

“The Time of the End” 5

Daniel 11:36-12:3

Hello friend and welcome to *Hope for Today*. My name is J. Mark Horst; I’m your friend and Bible teacher. The program you’re listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope, an international Gospel radio and literature ministry.

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For the past few weeks on *Hope for Today* we’ve been studying from the closing verses of Daniel chapter eleven and the first few verses of chapter twelve. Our study is titled “The Time of the End.” I hope you’re enjoying our times together in this challenging and interesting book.

So far, we’ve learned that this king of the end time will be different than all other kings before him. He will honor the god of fortresses, in other words, he will worship military power like none before him. He will demonstrate his worship of military power by offering to it *gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts*. Whatever makes him more powerful will be highly valued and honored. This is his **singular focus!**

And then, he will have a singular finish. In spite of all his victories and all his wealth, verse 45 speaks clearly of his **singular finish**; *...he shall come to his end, with none to help him*. Revelation 19:17 to 21 describes the destruction of the beast and his armies at the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Now, as we resume our study, I will read Daniel 11:40 to 12:3.

Notice this double reference to *your people* in this first verse of chapter twelve! This may have a bearing on our understanding of verse two. This is a difficult verse to understand and explain. As in our understanding of all things prophetic we must be kind and gracious, even in our disagreements!

First, notice that this is not a general resurrection. It says **many** of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake... Many, but not, all. Is this resurrection limited to the Jewish people who are martyred during this time of the end and not a general resurrection? Perhaps. Some commentators insist this is not a physical resurrection, but a spiritual one; that ignores the literal meaning of the term as used throughout Scripture.

Bible teachers who spiritualize this resurrection interpret the first part of the verse as pertaining to Israel's restoration. But they then pass over the second part of the verse that addresses those raised to shame and everlasting contempt. Clearly, Revelation 20:12 and 13 teach us that the dead are raised literally for their final judgment. This same verb **must** also mean resurrection for the righteous. The meaning of the word *awake* is the same in both instances.

John Walvoord, in his commentary, states "What is presented here is that those who have died will be raised from the dead to join those living in this period of restoration. Israelites who survive the Tribulation and who are the object of the divine deliverance promised in Romans 11:26 will be joined by Old Testament saints who will be raised from the dead. This will occur after the Great Tribulation and at the second coming of Christ."¹

As I understand Scripture, there is no clear indication that the Old Testament saints will be raised at the time the church is caught away, as Paul describes for us in II Thessalonians 4:13 to 18. It seems preferable to consider the resurrection of the Old Testament saints as occurring at the time of Israel's restoration. Together with those who survive the tribulation they will join in establishing the millennial kingdom which, as I understand Scripture to teach, will follow the Second Coming of Christ. In addition, those martyred during the tribulation will also be raised as indicated by Revelation 20, verses 4 through 6.

One key to help us understand this verse better is a more accurate translation. The original Hebrew seems to draw a sharp distinction between the two classes of resurrection. Samuel Tregelles, a British theologian, supported the translation offered by earlier Jewish commentators. Here it is, *And many from among the sleepers of the dust of the earth shall awake; these shall be to everlasting life; but those the rest of the sleepers, those who do not awake at this time, shall be unto shame and everlasting contempt.*

Revelation 20:4 through 6 speaks of those who were martyred because they had refused to worship the beast or receive his mark. These are noted as living and reigning with Christ for a thousand years. Verse 5 then states clearly *...but the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

The second resurrection is revealed in verses 12 and 13 as follows; *And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which*

¹ Walvoord, John: Daniel, p. 287

were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

These verses clearly teach more than one resurrection. A literal reading of Revelation 20 indicates that the resurrection of the righteous occurs at the beginning of Christ's millennial reign and the resurrection of the wicked takes place at the end of that 1,000-year period.

Another thing to keep in mind here, is the "gaps" that often occur in Old Testament prophecy. Events included in the same passage of Scripture are separated by an indefinite and unspecified length of time. Isaiah 61:1 and 2 is an example of this. *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn...* In verse two, Christ's first and second advent are addressed but there is no indication of the many years of time between them. When Jesus read this Scripture in the synagogue in Nazareth, he abruptly stopped reading in the middle of the sentence!

There is more we could say on verse two, but I don't want to belabor the point.

Let's move on then to the final verse of the text, chapter 12, verse 3. Those who exercise wisdom *shall shine like the brightness of the sky above*. Those who turn many to righteousness will shine *like the stars forever and ever*.

Notice, in this verse, that only the reward of the righteous is mentioned; there's nothing about the punishment of the wicked. According to Revelation 20, which we looked at just a few moments ago, their resurrection won't occur until 1,000 years later. The main point is that the righteous, dead, or living, can look forward to a glorious reward at the second coming of Christ

Who are the wise spoken of in this verse? The *wise* are those who are able to see through the deception, wickedness, and unbelief of their time. They will put their trust in eternal values to the point of sacrificing their physical lives. Their reward is, they will shine with the celestial glory of the heavens forever!

We learn from verse two that these wise ones shall receive eternal life. This is the first occurrence of this expression in the Old Testament. It's interesting, in verse 3, that these will be given additional glory because of those who have turned to righteousness through their faithful example. The statements of verse 3 echo the events of chapter 11, verses 33 and 35 but are not

limited to the time of Antiochus. There have been faithful followers of God in every generation and there will continue to be faithful ones until the end of time as we know it.

Whether or not you may agree with the conclusions I've reached in this teaching, there are some important questions we must all ask ourselves. First, am I one of the faithful ones? Am I wise enough to see through the wickedness, the deception, and the unbelief of our time and put my faith and trust in things of eternal value? Do the choices I'm making each day reflect that I value eternal things far above the earthly, temporal things?

Is my life lived in such a way that it is *turning many to righteousness*? When I stand before God as His follower, and my works are judged, how much will be wood, hay, and stubble? How much will be gold, silver, and precious stones? How many of my "good deeds" will be burned up and how many of them will be refined and purified, worthy of eternal reward?

Today, you and I still have time to make a difference in our own lives, in the lives of others, and in our world. But I must remind you, time is running out. The indicators of the time of the end that the prophets and Jesus predicted are all around us. It seems we are living in the last of the last days. The time of the end is near. Are you ready?

My friend, were you blessed by this teaching? If so, you can request an audio CD or a printed copy of this complete teaching, "The Time of the End."

The quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to mail@heraldsofhope.org. That e-mail address is mail@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, "The Time of the End." I'd be happy to send one to you.

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Now friend, I urge you to tune in next week as we continue our study in the book of Daniel. And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.