

PROPHECIES ABOUT ISRAEL

(Daniel 12)

“AT THAT TIME...” (1)

The angelic revelations of Chapter 12 continue from the end of Chapter 11. The setting is the “time of the end” (11:40) – Israel’s prophetic “70th Week” (9:27), the time of the evil world ruler known as “The Antichrist” (11:36-45). This time is immediately prior to Christ’s return to earth to establish His Kingdom for 1000 years.

MICHAEL: PRINCE & PROTECTOR OF ISRAEL (1)

Michael is a powerful archangel whose God-ordained role is to protect Israel during Gentile-kingdom attacks led spiritually by Satan and his fallen angels (10:13,21; Ps 103:20; Heb 1:14). Michael’s ministry will be prominent during Israel’s End Time (Revelation 12).

ISRAEL’S GREAT TRIBULATION (1)

During the last 3.5 years of its prophetic history, Israel will experience unprecedented persecution – worse than any nation has ever experienced. The satanically empowered Antichrist will lead this attack (Rev 13:2,7). This intense time of tribulation is spoken of in Dt 4:30, Jer 30:7, Mt 24:9-22 and Rev 12:6-17. A faithful remnant will be delivered from this great trial – all those whose names are written in the Lamb’s “Book of Life” (Isa 4:3; Rev 13:8).

TWO RESURRECTIONS (2)

John 5:25-29 corroborates that everyone will be resurrected – some to everlasting life and some to condemnation. The Church will be resurrected prior to Israel’s 70th Week (Jn 14:1-3; 1 Cor 15:51-57; 1 Thess 1:10; 4:14-17; 5:2-9; 2 Thess 2). Old Testament believers and those that die during the 70th Week will be resurrected at the end of the Great Tribulation (at Christ’s Return; Isa 26:19-21; Rev 20:1-6). Unbelievers will be resurrected at the end of Christ’s 1000-year reign and cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev 20:5-15).

SHINING STARS (3)

Those who have not been deceived by the Antichrist (but wisely trusted in the Lord) will be glorified at their resurrection (Romans 8:18-19,29-30). These will have led others to Christ during the Great Tribulation. With Christ revealed in them, they will be like stars that declare the glory of the Lord (Psalm 19:1).

3 ½ YEARS (4-7)

The revelations given to Daniel were not for his understanding – they are primarily for those living in the end times. Many will seek to know the future in vain, because of their lack of faith, or because their time and circumstance does not justify the Spirit of God revealing it to them (4). Israel's Great Tribulation will last 3.5 years and will be completed when Israel's strength has been completely shattered (7).

THE END (8-13)

Israel's End Time will be polarizing in that those who reject Christ will increase in wickedness and be spiritually blind (2 Thess 2:9-12), while true believers will be given spiritual insight and purified/refined by their trial (10; as in the time of Antiochus Epiphanes; 11:35). Israel's End Time of 3.5 years is 42 thirty-day months (1260 days; Rev 11:2; 12:6,14; 13:5). This period will begin when the Antichrist desecrates the Jewish temple (and stops its God-ordained sacrifices; 11; Mt 24:15) and end with his destruction at Christ's return (Rev 19:11-21). The significance of the 1290 and 1335 day period (additional 30 + 45 days) is not precisely known to us, except that a total of 1335 days will be required before the 1000-year Kingdom blessing begins (12). The gathering and judgement of Israel (Eze 20:34-38) and judgement of the Gentile nations (Joel 3:2; Mt 25:31-46) may take place during the 75 interim days. In conclusion, Daniel is assured that he will be resurrected to a great inheritance at the end of the time that has been revealed to him (13).

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Although the Church has a greater understanding than Daniel did, it is still limited – those living in Israel's End Time who trust in the Lord will have an even greater understanding. Notwithstanding, we have a similar guarantee to Daniel's: the Bible assures us that we have been delivered from God's wrath and have a great future inheritance – spending eternity as shining, immortal, Christ-like stars in the presence of our Saviour. *Maranatha!* (Rev 22:20)