

The Final Days of This Age (Daniel 11-12)

I. The Beginning of the Great Tribulation

(Daniel 11:31 NASB) “Forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation.”

- a. After having invading Egypt for a second time, the Antichrist will be forced to retreat from Egypt due to an attack from a Mediterranean naval force against his army (***Daniel 11:20-30***). At this point, the Antichrist will “*curse the holy covenant and take action (Daniel 11:30)*”, while his “*heart is set against the holy covenant (Daniel 11:28)*”. He will make his way into Jerusalem, to break his covenant and do away with the regular sacrifice by setting up the abomination of desolation. Based on Daniel 9 we know that this takes place in the “middle of the 70th week” (middle of the final 7 years of this age = 3 ½ year mark) and is the major sign event that displays the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

(Daniel 9:27 NASB) “And he will confirm a covenant with the many for one week [7 years], but in the middle of the week [3 1/2 Years] he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come the one who makes desolate”

(Matthew 24:15-17, 21 NASB) “Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place let the reader understand 16 then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains...21 For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will again.”

- b. Through smooth words and deception, the Antichrist will convince people to turn away from God and act wickedly toward Israel and the Jewish people. By this point, a large portion of the earth’s population will participate in worshiping the Antichrist “*the Beast*” and Satan “*the Dragon*”.

(Daniel 11:32a NASB) “And by smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant”

(Revelation 13:3b-6 NASB) “And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast; 4 they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?” 5 A mouth was given to him speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven.”

II. The Praying Church In The Midst of The Great Tribulation

(Daniel 11:32b-35 NASB) “...But the people who know their God will be strong and take action. 33 And those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder for many days. 34 Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy. 35 And some of those who have insight will fall, to refine, purge, and cleanse them until the end time; because it is still to come at the appointed time.”

- a. The praying church (Those who know their God) will “*be strong*”, meaning, to stand firm in their experiential knowledge of God despite the rise of wickedness under the Antichrist Empire. The praying church will also “*take action*”, specifically by: 1) living righteous, unto death despite pressure and persecution 2) standing with the Jewish people 3) partnering with God in prayer to unleash the end time judgements on the Antichrist Empire. 4) giving understanding to many (*being forerunner messengers*)

(1 Peter 4:7 NASB) “The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.”

- i. God is raising up those that have insight (**Daniel 11:33**) related to His end time plan that will function as forerunner messengers to give instruction in the midst of the Great Tribulation.
- b. Despite having insight and understanding, many will still “*fall by sword, flame, captivity, and plunder*”. Enduring persecution from the Antichrist is not God’s punishment on the righteous, rather it’s the means that he allows the bride to go through so that she comes out refined and radiant in unwavering love.

(Daniel 11:35 NASB) “*some of those who have insight will fall, to refine, purge, and cleanse them until the end time; because it is still to come at the appointed time*”

(Revelation 12:11 NASB) “*And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.*”

- c. ***When they fall they will be granted a little help*** – In the midst of persecution and martyrdom, God will grant help to the persecuted church. This help could be angelic activity or other types of practical help.
- d. ***Many will join them in hypocrisy*** – Some will falsely align themselves with the praying church. Could it be that some who have “*the mark of the beast*” be a help to the praying church in certain ways.

III. The Philosophy of the Antichrist

(Daniel 11:36-39 NASB) “*...the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt himself and boast against every god and will speak dreadful things against the God of gods; and he will be successful until the indignation is finished, because that which is determined will be done. 37 And he will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will boast against them all. 38 But instead he will honor a god of fortresses, a god whom his fathers did not know; he will honor him with gold, silver, precious stones, and treasures. 39 And he will take action against the strongest of fortresses with the help of a foreign god; he will give great honor to those who acknowledge him and will make them rulers over the many, and will parcel out land for a price.*”

- a. ***Show no regard for the God of his fathers (He rejects The Father)*** - The Hebrew phrase used for “*God of his fathers*” is “*elohim ab*”. Every time this phrase is used in scripture it is in reference to “*Yahweh*”. Because of this, many people believe the Antichrist will be Jewish, however, it’s likely because he will be an “*Ishmaelite*”, or a descendant of any of Abraham’s sons who live in the Middle East today.
- b. ***He will show no regard for “the desire of women” (He rejects Jesus)*** - The phrase is commonly used to “*prove*” that the Antichrist will be a homosexual male. However most bible scholars understand this phrase is as a Messianic reference to Jesus the Messiah. “*The desire of women*” would have been the natural desire of Jewish women to become the mother of the promised Messiah.
- c. ***The Antichrist affirms and honors, “a god of fortress”*** – Though the Antichrist rejects The Father and Son, as well as every other god, he does serve a “*god of fortress*”. The understanding of “*fortress*” here is “*means of protection*” or “*force*” which is can be expressed a “*god of war*”. He will honor this “*god*” with gold, silver, precious stones, and treasures, meaning he will have an abundance of wealth.
- d. ***Take action against the strongest of fortresses with the help of a foreign god*** – With some type of “*god-like*” help, the Antichrist will conquer Nations and regions that seem to be unconquerable.
- e. ***He will give great honor to those who acknowledge him and will make them rulers over the many, and will parcel out land for a price*** – He will promote those who align with his philosophy, and those who pay him will acquire land and influence. This will be enticing to many governmental world leaders and influencers.

IV. Military Conquests & The Invasion of Israel

(Daniel 11:40-45 NASB) “And at the end time the king of the South will wage war with him, and the king of the North will storm against him with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he will enter countries, overflow them, and pass through. 41 He will also enter the Beautiful Land, and many countries will fall; but these will be rescued out of his hand: Edom, Moab, and the foremost of the sons of Ammon. 42 Then he will reach out with his hand against other countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape. 43 But he will gain control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; and Libyans and Ethiopians will follow at his heels. 44 But rumors from the East and from the North will terrify him, and he will go out with great wrath to eliminate and annihilate many. 45 And he will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.”

- a. The king of the South (*Egypt*) will now wage war against the Antichrist but the Antichrist will dominate Egypt and “overflow” other countries and “pass through” them and Egypt will “not escape”. “Many countries” will fall to the Antichrist but Edom, Moab, and the land of the Ammonites (Jordan) will be delivered from his hand. He will also overcome North Africa.
- b. **He will enter the Beautiful Land (Israel)** – He will control Israel until Jesus returns and throws him in the lake of fire.
- c. Rumors from the “North” and “East” will terrify the Antichrist, which will cause him to rage even more leading him to “eliminate” and “annihilate” many (likely Jews, and Christians)
- d. **He will pitch the tent of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain** – The Antichrist will set up his base of operation between the Mediterranean sea and Jerusalem.
- e. **Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him** – The Antichrist only has power for a “short time (*Revelation 12:12*)”, and his reign will come to its appointed end.

V. The End of The Age

(Daniel 12:1-2 NASB) “1a Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. 1b And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; 1c 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.

- a. **Now at that time** – This is either referring to the general period of the final 3 ½ years of this age spoken of in *Daniel 11:29-45*, or more pointedly to *verse 45*, “...yet he [*antichrist*] will come to his end, and no one will help him.”
- b. **Michael... will arise** – This is either pointing to the *Revelation 12* “war in heaven” when Satan is kicked out of heaven, or potentially suggesting that the “voice” in *Revelation 16* that commissions the 7 angels with the 7 bowls of wrath is Michael.

(Revelation 16:1 NASB) “Then I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.”

- i. The 7 bowls of wrath are the final judgement series in Revelation and are meant to annihilate the Antichrist Empire. By the time of the 7th bowl, the Antichrist will have gathered nations in Israel to “make war” with Jesus as he marches through the middle east toward Jerusalem (*Isaiah 63*).
- c. **A time of distress such as never occurred...** – This is either a general reference to the great tribulation, or specifically the 30 day period where the 7 bowls are poured out (*Daniel 12:11*).

- d. ...Your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued [be delivered or slip away] – This seems to be speaking of either the national deliverance of the Jewish people in Israel (*Zechariah 14*), or explaining the rapture of the church at the end of the Great Tribulation. Because the next phrase says, “*many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life...*” I tend to believe it is speaking about the rapture of the church.

(Daniel 12:3 NASB) “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.”

VI. Seal Up The Book

(Daniel 12:4 NASB) ‘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.’

- a. Daniel is instructed to “*seal up the book*”, which means to preserve it, until the end of the age. The angel essentially tells Daniel, “*though I’ve shared these details with you, you won’t see them with your own eyes, they are for another generation at the end of the age*”.

(Daniel 12:13 NASB) “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.”

- b. Many will roam about, and knowledge will increase – Throughout generations, understanding of these scriptures would become more clear as believers eagerly study the end time prophecies with fasting and prayer (*a Daniel lifestyle*).

VII. Final Timing of Events

(Daniel 12:6-12 NASB) “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!’”

- a. Time, times, and half a time – Based on context of other bible verse we can be very certain that a “*time*” is a reference to a “*year*”. Time, times, and half a time means 3 ½ years.
- b. As soon as they finish smashing the power of the holy people, all these events will be completed – The end of the age events find their completion after Israel and the people of God are “*smashed*” for 3 ½ years unto the refinement of the global bride (*vv. 10*).
- c. 1290 days – The abomination of desolation will be set up for 1290 days, though the Great Tribulation lasts only 1260 days (*Revelation 11:3, 12:6*). During these extra 30 days, the saints will have been raptured, glorified, and the 7 bowls will be poured out. And Jesus will march with his army through the middle east delivering Jewish captives!
- d. 1335 days – The angel mentions another 45 days (1335-1290 = 45 days). During this period, Jesus will cleanse the temple, clear Israel of dead bodies, kill the wicked survivors (including the beast and false prophet), imprison Satan, and set up governmental systems before the official start of the Millennium (*Revelation 19:20-21*).