"Daniel's Last Vision – Part III"

Daniel 12:1-13

"Now I have come to give you understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future" (Dan. 10:14)

Deliverance for the People of the Covenant (Daniel 12:1-3)

1. "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued" (Daniel 12:1)

   - The one identified here as "**Michael**" is the angel who is apparently assigned to ***protect*** or stand ***guard*** against any evil forces desiring to bring ***harm*** against the people of the covenant (Israel).

     1) **Daniel 10:13** – "But the prince of the kingdom of Persian was withstanding me (Gabriel) for twenty one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia"

     2) **Daniel 10:20-21** – "Then he said, do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so I am going forth, and behold, the prince of Greece is about to come. However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your price"

   - The time of distress mentioned here is probably the ***Tribulation*** Period

     1) "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now nor ever will be" (Matthew 24:21)

     2) Believing Jews during this time will be ***rescued*** or ***delivered*** (Deut. 4:25-31)

2. "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. Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever" (Daniel 12:2-3)

- The reference to the "many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake" is probably referring to those Jews who ***perish*** during the continuation of the "***Times of the Gentiles***" described in Daniel 11 and probably also include all Old Testament Israelite and Jews who believed in a future ***resurrection***.

  1) The reference to "sleep in the dust of the ground" **does not** have to be construed as "**soul sleep**" as this would not be consistent with the New Testament. (II Corinthians 5:8, Philippians 1:23, I Thess. 4:13-18, 5:10)

  2) The interpretation here is best understood to be a "*sleep of the body*" in which the body ceases to live until it is resurrected, changed into a glorious body and reunited with the soul. (I Corinthians 15:35-57, II Corinthians 5:1-9)

  3) The body that dies ***appears*** to be asleep because it ***ceases*** to live

- Many Israelites/Jews believed in a resurrection:

  1) ***Abraham*** (Genesis 22:5-14, Hebrews 11:17-19)

  2) ***Job*** (Job 19:25-26)

  3) ***Isaiah*** (Isaiah 26:19)

  4) ***Hosea*** (Hosea 13:14)

  5) ***David*** (Psalm 16:9-10)

- ***Unbelieving*** Jews will be resurrected to shame and contempt and will have no part in the promised covenant blessings that God made to them.

- ***Believing*** Jews will be resurrected "bodily" to everlasting life and will shine like the brightness of heaven. (Matthew 13:43)

3. "But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase" (Daniel 12:4)

- What is meant by the instruction for Daniel to; "conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time"?

  1) John Calvin seems to draw the conclusion that this verse (4) implies that many will seek and investigate the truth and although knowledge will increase **the actual understanding of this prophecy is for the time in which it occurs**.

  2) Edward J. Young; *The Prophecy of Daniel*; says this about Daniel 12:4, "For the immediate future, attempts to understand these prophecies will be in vain, but in the time of the end, when these prophecies will become especially pertinent, additional understanding will be given."

  3) John Walvoord says it this way; *The Key to Prophetic Revelation,* "There is also the intimation that the ceaseless search for knowledge by men will often go unrewarded either because they do not look in the right place for it, or because their time and circumstances does not justify their understanding of prophecy that does not immediately concern them".

- These words that Daniel is asked to seal up seem to be applicable to the events of the "end of time" (That time of distress – **Daniel 12:1** perhaps the same events that Jesus refers to as the ***great tribulation*** (**Matthew 24:15-21**)

- Perhaps these are the same words contained in the ***seven seals*** of Revelation 6-8

  1) I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back sealed up with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?" (Revelation 5:1-2)

  2) "And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or look into it; and one of the elders said to me, stop weeping, behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seal" (Rev. 5:3-5)

Discussions About the Time of the End (Daniel 12:5-7)

1. "Then I, Daniel, looked and behold, two others were standing, one on this bank of the river and the other on that bank of the river. And one said to the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, how long will it be until the end of these wonders" (Daniel 12:5-6)

   - There appears to be two other "angelic beings" beside the one "dressed in linen"

     1) We are not told the identity of the two "other" angelic beings however one is standing on one side of the river (probably the Tigris River – see Daniel 10:4) and the other angelic being is standing on the other side of the river.

     2) The man dressed in linen is probably the angel ***Gabriel***

   - The question that is asked is; "how long will it be until the end of these wonders"

     1) He is probably referring to the events described in Daniel 11:36-45 which are in reference to the time of the end (Tribulation Period – Revelation) and his question is *when will these events conclude*?

     2) The answer comes in Daniel 12:7

2. "I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand his left hand toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a **time, times and half a time**; as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, **all these events will be completed**" (Daniel 12:7)

   - When the persecutions have run their course; "**And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week**, but in the **middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering**; and on the wing of **abominations** will come one who **makes desolate**, even until a **complete destruction**, one that is **decreed**, is poured out on the one that **makes desolate**" (Daniel 9:27), then all these things shall be finished and the time of the end will be completed.

   - The worst persecutions will occur during the second half of the seven year tribulation referred to as a **time, times and half a time** - ***3.5*** years.

Directives and Disclosures to Consider (Daniel 12:8-12)

1. "As for me I heard but could not understand; so I said, my Lord, what will be the outcome of these events? (Daniel 12:8)

   - It appears that either Daniel didn't fully understand the response, or perhaps the response caused him to want to know even more about the events that occur ***beyond*** this time of distress.

   - Daniel asks what will be the outcome of these events that are described in Daniel 11:36-45 and perhaps he may have wanted to know how they ***connect*** to what was revealed to him in other visions in the past. (Daniel 2:44, 7:14, 22,27)

   - There would be future prophets who the Lord would speak to that revealed some of the detail that Daniel was curious about:

     1) Haggai

     2) Zechariah

     3) Malachi

   - The Lord Jesus would also provide the details of these future events in His Sermon on the Mount of Olives (Matthew 24-25) often referred to as the Olivet Discourse.

   - The Revelation of Jesus Christ that was written by the Apostle John also contains a full record as to the outcome of these events that Daniel was curious about.

   - I don't think that the Lord was hiding anything from Daniel nor do I think that Daniel was confused or incapable of fully understanding these future events.

   - The curiosity that Daniel expresses would be a normal inquisitive desire to know and understand the outcome and future for the people of the covenant and the Lord simply chose not to fully reveal all of this to Daniel at this point or He chose not to have him record it.

2. "He said, go your way, Daniel, for these words were concealed and sealed up until the end of time. Many will be purged, purified and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand" (Daniel 12:9-10)

   - The full answer to Daniel's question is contained in the word's that were "sealed up until the end of time" and this is something that we can actually read about in the New Testament Books (i.e. Matthew 24, II Thessalonians 2, Revelation etc.), where these end time events are described in greater detail.

   - The angel does provide some additional insight to Daniel:

     1) There will be one group (during the "end of time") who will be ***purged***, ***purified*** and ***refined***. This purging and refining is probably the result of the diligent study of the Scriptures (gaining wisdom and insight) and a willingness to accept, trust and follow Jesus Christ as the Messiah. This ***insight*** will bring about an ***understanding*** of God's plan for the end (Time of Jacob's Trouble) and cause this group to follow Jesus even to the point of being ***martyred*** for their belief and faith.

     2) The other group (during the end time) are referred to as the "***wicked***" and their unbelief is shown in their actions which according to John are complete acts of ***rebellion*** against God. (Revelation 16:9-11)

3. "From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up there will be 1290 days. How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1335 days!" (Daniel 12:11-12)

   - The meaning of the **1290 days** is not completely clear but some conclude it relates to the 1260 days (42 month) in which the Antichrist turns against the people of the covenant (Daniel 9:27) and perhaps the extra 30 days allows for additional things to occur (i.e. the judgment of the nations and regathering of Israel – Matthew 25:31-46, Ezekiel 20:34-38)

   - The meaning of the **1335 days** is also not completely clear but some conclude this is also connected to the 1260 days and merely extends 75 days into the 1000 year Millennial kingdom described by the Apostle John. (Revelation 20:1-6)

Definitive Home for Daniel and all who Believe (Daniel 12:13)

1. "But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age" (Daniel 12:13)

    - Daniel is encouraged to go his way, and wait for that final day in which he will receive his inheritance.

        1) Daniel did not live to see many of the prophecies that he described actually come to ***pass*** – they happened/happen after his death.

        2) The phrase; "then you will enter into rest" is in reference to Daniel's eventual physical ***death***.

        3) At some point Daniel would rise again (a future resurrection awaited him and all who believe in the Messiah Jesus Christ) and receive the inheritance that was promised to the children of Abraham. (Genesis 17:7-8)

    - This inheritance or allotted portion would be fully realized at the end of the age (The Millennial Kingdom) which John speaks about in Revelation 20:1-6.

2. **Concluding Thoughts and Remarks**