Prophecy of The End Time
Message 17 in Daniel Sermon Series
Daniel 12:1-13

Please turn with me in your Bibles to Daniel the twelfth chapter. Before we get into today’s study, let’s go to the LORD in prayer.

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the history of television some TV shows have provided us with memorable endings.

-Many of you older folks can probably remember The Red Skelton Show. At the end of every show Red Skelton would always say, “Good night, and may God bless.”

-For nineteen years, CBS News anchor, Walter Cronkite, would end every broadcast with those famous words, “And that’s the way it is.”

-Singing cowboy, Roy Rogers used to end every episode by singing “Happy Trails To You” along with his wife, Dale Evans.

-And let’s not forget Carol Burnett’s singing of “I’m So We Glad We Had This Time Together” at the end of each Carol Burnett Show.

Today we come to the final chapter, the final “episode” of the Book of Daniel. As Daniel brings this wonderful prophetic book to a close he doesn’t give us a catchy “sign-off” or leave us with a song. Instead he points us to “the ending of all endings,” THE END OF TIME.

In our scripture text there are three key thoughts we want to consider regarding THE END TIME.
First of all, I would have you to consider

I. The End Time Is REVEALED (vs. 1-4)

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,
   Every one who is found written in the book.

2 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 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.

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. In these first four verses Daniel reveals four things about
   THE END TIME.

   (A) There will be a REFINING. (v.1a)

   Notice how Daniel begins this chapter: “At that time
   Michael shall stand up.”

   -“At that time” refers to the Great Tribulation.

      -“At that time Michael shall stand up.” Now who is
      Michael? Michael is the archangel of God. He is
      the COMMANDER of the heavenly ARMY

      “At that time, Michael shall stand up. The great prince
      who stands watch over the sons of Your people.” The
      angel Michael is the “PROTECTOR” of the Jewish
      people. And during the Great Tribulation he will play
      a vital role in preserving a REMNANT of God’s people
      from the mass slaughter of the Antichrist.
Daniel is revealing in **VERSE 1** that “a time of trouble” will come in **the end time** unlike anything this world has ever seen before. And while the whole world will suffer during the Great Tribulation, **the tiny little country of Israel will be in the “epicenter.”**

**The Great Tribulation** will be a time of **REFINING** for the **Jewish people.** The prophet Zechariah tells us that during that time, two-thirds of the Jewish people will die and only one-third will survive.

God is going to allow the **Jewish people** to go through “a purging process” in which those who have rejected the God of their forefathers and His Son, Jesus Christ are going to die and face their doom at the great white throne judgment. (*Revelation 20:11-15*)

The only Jews who will survive will be those who receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, their Messiah. To “refine their faith as pure gold” God will allow many of those Jews who turn to Christ to suffer martyrdom.

**But all is not lost! Daniel also reveals.........**

(B) **There will be a RESURRECTION**. (vs.1b-2)

**vs.1b-2** 1 And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book.

2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.

The Bible speaks of two resurrections. The first resurrection is that of those who are **SAVED**, the second resurrection is that of those who are **LOST**.
The first resurrection will occur in three stages.

- The first stage has already occurred and that was the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

  **1 Corinthians 15:20** (NKJV) Paul writes: *But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. (“first fruits of “the resurrection.””)*

- The second stage of the resurrection of the saved will occur when Christ returns to get His Church.

  **1 Thessalonians 4:16,17** (NKJV) 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

- The third stage of the resurrection of the saved will occur at the end of the great Tribulation. That is the resurrection Daniel is speaking of in the latter part of verse 1 and the first part of v. 2.

  “Everyone who is found written in the book, and many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life.”

Who are these people? They are the great men and women of faith in the Old Testament. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob.........Moses, Joshua and Caleb...........Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel himself will resurrect from the dead at the end of the Great Tribulation to inherit eternal life. But they won’t be the only ones who resurrect at the end of the Tribulation, so will those who were martyred for their faith during the Tribulation.
But then notice in verse 2 Daniel speaks of “a second resurrection.”

“Our will resurrect to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

This “second resurrection” is that of every LOST soul. John tells us in Revelation 20 the resurrection of the lost will occur at the end of the 1,000 year earthly reign of Christ with His saints on earth.

Simply put, there will be 1,000 between the resurrection of those who receive eternal life and the resurrection of those who receive shame and everlasting contempt.

Daniel reveals THERE WILL BE A REFINING.
And he reveals THERE WILL BE A RESURRECTION

Next, Daniel reveals….

(C) There will be a REVIVAL. (v. 3)

3 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.

During the dark days of the Great Tribulation something wonderful and amazing is going to happen. Many of the JEWISH people will turn to JESUS CHRIST, as will a great multitude of GENTILES who never heard the gospel before.

Many Bible scholars believe the remnant of 144,000 Jews that John speaks of in Revelation 7 will be some of the greatest EVANGELISTS this world has ever known. These preachers and teachers of God’s word will “shine like the stars of heaven” as they risk their very lives to carry the gospel to those who are lost.

THERE WILL BE A REFINING.
THERE WILL BE A RESURRECTION
THERE WILL BE A REVIVAL.
(D) There will be a **RAPID** increase in knowledge and travel.

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.”

I will say more about the “**shutting up and sealing**” of the book in just a moment. For now let’s focus on the latter part of this verse where Daniel says, “**many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.**”

There are actually a couple of interpretations as to the meaning of this verse.

The common interpretation is that in the **END TIME** there will be an explosion of human **KNOWLEDGE** and a tremendous increase in the **SPEED** of **TRAVEL**.

I think all of us would agree that we have seen a tremendous increase in knowledge in our lifetime.

- Human knowledge is now **DOUBLING** every eight years. That means we have twice as much **INFORMATION** now (2012) than we had in 2004.

- **80%** of all the scientists who ever lived are alive right now.

- **2,000** pages of new information are released every 24 hours.

- One half **MILLION** new books are published every year.

- IBM has manufactured a super computer called the **Sequoia** with a speed of 20 petaflops that can do **20 TRILLION** calculations per second. Now how fast is that? Well, if you gave all 7 billion people on earth a handheld calculator, it would take us **320 YEARS** to do what the **Sequoia** computer can do in **ONE HOUR**.
We have also seen a tremendous increase in the speed of **TRAVEL**.

- From the time Daniel wrote this book until just about 150 years ago the fastest way for man to get anywhere was on foot or horseback or by boat.

- For 6,000 years the fastest man could travel was 24 miles per hour. Today, if you and I boarded a rocket we could travel almost 25,000 miles in one hour.

- Prior to the twentieth century most people never traveled more than 30 miles from their home in an entire lifetime. Today millions of people travel back and forth between continents every day.

The tremendous increase in knowledge and speed of transportation are facts that cannot be denied. But we must remember **the context** of this scripture relates primarily to the Jewish people, so when Daniel says, “Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase” he is revealing a truth about the Jewish people in the end time.

When the events of THE GREAT TRIBULATION begin to unfold, and God unleashes the **7 Seal Judgments** and the **7 Trumpet Judgments** and the **7 Bowl Judgments** upon the earth, many Jews will “run to and fro grabbing Bibles and commentaries” to try to understand all of the cataclysmic occurrences that are happening in the world.

Of special interest to the Jewish people will be the prophecies Daniel has recorded in this book.

So in these first four verses of chapter 12, Daniel has **REVEALED** four truths about THE END TIME.

There will be **A REFINING**.
There will be **A RESURRECTION**.
There will be **A REVIVAL**.
And there will be **A RAPID** increase in knowledge and travel.
As we move on to VERSES 5-7 we see……

II. **The End Time Is CONCEALED (vs.5-8)**

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.

8 a Although I heard, I did not understand.

1. The two individuals Daniel sees on opposite sides of the Tigris river are two **ANGELS**.

2. We learned in Daniel 10 “the man clothed in linen” is in all likelihood **JESUS CHRIST**. One of the angels asks Christ, “How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?”

   Basically what the angel was asking was, “How long will this Great Tribulation last?” Or how long will the Antichrist be permitted to persecute God’s people?”

3. As Christ prepares to answer he raises His right and left hands into the air. This was symbolic of making a solemn oath between **HEAVEN and EARTH**. He then says the Great Tribulation shall be for “a **TIME, TIMES, and HALF a time**.”

   We learned earlier in our study what this means. **A TIME = 1 year; TIMES = 2 years; and HALF A TIME = 6 months.**
So when you do the math, Christ is telling the angels, the Great Tribulation will last 3 ½ years. Remember the entire tribulation will last SEVEN years, but the first 3 ½ years will be a time of peace. But the last 3 ½ years will a time of unparalleled SUFFERING and SLAUGHTER.

Christ further explains that this great Tribulation will not end until “the power of the holy people has been shattered.” GOD is going to allow the Antichrist’s PERSECUTION run its complete course until the Jewish people have no where to turn but to God.

4. How did Daniel respond to what the LORD said?

Daniel says in VERSE 8, “Although I heard, I did not understand.”

All this information Daniel was given regarding THE END TIME was concealed to him. In other words, 2,600 years ago Daniel couldn’t begin to fathom the things that you and I see going on in the world right now. His dream, his vision, is now our reality.

THE END TIME IS REVEALED
THE END TIME IS CONCEALED

And thirdly.........

III. The End Time Is SEALED (vs. 9-13)

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.

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.

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. Daniel was fifteen years old when this book began. He is now in his nineties. After recording everything he had seen and heard from the LORD, God now tells Daniel in essence, “I have nothing more to reveal to you. Close the Book and seal it in a safe place, because what you have written will have great meaning at some time in the future.”

2. The final paragraph of Daniel’s book reveals a prophecy and a personal promise.

   (A) THE PROPHECY involves a pair of days; **1,290 days** and **1,335 days**.

   This pair of days has long baffled Bible scholars. We know the Seven Year Tribulation period can be divided into two equal halves OF 1,260 days each or two 3 ½ year time periods.

   But what about this number 1,290 days? Where did this extra month come from? And then we are told in verse 12 that “the end will come after 1,335 days.” That is 45 days additional days.

   Christ did not reveal to Daniel the significance of this pair of days and to try to figure them out would be mere speculation at best.

   Our best guess is that there will be some important event related to the Jewish people that will occur thirty days after the Tribulation has ended, and a second important event forty five days after that.

   This is just another of the great mysteries God revealed to Daniel.
(B) But then note **THE PERSONAL PROMISE** God gives to Daniel in **verse 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.”

6. And with that wonderful promise of his resurrection to eternal eternal life, Daniel brings this wonderful prophetic book to a close.

**C O N C L U S I O N**

As we bring this message and this series to a close I want to share a true, heart-warming story with you.

Early in 1947 a Bedouin shepherd boy was searching for one of his lost goats along near the Qumran Caves on the northwest side of the Dead Sea. As little boys do, he picked up a rock and threw it inside one of the caves. Soon the boy heard something shatter.

Quickly the frightened boy ran back and got one of the other shepherds and they returned to the cave. What they found inside that cave would send shock waves that would draw Biblical archeologists from all over the world.

What they discovered was a number of clay jars filled with ancient scrolls wrapped in linen that had been blackened with age. But these weren’t ordinary scrolls. You see these scrolls contained ancient Biblical manuscripts written in Hebrew and Aramaic. While subsequent searches by archeologists would yield tens of thousands of scroll fragments, there was one scroll in particular that was very well preserved, and that was the scroll that contained almost all of the writings of Daniel that we have been studying these past six months.

These documents have come to be known as “The Dead Sea Scrolls.” And the discovery of that young shepherd boy that day has stirred a tremendous interest in the biblical community to study to prophetic pages of scripture.

Just as God told Daniel, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.” Brothers and sisters......

**God has everything under control!**