in the Bible he talks about the Antichrist. Gabriel, what about the real Christ? He would say, “You have to understand the nature of this man’s deception and the evil that is at the core because it will not be obvious.”

So I think it is important; it behooves us to listen to what Jesus said in Matthew 24:15. He said to pay attention to what Daniel said regarding the abomination of desolation and what the Antichrist is about. It will be critical so you are not swept away by the optimism of what will be happening in many nations of the earth by his activities and the people that are identifying with him. I mean even now there are people in the Church, even today, plotting, saying that the Supreme Court decision is good, that finally love and equality are winning the day, and finally justice has its way. I mean believers are applauding this with no understanding of the intensity of where our nation is going in one trajectory, though we do know a great revival is coming in the very opposite direction as well. The dark and the light, as I have said many times, will escalate together.

II. TWO IMPORTANT SIGNS (12:4)

A. Daniel was commanded to seal the vision, and then he was given two signs of the end-time times—increased travel (to run and fro) and increased knowledge. Some see the increase of knowledge as involving knowledge in general as well as an increase of the knowledge of Daniel’s prophecies.

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.” (Dan. 12:4)

In verse 4, the mighty angel is now saying, “I have given you the vision”—the vision was in Daniel 11 and the first part of Daniel 12:1-3—“now I am going to give you the application. I am going to give you some practical advice from verse 4-13. I am going to give you some added details that you are going to want to know.”

First thing he does, he urges Daniel to preserve the vision or the book. Whether he means this final vision or the whole book of Daniel it would all be the same principle. The angel says, “Daniel, make sure you shut up the words and you seal the book until the end of time.” What he is saying here is to make sure that you preserve what I gave you by the Holy Spirit. The angel is telling this to Daniel.

Now the words, “seal up the book” are in the book of Daniel and the book of Revelation and other places in the Bible where that idea of sealing a prophetic vision has several very diverse meanings. I have a little bit of that
in the notes so I do not want to take time on that. In this particular verse to seal the book means to preserve it. He is saying, “Daniel, this book will be of optimum significance in the generation the Lord returns.”

Daniel was in his mid-eighties. He was in the Persian court in the city of Babylon. He did not have a lot of believers around him, I am imagining. It was important that these visions were recorded correctly, that they were stored correctly, that he had plans to preserve them so they are passed on for the future generations, etc. So the angel is telling him to take pains, to be attentive to preserving the things that the angel just told him. Capture them, write them, shut them up means attend to them and do not let anything be lost.

Then the angel goes on and gives two of the most significant signs of the times that we can see right now in this very hour of history. He is talking about the time at the end, and he says, “Many shall run to and fro.” I believe that that is a reference to increased travel. Many in the nations, I mean millions, are traveling. I mean how many millions of people are traveling to and fro across the nations? There is such an escalation of the technology related to travel and all the new improved ways.

Not only that, but knowledge itself is going to escalate; it is going to accelerate in a very dramatic, very observable way in that generation. Now he is giving these two prophetic words so briefly that Daniel in his day must have thought, “People will go to and fro and knowledge will increase? Like really?”

I can imagine the angel saying, “Daniel, just write it down. It does not make sense now”—that was 2,500 years ago when Daniel had the encounter—“but there is coming a day where these two issues, the issue of travel and issue of knowledge and communication are going to explode.”

B. Seal the book: To seal a vision can mean different things. It can mean to preserve a vision by writing it down and seeing that is properly protected (8:26; 12:4), or it can mean to hide its full meaning (12:9), or to authenticate and fulfill what is promised in it (9:24). The sealing of the vision here does not indicate concealing it, but rather preserving the vision by sealing it against change or addition—to keep it intact so it could be read and understood by many.

C. Many commentators limit their view of this verse to increasing in knowledge of the book of Daniel. I do not think this captures the fullness of the remarkable truth that the angel is highlighting. All biblical prophecy of the end times will be understood more as we get closer to Jesus’ return. This will not be unique to Daniel’s prophecies and would not warrant a mighty angel highlighting it.

D. Premillennial commentators who see 12:4 as including an increase of travel and general knowledge include John Walvoord, Leon Wood, Richard DeHaan, Eugene W. Faulstich, James Coffman, Uriah Smith, Gary Fisher, Scott MacGregor, David R. Reagan, Ron Cusano, and others.

E. Two primary components that are dynamically affecting the acceleration of good and evil today are the increase of travel and knowledge (via technology). Knowledge with communication and travel make sin and righteousness more accessible in far greater intensity. They are both significant components in facilitating the collaboration and synergism of good and evil resulting in the gospel being preached in all nations (Mt. 24:14) and of evil coming to fullness in the nations (Dan. 8:23).

23 In the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king [Antichrist] shall arise...who understands sinister schemes. (Dan. 8:23)

10 Many shall be purified...and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly... (Dan. 12:10)
Now here is the reason this is so important. These are two of the primary components that will facilitate the acceleration of good and evil in the nations. There is spiritual power, but in the natural in terms of natural activities, what accelerates potential good or potential evil more than the capacity of travel, modern travel and the capacity of modern knowledge through technology? A sub-theme of knowledge is communication. Both of these will make sin and righteousness increase depending on how we use them, and they are being used in both directions. The Holy Spirit is using knowledge and travel for the gospel to go forward in greater way and the Body of Christ to serve one another, and truth to increase in terms of people’s understanding of it. The devil is using it to cause sin to be more accessible and for sin to accelerate in an exponential way right now. I believe these are the two of the primary components that are facilitating the collaboration and dynamic synergism. I do not mean just a working together a little bit. I mean this explosive acceleration of the synergism of good and evil.

The fact that the gospel will be preached in all the nations, it is happening faster and faster through the technology. Wycliffe Bible Translators are the primary Bible translators on the globe today, though there are a number of ministries that also do that. Wycliffe is saying that through the use of technology they are translating the Bible into the languages of the earth so much quicker. I mean the Lord is using this advance in technology.

It is also being used to facilitate the fullness of darkness. The verse that we have looked at a number of times, Daniel 8:23, talks about when transgressors or sinners or sin will come to fullness. Beloved, we are in that timeframe where sin is coming to fullness. It is going to go beyond where it is now, but we are at the beginning of an acceleration of sin in the culture. The very decision in the Supreme Court, this historic, grievous decision that is legalizing gay marriage by law in every state and all the results of that, the consequences of that, the down-line impact of this getting in all the school curriculums and the way it will get into all the children’s and youth ministries and all the services to children. The way hate crimes will come out of this and how people will not take a stand for truth because of the fear of the penalty and the consequences leading to silence in much of the Church. All of these things are tied into that.

I have good news for you. It is not just that sin is going to come to fullness, so is purity. We are getting ahead of ourselves. Daniel 12 is the chapter we are looking at, but we are going to go ahead. Go down to verse 10 for just a moment. Look what it says is the fruit of the devil’s rage in the Great Tribulation; here is the fruit: many will be purified—many, not a few. You know, often we read that verse, “many will be purified and refined,” and we focus on the words purified and refined. I think it is important that we grasp that this is God’s purpose in allowing the evil to take place at this level. God has a superior, higher motive and goal in it, and it is going to work.

I do not want you to lose the word many, it is not going to be a few, it is not going to be a little ragged remnant, you know a few over here barely hanging on, a few over there. Beloved, there are going to be multitudes of people who are going to go deep in the grace of God in living a lifestyle of purity, many. The trouble, and the outpouring of the Spirit, and the presentation of truth and the community in the Body of Christ relationships, all these will be working together where many will be purified, many will walk out the first commandment. They will love God with all of their strength, and therefore consequentially they will love their neighbor as themselves.

Notice in the very same verse here in Daniel 12:10 that the wicked are going to also continue to do wickedness. So the pure will become more pure and the wicked will become more wicked, and people are going to move in one direction or the other. That is why you do not want to be unresolved right now. Don’t say, “I will just dabble in a little bit of this and a little, you know a little bit of immorality, not too much, a little bit of drunkenness, not too much, a little bit of slander and anger but not too much. Just get a little bit of that, a little
bit of revenge but not too much.” Beloved, this is an hour where it is going to be a slippery slope in darkness because the wicked will become more wicked. A lot of believers will be pulled by the seduction of what is happening in the darkness of the culture, but they are also going to be pulled by the grace of God in the other direction.

F. Babel was the city in which the first organized religion in history developed that resulted in the first organized rebellion against God by mankind. Nothing they proposed to do would be withheld from them (v. 6) in terms of the progression of sin reaching its full potential. The “top in the heavens” refers to their sin reaching into the heavenly demonic realm, not to the height of their building.

4“Come, let us build…a tower whose top is in the heavens…” 6The LORD said, “Indeed the people are one…and now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them... (Gen. 11:4-6)

I want you to consider the importance of the increase of travel and information. It is very, very significant. I believe that it is tied to what happened in the tower of Babel in Genesis 11. Now we all know the story of the tower of Babel. Babel was the first to form as a city with organized religion. At Babel they conducted the first organized rebellion against God. It became the city of Babylon, and that city is going to be restored like Jerusalem has been restored and is being restored. The story of world history can be told through the tale of two cities, Babylon and Jerusalem, but that is another story for another time.

When we go back to Genesis 11, we see that they are building a tower. Now here is the phrase that you can miss if you are not paying attention. They are building a tower—and this is their goal—whose top is in the heavens. Its top is in the heavens. The Lord came down and scattered them. He said that indeed the people are one. That is, they are coming into a unity together outside of the will of God. It is a unity that is contrary to the will of God. With this unity nothing they propose to do will be impossible. One translation says, “Nothing will be withheld from them.” What does that mean? When it talks about building a tower that is reaching its top into heaven, it is not talking about the height of the building. It is not talking about a five-story mud building and God saying, “Oh no! They might get to ten stories. They are going to get into the heavens if they get up to ten stories.” God was not concerned by the height of the architecture. When it says “top of the heavens,” that is a spiritual comment. They were pressing to entering to the realm of the heavenlies, the demonic realm, in a way beyond God’s timing.

There will be a generation in which men and women will enter into the realm of the heavens in the dark sense, the demonic sense. They will do it when they have collaboration, a synergism, and a unity of billions of people through knowledge. Through the Internet, which has caused this tremendous explosion of knowledge, and this acceleration of travel, billions of people can pool their resources together to go deeper into darkness than any time in history.

The Lord divided the city of Babylon there because it was not His timing for evil to escalate at that level right then. So He divided the languages and scattered them. Though there are over 7,000 different languages in the earth right now, more in dialects, through the Internet the nations can speak together, and through travel they can work together to restore the negative dimensions of the Babel dynamic. That is why we are seeing what is happening on the Internet in terms of the immorality, the demonic realm, the dark movies, etc. All of this is related to technology and travel at the end of the day.

These are the two factors that have facilitated this explosion, this acceleration of darkness. Then again the Holy Spirit uses it in the positive sense as well. When the mighty angel said to Daniel, “They will go to and fro and they will get more knowledge,” he was saying something very significant, not something casual or something peripheral or something unimportant. He was saying that when you see those two explode, I mean, on an
exponential curve of exceptional increase, then you will know you are in that timeframe where you are going to need the visions of Daniel. You are going to need to study them and understand what is going on.

Now there is a lot of information on this current increase. I have quite a bit of information from my studies over the years. I am going to do a series one of these days on the signs of the times. There are so many biblical signs of the times and many of them, most of them, not all of them but most of them, are increasing on a global level together for the first time in history. I mean these signs of the times are very, very important. Jesus gave a number of them, the apostles gave a number, and the Old Testament prophets gave a number.

G. “Knowledge Doubling Every 12 months, Soon To Be Every 12 Hours,” by David Shilling

“Until 1900, knowledge doubled about every century. By the end of World War II knowledge was doubling every 25 years. Today, on average knowledge is doubling every 13 months. According to IBM, internet technology will lead to the doubling of knowledge every 12 hours.” David Schilling works as a researcher for IndustryTap.com writing about emerging technologies.

Before long I will have more information on our website on this idea of knowledge. Here I am highlighting an article that came out two years ago and was written by a man who writes for technology and scientific magazines; you can read his whole profile. It says here in the name of the article that knowledge is doubling every twelve months, but it is soon to double every twelve hours. What?

You can check the article out online, and there are many articles like this. Follow this. Until 1900, the sum total of human knowledge—we are talking about all the knowledge of literature, all the knowledge of physiology, all the knowledge of science, all the knowledge of math, all the knowledge of physics, all the knowledge of geography, of history, all of the totality of human knowledge—doubled about every 100 years, the total amount.

Then from World War II on, the sum total of human knowledge—all these areas of human knowledge—doubled every twenty-five years. Right now—though he wrote two years ago—right now we are at the level where all of human knowledge is doubling like every twelve months. I mean there will be more knowledge discovered in the next twelve months than all of human history added up together in all of those areas.

He goes on that because of technology—and he lays it out—this thing is going to explode beyond that. It will double every twelve hours, I mean the totality of human knowledge. That is how fast this is going. Beloved, we have never been in a timeframe like this. This is a very significant sign of the times. This, I mean this promise of knowledge increasing also means the knowledge of prophetic revelation, biblical knowledge as well, not just negative knowledge.

III. THE BREVITY OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION (12:5-7)

A. An angel asked a question and received a twofold answer—the Antichrist will persecute Israel only for “a time, times, and half a time” (3½ years) and will not end until Israel’s rebellion is shattered (finished)—when all Israel is saved (Rom. 11:26). Persecution will accomplish God’s purpose.

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…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. (Dan. 12:5-7)

25 …[the Antichrist] shall persecute the saints of the Most High…the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time. (Dan. 7:25)
So this mighty angel is telling Daniel this. Then suddenly in verse 5 Daniel looks, and there are two more angels. They are on each side of the river. That is the Tigris River, where he is having this angelic encounter. In Daniel 10:4, it tells you the name of the river; you know it is in Babylon, modern-day Iraq.

So now he has been talking to this mighty angel throughout Daniel 10-12. This is one experience in Daniel 10-12, three chapters, one angelic experience. Suddenly there are two more angels, one on each side of the river here in verse 6. The mighty angel is described here as a man clothed in linen. Many times in the book of Daniel in the four visions of Daniel and other visions as well, Ezekiel and others, when an angel appears, they appear in the form of a person, and they are often wearing linen garments. Even in the book of Revelation as well, and this is a very common description of angels.

When it says, “I heard the man clothed in linen,” he is talking about the mighty angel he has been dialoguing with throughout Daniel 10-12. If you are new to Daniel 12, you might get lost if you are reading this, but it is clearly the main angel that has been talking to Daniel the whole time. This mighty angel now is standing above the river. He is standing in midair above the river and one of the angels on the banks of the river asks the mighty angel a very important question. He really asked the question for Daniel’s benefit and especially for our benefit. So this angel is speaking to the mighty angel, the one with superior power and authority, the man in linen, the mighty angel that he has been talking to throughout Daniel 10-12.

The secondary angel is saying, “Hey, I am going to ask you a question. Daniel, write this down. You are going to want this because the end-time Church is going to need this information.” I mean Daniel did not need it really, but the generation when the Lord returns will need it. He says, “Here is what I want to know.” That angel standing on the bank of the river talking to the mighty angel says, “Mighty angel, how long? How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?” Very key question.

Now he is not asking the mighty angel how many generations before the end times. He is not asking how long until it starts. He is asking a very different question. He is asking, “Once it starts”—because it starts at the abomination of desolation—“how long will it continue?” It is an interesting word he uses. It is the word, “wonders.” The other Bible translations use the words, “these astonishing things.” Because they are not just wonders that are positive, they are also astonishing. Meaning they are kind of mind-blowing developments is the idea. So how long once it begins? Once the abomination of desolation starts, how long will the difficulty last, the trouble that has never ever been equaled in history past? Where Michael and the angelic realm is manifesting the power of God like never before. Where there is a supernatural deliverance of Israel and the people of God even in the midst of martyrdom. How long is all this intensity going to last? How long will it go? That is the question, and that is a very important question.

Just a casual study of World War II reveals this was one of the problems of the people in Europe when Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Regime were going forward. They thought the Nazis were invincible. The Nazis were actually in power only twelve years, but at the two and three year mark the people of Europe thought this could go on for generations, even though they only had eight or nine or ten years to go. They thought these guys were invincible. At the beginning they seemed invincible. I mean many people were overwhelmed with despair, thinking there would be no end to the difficult times, the intensity.

So the mighty angel answers in verse 7. Daniel said, “I heard the man”—that is the mighty angel, the one that is standing in the middle of the river in midair. He raised his hand, and he swore to God who lives forever. He said, “I swear to you it will only last for three-and-a-half years, not a day longer. I swear to you in the presence of God, it will only last time, times, and half a time.”
The vast majority of commentators throughout church history actually agree that time means one year, times plural, two years, half a time, half a year. It is just that simple. Year, two years, half a year is clearly what it means. I do not know if Daniel understood it in his day, but when John the apostle wrote in the book of Revelation, he commented on the very same activities and he tells us it is 1,260 days and it is forty-two months. That is, he explains that it is three-and-a-half years.

So the angel lifts his hand. He says, in effect, “I swear it will not go on for a generation. It will not go on for a couple of decades. I swear. The intensity will only last three-and-a-half years.” In other words, there is an end in sight and it will not be far off. The grace of God, the angelic ministry, the power of deliverance, and the power of purity will all be manifest in that time in an unprecedented way for the people who love God, if they want it. Of course, if you love God, you do want it.

Then the angel makes a second point. Not only did he swear it would be limited to only three-and-a-half years—and that is a great promise. I mean that is long, three-and-a-half years, but it is not two or three decades. I mean Stalin’s Russian Communism went on for seventy years. I mean seventy years, ugh! Seventy years is a really long time to have that brutal whip of Communism breaking your life—but the mighty angel who was standing above the river said that it is going to go long enough for the power of the holy people to be completely shattered. He said, “Three-and-a-half years, it will not go longer, but it will complete God’s purpose.” He said, “I promise you, it will be intense enough; it will not come up short of that.”

Now when a mighty angel sent from God swears an oath that the holy people’s strength will be completely shattered, I mean that is terrifying in the flesh. But the angel is talking right now specifically to the nation of Israel because he says it several times in verse 1-3 when he is talking to Daniel. He says, “I am talking about your people”—the actual ethnic Jews, the nation of Israel. He uses the phrase “the holy people,” and the Jews are not holy simply because they are ethnic Jews, but he is talking about the Lord knowing that many are going to say yes to the Lord and find salvation through their Messiah, Yeshua, who is Jesus. The term, holy people, is also a message to the Church. Again the Jews cannot get into the kingdom of God without being born again, and therefore they are a part of the Church too. The minute they are born again they are a part of the Church.

At the same time God has a very specific purpose for the geographic area and the national, ethnic Jews in that part of the earth because His city, Jerusalem, the city of the great King, is going to be His city to govern the whole earth forever. So I mean the Lord says, “That is My city and that is My geography there. I have a purpose for that geography and the people who are covenanted to Me in that geography as well.” I do not want to minimize the fact He is speaking to the Jewish people in a very direct way. I want us to know this, that God is telling the nation of Israel, your pride and your reliance on yourself will be utterly shattered to the point where you will willingly come to your Messiah.

If God who never changes has that plan for ethnic Israel, the God who never changes has the same plan for His born-again Church in the nations. So I am extending the reach of the term, the holy people. He is saying to His Church—and I am not even making a big put-down comment here but right now the Church is in a bad place just because of our humanity and we have so much confidence in our strength and our own agendas and our own ministry plans and our own ideas and our own ways—so the Lord says, “I am also going to cause you to be utterly disavowed from your own agendas and relying on your own strength.” He is talking in context to Israel but He is saying, “Know that I am the God that never changes.”

I remember hearing a preacher once say something that just kind of like troubled me. He said, “The same God who orchestrated the crucifixion of His Son Jesus is orchestrating yours.” I heard a Baptist preacher preach that once, not that it matters which Baptist, but he was a famous Baptist preacher.
I said, “Wow!” He was talking about leading us to a place where we say no to the flesh, we die to our flesh, and we obey the Lord. That is what he is talking about.

My point being, at the very core of this plan of glory is people completely disavowing their own strength, their own agenda, their own way, and giving themselves to the leadership of the Messiah in reality, not in rhetoric, but in reality. That is the agenda of God in the Great Tribulation for His people. We look at Daniel 12:7, and we say, “Poor Israel.”

The Lord would say, “Well, yeah, pray for Israel, but you might really take stock of your own life as well!”

Because we sometimes think and subtly hope that God is an American, but He is not. He is not a Westerner. He is not a twentieth-century American. He is not committed to the lifestyle of the Western culture. He is a kingdom-of-God-culture person. The kingdom-of-God culture and Western culture are not the same. The Western culture is all the way through the Western Church, and it really takes a serious resolve to pull away from the values of our culture to live a kingdom-culture lifestyle in the midst of a church where so much is done in the Western culture.

It is like, “Lord, this is hard.”

He says, “I am going to help you.”

I mean, I am a man who is dedicated to the Lord, and I love the Lord, but I find it hard. Now I could be more dedicated than this guy and that guy, but does that mean that I am really living the kingdom-culture value lifestyle? Because the Lord is not interested if I am a little more committed than you or him or her; He is interested that I am doing the will of God in my life.

I look down at the Western Church, and I say, “Lord!”

He says, “Yeah, I am going to help the whole of the Western Church like I am going to help Israel. I am going to create an optimum environment where My people, Jews and Gentiles, who love My name will choose righteousness in a way they have never chosen it before. I will create the optimum environment, and I am going to bring an adversary into the mix. I am going to pour out My Spirit in a way second to no other time in history, Joel 2. I am going to release angelic activity with Michael and his angels. I am going to plan a supernatural deliverance second to no other time in history. I am going to reward it with resurrection power, but I am also going to cause martyrdom to increase all around the world in the Body of Christ. I will raise up an adversary that will be a part of the ultimate optimum environment for purity to become first place in the Church.”

I look at this because I really believe this passage. I respond, “Lord, I want to make more radical decisions now. I do not want to wait until I have no option.”

The Lord would say, “I am going to help the whole culture, I really am. It is going to be glorious from My point of view, and it is going to have a kingdom glory to it, but it will not necessarily have the same values of the American dream.”

“Lord, I thought You wanted my life easy.”

He would say, “I do. For billions of years in the resurrection, I want your life super easy. You will have great food, you will be in a golden city, you will be face to face with Me, you will never gain weight, never get sick, you will have great friends, super good memory, the anointing of God, and you will be happy forever. The food will be free and delicious and everything is good. I am into your happiness for billions of years.”

“Oh, Lord how about giving me everything now and everything then?
He would answer, “No, no. I want you choose My leadership in your life and to make that choice for love, but I am going to help. Israel, I am going to help, but do not just think poor Israel, because Israel is going to enter into the glory of God even though it is in the midst of the trouble.”

This is our Father’s plan, this is our Bridegroom King’s plan for human history where He is zealous for His Church and guess what? We are going to be in the middle of this. A lot of folks are just thinking that the storm that is escalating is just going to kind of fade away and it will be maybe one or two tough decades and whoa, we will get back to the way it was. Beloved, it is never going to go back to the way it was! Whatever it was in the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, beloved, it is never going to go back to the way it was.

Well, the good news is the persecution is going to accomplish God’s purpose because there is going to be an outpouring of the Spirit, there is going to be the power of purity, there is going to be the grace of God magnified, angelic activities, supernatural miracles, but there is also going to be difficulty in the flesh.

B. The two angels were sent as witnesses to the oath (Deut. 19:15; 31:28; 2 Cor. 13:1). The mighty angel or “man clothed in linen” stood in the midair above the river indicating his superior authority.

C. Completely shattering: The final outcome of this is the shattering of the power of the holy people. The Antichrist will be God’s agent to accomplish this “wondrous work” of shattering Israel’s pride, self-sufficiency and sinful agendas, so that as a last resort, they would cry out to Jesus for salvation (Mt. 23:39) and to purify and refine the Church (Dan. 12:10; Eph. 5:27; Rev. 19:7).

13 “…these…honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me…” 14 Therefore, behold, I will again do a marvelous work among this people, a marvelous work and a wonder…” ( Isa. 29:13-14)

D. The reference to “a time, times, and half a time” is defined by John as 42 months, and 1260 days (Rev. 11:2; 12:6, 14; 13:5); it is the final 3½ years, or the second half of the 70th week (9.27). Many commentators throughout Church history interpret “time” here as a literal year and “times” as two.

IV. DANIEL’S QUESTION (12:8-10)

A. Daniel asked for insight into the end (purpose and outcome) of the process that will shatter Israel. He was puzzled as to how such suffering will lead to the promised deliverance and purity (12:2, 10). Daniel was asking about Israel’s deliverance (from persecution, unbelief and compromise) in 12:1.

8 Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, “My lord, what shall be the end [purpose] of these things?” 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. (Dan. 12:8-10)

Now Daniel has a question. I am going to leave most of these notes for you to read on your own if you want to understand Daniel. This is really Daniel 101; this is really Daniel simplified, it really is. If you are new to Daniel, with just a little bit of effort you can get this because it is not hard. Some people think that Daniel is kind of confusing. I would say not so much, not the introductory stuff. If you want to understand all of the nuances, that is a little different thing.
1. **Sealed up**: This vision was “sealed” and will be “unsealed” by the Spirit. The Lord has given a measure of understanding of end-time Scriptures, yet much has been hidden until the end. The words were sealed by the work of the Spirit (not by Daniel who sealed the vision in 8:26). Verse 9 is a statement of fact rather than a directive to Daniel to do something as in 8:26.

2. **Go your way**: Daniel was not to seek more details from the angel about this vision since it was about the distant future. He should go his way, being content knowing that God would give more understanding to His people in the end times.

So Daniel hears the angel standing on the bank of the river talking to the mighty angel. This angel says, “Hey, mighty angel! How long will these wonders continue?”

The mighty angel says, “I swear three-and-a-half years and I swear until the people’s strength, reliance, and agenda are totally shattered. Wherever their agenda and their strength and their alliance outside of the will of God, it will be shattered. I swear those two things.”

So Daniel in verse 8 says, “I heard, but I did not understand.” He thinks, “Shattered? Wait!” That is verse 7, shattered. Verse 1 was deliverance. You said deliverance with Michael the archangel and the glory of God. What do you mean shattered, verse 7? Is it verse 1 delivered with Michael the archangel and angelic activity? Or is it verse 7 shattered? Daniel says in verse 8, “I do not get it. Let me ask you.” Again he is in his eighties here. He is in this time of prayer and fasting. He has been on this twenty-one day fast, and it is on the twenty-first day when the angel visits him. I can just picture him a little bit wobbly, you know, just a little bit weak. He starts, “My Lord,”—it is a respectful term like sir—and he is basically saying, “Wait, are we going to be shattered or delivered? Just give it to me straight.” What he asks is, “What shall be the end purpose of this?” What is the outcome? Where is this going? He is not asking how long it will last like in verse 6. He is saying, “I want to know what the end, where it is going. What is the outcome of this? What is the outcome?”

V. **MANY WILL BE PURIFIED (12:10)**

A. There will be “people who understanding” who shall effectively bring understanding to many.

> And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword... And some of those of understanding shall fall [as martyrs], to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end... (Dan. 11:33-35)

B. **Many**: God’s plan will succeed and Jesus’ Bride will be prepared before He returns (Rev. 19:7). The result of the Antichrist’s persecution in the Great Tribulation is that many will be purified. The Antichrist as the great adversary will create the optimum situation for the Church to grow in purity.

> 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. (Dan. 12:10)

Verse 10, the angel says, “Many.” Multitudes. I love this word, many; that is my favorite word here in this whole chapter. “Many,” verse 10, “will be purified.” Many are going to break free of their bondages. Many are going to renounce their compromise. Many are going to find power in the Spirit in their everyday life. They are going to find courage and strength. Many. Beloved, there are no super saints. There are only people like us. There are no super saints. That God does not have anybody to pick from—that is amazing! Everybody is like us. We are prone to distraction, unbelief, a little confusion here and there, a little “like what?” It does not feel like it is really happening. The Lord would say, “I know. My whole gang is that way. That is how it is. I am going to
make it work for you, though, I am going to make it work for folk, for people, many, multitudes, millions, millions.” Oh, I love that!

Again in verse 10 a lot of folks stay at the words, “made white and refined,” and they lose the power of the word, “many.” This thing is going to be doable in the midst of the greater pressure. It is doable now. I do not want to wait until the stakes get high. I want to go press in now because it is doable now.

He says, “But know this,” verse 10, “many will be purified; they are going to be refined.” Refined means fire! There is going to be some conflict. There is going to be some difficulty in the flesh, meaning some hard choices, some resistance, some loss of opportunities because you took a stand, some friends who betray you. There are going to be all those dynamics, and many already beginning to happen in the Body of Christ around the whole world.

Beloved, as of today I tell you it is going to increase dynamically after this Supreme Court decision because the conversation of the culture is going to have so many dynamics to it both in the Church and outside of the Church. This is a very important hour to decide. I am going to not shun the refining fire. I am going to take hold of the brightness, the “white” meaning the brightness of the glory of God. I am going to walk in the purity, not live on the edges. A lot of folks want to live on the edges of the grace of God, with just enough grace they are saved but still do whatever—whatever you can finish the sentence. I do not want to live on the edges. I want to be in the center. I want to go for this thing.

He explained, “Understand this. At the same time the wicked shall do wickedly. The wicked are going to increase in their wickedness.” He continued, “None of the wicked shall understand.” Now by “the wicked” we do not mean all the lost people here in this verse context. Sometimes “the wicked” are the lost, and they get saved, and then they become “the righteous.” The wicked here are those who are permanently established in their rebellion against God. Remember, there are going to be something like a billion unbelievers—I mean that is not the actual number but an approximation—coming to the kingdom. It is going to be the greatest revival in history. Revelation 7 says that they will come from every tribe and tongue. The power of God is going to break out in the nations and many will come.

Do not have the idea that the power of God breaking out means that life is just going to be easy and happy all the time. The power of God means there will be a manifestation of grace on the heart and flowing in our lives. That does not mean that the everyday life will be easy and everything will feel great. I do not think that is what that means. Notice this, that none of the wicked will understand. That is going to be the problem. The wicked will not understand. They will be absolutely in opposition to you. It is not like they understand and say, “Well, you think what you think, we think what we think, and, hey let’s just enjoy Christmas together.” No, they will think you and your beliefs are absolutely dangerous. When it says that the wicked will not understand, beloved, that is very threatening, that is a warning that has a threatening tone to it. Reading it feels like, “Ugh!” They will not be gracious about your lifestyle and your stand for righteousness or your views, your beliefs about salvation and about truth, about the sanctity of life, the sanctity of marriage, the sanctity of sex, the one way of salvation through Jesus, the truth of the Word of God. They will not be generous or gracious about your views.

Remember the wise back in verse 3, the wise that will shine brightly? They will, but do not wait for just it to fall out of heaven on you one day. I have heard people say, “Well, if the Lord wants me to understand Daniel, He will send an angel.”

I say, “You know what? I would not be presumptuous with my life. You only got one heart and one life. I would not play it like that. I would not gamble with your life like that. You want to grow in the wisdom of this? Study it.”
“Well, if God wants me to get it, He will send an angel.”

“Well, Daniel studied it and got the angel.” I want to study this. I want to give myself to it. I want to turn some things off and turn some things away so I have time to study this stuff. I want to be in the line of one becoming wise.

C. No amount of pressure by itself transforms the human heart. The same fire that hardens clay melts wax. Under persecution believers are purified only as they respond rightly to the Holy Spirit. Jesus’ commitment is to give His people joy and peace in the midst of tribulation and crisis.

33 “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (Jn. 16:33)

D. The faith of God’s people will be tested as they take a stand in the face of evil and martyrdom.

33 And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame… 35 And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time. (Dan. 11:33-35)

Let’s look back at Daniel 11:33-35; remember we have been in Daniel 12. So this mighty angel was only saying this to him like five minutes earlier. Daniel 11:33-35 was a moment before Daniel 12:10. You know it is only a couple of paragraphs of information later. What this same mighty angel told him a few moments earlier was “those of the people who understand shall instruct many.” There is that word, many, again. I like that word, many.

That you will instruct many does not mean you will have a microphone and you will have a big congregation. Because you could be the sweetest little grandma at home, eighty-eight years old, and through the Internet you could do something in social media that could go viral and bring instructions to the nations. There are so many surprising things. Do not think that you have to have a microphone and a big congregation to make this work. In the technology age like today you may have one person in your kitchen, but you may have a million people read one of your statements that gives understanding and insight. You may have the dream tomorrow. I mean who knows. There are multitudes of ways. Do not look at yourself and think, “Well, nobody even pays attention to me.” You do not know where this is going. Do not write yourself off because you are not a conference speaker or whatever whatever. You can be one of those who instruct others whether it is many in person or it is through technology. Who knows?

The angel said, “Those of the people who understand shall instruct many. Yet for many days they shall fall by the sword.” That is martyrdom right here. He is talking about martyrdom. Verse 35, but some of those of understanding, some of the men and women that have the most understanding of the prophetic Scriptures, they will fall. It does not mean they will sin. It means they will be martyred. I remember when I was in my twenties, and I was reading this. I thought, “Oh no! How terrible! They are going to fall. That is going to be so bad.” I thought that meant they were going to get caught up in some scandal. That is not what it means. It means that they are going to be martyred. When they are martyred, like when the apostles were martyred, it will have a ripple effect, a sanctifying, redemptive effect. It will cause multitudes to be refined and pure. It will create resolve in the lives of many others because they will see their courage and their steadfastness. There is just something about when dedication goes all the way that it has a dynamic impact on others around.
VI. THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION WILL CONTINUE FOR 1,290 DAYS (12:11)

A. The mighty angel spoke of two significant time frames referred to as 1,290 days and 1,335 days. Both will begin at the same time—in the middle Daniel’s 70th week when the Antichrist sets up his image in the holy place and ends the daily sacrifices in the Jerusalem temple.

11 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 [1,290 days]. 12 Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days [1,335 days]. (Dan 12:11-12)

1. The “mighty angel” did not give the significance of these two time frames. Yet, the fact that they were given indicates that they are important very dates.

2. There are different views as to what they might mean.

I just want to point out two more things even though I’ve got quite a bit of information here. There are two timeframes, this mighty angel tells Daniel. The angel speaks of a 1290-day period, which goes thirty days past the Lord’s return. Then there is also a 1,335 days, which is another forty-five days past the first time period. I realize if you have not studied this, you might not instantly grasp what I just said, but it is all written down here. Again, he said that there is one timeframe that goes thirty days past the Lord’s return, and there is a second timeframe that goes forty-five days beyond that. The angel says, “I want you to understand it, Daniel.”

I have got a bit of information on that for you, and I just want to leave it for your own study; we do not have to cover it in a session like this. You can look at it and get familiar with it a little bit, learn it a little bit; it is not so complex. Those two dates, thirty days past the Lord’s return and then seventy-five days past the Lord’s return, are two monumental times periods that are important enough that the angel said, “Daniel I want you to include those in your vision too. Make sure the end-time Church knows about those two times.” So I just want to leave that with you and you can kind of familiarize yourself with it. We will pick it up at another time.

B. Students of prophecy are familiar with the well-known 3½-year period of the second half of Daniel’s 70th week. This period is also referred to in Scripture as 42 months or 1,260 days or as time, times, and half a time.

C. The second half of Daniel’s 70th week consists of 1,260 days—it ends with Jesus’ coming. Thus, the 1,290 days will continue for 30 days beyond the time of Jesus’ return and the 1,335 days will extend 75 days beyond His return.

D. These 1,290 days are 30 days more than the standard 3½ years (1,260 days, with 30-day months, Rev. 12:6, 4; 11:2, 3).
E. The fact that the abomination of desolation continues for 1,290 days means that the Antichrist’s presence and control in Jerusalem is not removed until after these 1,290 days. In other words, the additional 30 days of the Antichrist’s activities are associated with his setting up of the abomination of desolation in the temple in middle of seventieth week.

F. Jesus will return to earth 1,260 days after the abomination of desolation starts. Immediately after He returns, He will fight the armies around Jerusalem and then cleanse the temple.

G. Jesus prophesied that the tribulation begins with the abomination of desolation which will continue for 1,290 days, or 30 days longer than the well-known 3½ years or 1,260 days or 42 months of the last half of Daniel’s 70th week (Dan. 7:25; 12:7; Rev. 11:2; 12:6, 14; 13:5).

15 “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place”… For then there will be great tribulation… (Mt 24:15-21)

H. 3½ years: 42 months (Rev. 11:2; 13:5); 1260 days (Rev. 11:3; 12:6); time, times, and half a time (Rev. 12:14; Dan. 7:25; 12:7); and middle of the week (Dan. 9:27). All these six passages refer to the same period of oppression under Antichrist, each emphasizing the three-and-a-half years dating from breaking of the covenant with Israel and stopping of daily sacrifices in the temple.

I. Scripture gives insights about events that will occur after Jesus returns being associated with establishing the millennial kingdom. The purpose is to separate believers from unbelievers at the inception of the Millennium.

J. From the setting up of the abomination to Jesus’ return at the seventh trumpet will be 1,260 days.

K. This important 1,260-day period begins on the day the abomination of desolation is set up. During these three-and-a-half years, three activities pertaining to God’s people will occur. They will all begin on the day the abomination of desolation begins and will continue for 1,260 days.

1. **Provision:** God will make supernatural provision for the remnant of Israel for exactly 1,260 days (Rev. 12:6, 14).

6 The woman [Israel] fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days [1,260 days]…where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. (Rev. 12:6-14)

2. **Prophecy:** The two witnesses will prophesy for exactly 1,260 days (Rev. 11:3).

3 I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days [1,260 days], clothed in sackcloth.” (Rev 11:3)

3. **Persecution:** The Antichrist will war against the saints (Dan. 7:25; Rev. 13:5, 7) and dominate Jerusalem (Rev. 11:2; Dan. 12:7) for exactly 1,260 days

25 The saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time. (Dan. 7:25)
5 And he was given a mouth speaking...blasphe
mies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months... 7 It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. (Rev. 13:5-7)

2 And they will tread the holy city [Jerusalem] underfoot for forty-two months. (Rev. 11:2)

7..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. (Dan. 12:7)

L. These three activities will end on exactly the 1,260th day after the abomination of desolation begins. Why? This is the day the Church is raptured at the seventh trumpet (Rev. 11:15) and when the Antichrist’s unchallenged domination of Israel ends. The Lord will allow the Antichrist’s worship system in Jerusalem to function for thirty days after the Church is raptured at the seventh trumpet.

M. The abomination will continue 1,290 days; thus, the Antichrist’s rage will continue for an additional 30 days after Jesus returns. The Lord’s most intense judgments against the Antichrist (before he is thrown in the lake of fire) will occur over these 30 days after He returns (Rev. 16:1-21; 19:17-21).

VII. THE BLESSING ON THOSE WHO COME TO THE 1,335 DAYS (12:12)

A. A transitional time of 1,335 days after Jesus returns—to establish millennial governments? (12:12). These 1,335 days refer to 45 more days (beyond the additional 30 days of verse 11—the 1,290 days) probably to establish issues related to the governmental structures of the nations in the Millennium.

12 Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days. (Dan. 12:12)

B. Jesus will remove evil leaders and replace them with the saints who reign with Him (Dan. 7:27).

1. The 1,290 days seem to be focused on judging the Antichrist and those associated with him.

2. The 1,335 days seem to be focused on rescuing those new believers who resist the Antichrist.

C. Waiting: possibly for God to rescue them in the midst of the chaos of those days. This will be a very important promise to many in that day. It will encourage people living on earth at that time to be faithful to the Lord in the midst of the post-war chaos and danger in the nations at that time.

D. A total of 75 days after Jesus returns will be used for the judgment of the nations to determine who enters the millennial kingdom. Ezekiel prophesied of the purging of all rebels out of Israel at the beginning of the Millennium (Ezek. 20:33-38; Isa. 4:3-4; Mal. 3:1-6).

E. Jesus spoke of the Gentiles being judged according to their treatment of the Jewish people, referred to as “these brothers of Mine” (Mt. 25:40). These new Gentile believers will be told: “Come, you who are blessed of my Father and inherit the kingdom” (Mt. 25:34).
VIII. PERSONAL ENCOURAGEMENT TO DANIEL (12:13)

A. The Lord’s personal promise to Daniel was that he would enter his destiny and receive his full inheritance in the age to come (12:13) after the end of the 1,335 days. Resurrection is God’s answer. We can live in confidence in the face of suffering knowing where we will go when we die. This book closes with reminder that this present age is not all God planned for us.

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. (Dan. 12:13)

B. After receiving assurance of Israel’s total victory, Daniel could die in peace. He was commanded to go with implication that he would die (“enter rest”) and later be resurrected “at the end” (12:2).

Amen and amen. Well, let’s stand before the Lord. Beloved, you are not too old to start, you are not too young to start, and you are not too sinful to start. Start now. The grace of God, that is what it is there for. Start today. Determine you are going to be resolved in a new way. Let’s worship for a moment, then I will have folks come forward in just a few moments.

You may say, “I am too weak, I am too old, I am too young, too busy.”

Lord says, “No, no. I can help you. I can help you.”