

Introduction

When you watch the news you will notice that many nations hate Israel.

The hatred seems irrational, even uncanny even demonic.

Behind the conflicts spiritual forces are at play.

Ephesians 6:12 ESV

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Satan hates God and hates every one that is connected with God in some way.

He hates :

- the chosen nation of Israel.
- the chosen bride of Christ (of church)
- the elect .

He will use every means possible to attack and accuse the elect.

And so the suffering of Israel and the suffering of Christians increase in this world.

Now the church will be spared of the coming tribulation through the rapture.

But Israel will remain.

Satan will focus his attention upon the destruction of Israel, and any person pursuing and following the God of the Bible.

Revelation 12:17 ESV

¹⁷ Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

But the Bible tells us, that this will only be for a time period.

At the end of God's allotted time, He will rescue His people, the elect.

Historical Background

Dan 10 prepared the reader for the great vision in ch 11.

It reminded the reader that behind the conflicts of the great empires in the world were demonic forces in conflict.

Dan 11 revealed a vision concerning the transitioning of the Persian empire, to the Greek empire, and revealed the great amount of conflicts that would happen within Israel.

It also revealed a preview of the anti Christ Antiochus IV Epiphanes and then prophesied what the true Anti Christ would be like.

His character, conquests and condemnation in the future tribulation period.

Dan 12 parallels ch 10 in the sense that it reveals the spiritual conflict with demonic forces that will happen behind the tribulation period .

There will be a spiritual conflict in which Satan will be kicked out of heaven, and will seek to destroy Israel, God's chosen nation.

This would be Satans 2nd to last attempt to destroy Gods people.

3 1/2 years called the great tribulation (the day of wrath, indignation, and many other terms)

But its in this time God will magnificently rescue His elect.

Some by salvation - the tribulation saints

Some physically

Some by death and resurrection

At the end of the tribulation Jesus will return to judge and make war.

Jesus will gather his elect by resurrection and physically to reign with him in the millennial kingdom.

This will be a 2 part sermon, we will focus upon vs 1-3, but will read the whole section.

Passage

Daniel 12 ESV

¹ "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.

² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to

everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

³ And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; 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."

⁵ Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream.

⁶ And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, "How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?"

⁷ And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.

⁸ I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, "O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?"

⁹ He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.

¹⁰ Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand.

¹¹ And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days.

¹² Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days.

¹³ But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."

Proposition

6 concluding remarks that encourages believers to endure in difficult times.

1. God's rescue vs 1

2. God's resurrections vs 2
3. God's glory vs 3 (week 1)
4. Final instruction vs 4
5. Question and answer vs 5 -7
6. Question and answer vs 8-13

1. God's rescue vs 1

¹ **"At that time**

At that time refers to when the Anti Christ will ascend according to Dan 11:36-45.

This is most likely in the middle of the tribulation period with the onset of the great tribulation period.

shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people.

Shall arise(stand up) = Michael will step up and take action.

Michael is called the chief prince(representative of the king, commander, captain)in Dan 10:13 , Your prince(ruler) in Dan 10:21 and the arch angel(chief angel, the chief important angel, the higher ranking angel) of God Jude 9.

He is the angel that leads God's angelic forces and serves as the **protector for Israel (Your prince)**.

His name means, who is like God.

Rev 12 describes a scene in the middle of the tribulation period in which Michael will arise, and defeat Satan and his angels.

Satan's defeat with his angels will lead to him unleashing wrath upon the earth.(Rev 12:13-14)

He will intensively persecute the women (Israel.)

And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time.

In the end God will bring the surviving Israel to salvation.

Romans 11:26 ESV

²⁶ And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob";

How ?

God will use pressure to bring Israel to repentance.

It's described as an extreme time of **trouble** (Sarah = calamity, distress, misery, affliction)

Moses said:

Deuteronomy 4:30–31 ESV

³⁰ When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to the LORD your God and obey his voice.

³¹ For the LORD your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.

Return to the Lord = A metaphor for repentance.

How often does God put pressure upon you, so that you would repent and obey His voice in the Scriptures?

Jeremiah called it Jacob's distress, but he will be saved from it.

Jeremiah 30:7 LSB

⁷ 'Alas! For that day is great, There is none like it; And it is the time of Jacob's distress, But he will be saved from it.

Jesus called it a **great tribulation**.

Matthew 24:21 ESV

²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.

The Holocaust, the Russian Po-grams, 9/11 pale in comparison to what will happen in the Tribulation period as described in Revelations.

We continue

But at that time your people shall be delivered,

God in His mercy will **rescue** His people.

The Grammar indicates that Israel will be the recipients of deliverance.

Delivered = Milit = to deliver, escape, flee, rescue, Nidodt, ANEE = run away, escape, OT = to slip away safely...Vines = to give birth (escaping the mother) Logos = to be

freed from harm or evil or imprisonment

How will God rescue his people.

By defeating Israel's spiritual enemy.

Read with me about this battle

Revelation 12 reveals the spiritual conflict between Satan and Israel and God's rescue of Israel.

Dragon = Satan

Women = Israel

male child = Messiah

| Revelation 12:5–8 (ESV)

| ⁵ She gave birth to a male child (Jesus), one who is to **rule all the nations with a rod of iron (Ps 2, Rev 19)**, but her child (Jesus) was caught up (Ascension) to God and to his throne,

| ⁶ and the woman (Israel) fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be **nourished for 1,260 days (3 1/2 years)**.

| ⁷ Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back,

| ⁸ but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.

When Satan is defeated in this spiritual battle, he focusses all his energy upon destroying Israel

| Revelation 12:13–17 (ESV)

| ¹³ And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the **woman (Israel)** who had given birth to the male child.

| ¹⁴ But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for **a time, and times, and half a time**. (Gods' physical rescue)

| ¹⁵ The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood.

| ¹⁶ But **the earth came to the help of the woman (Israel), and the earth opened its mouth** and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth.

| ¹⁷ Then the dragon became furious with the woman (Israel) and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

God's rescue of Israel comes in several forms.

1. God's rescue in the past :Jesus by his death, resurrection and ascension into heaven.
2. God's rescue in the future: Satan's defeat by Michael that will (Spiritual rescue)
3. God's rescue by physical deliverance providing various forms of escape and even places of refuge in the wilderness. (Physical rescue)
4. God's rescue of Israel through death, because he will later resurrect them.(Ezek 37)

But who will God rescue?

everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.

Gods will rescue the elect.

Those whose names have been recorded in the book of life.

| Revelation 13:5–8 (ESV)

| ⁵ And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.

| ⁶ It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.

| ⁷ Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation,

| ⁸ and all who dwell on earth will worship it, **everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.**

God will rescue those :

- whose names are in the book of life : Rev 17:8
- who will not worship the beast(the anti Christ)
- who are the elect, chosen by God before the foundation of the world.

| Imagine attending a grand celebration, only to discover that your name is not on the guest list. It would be a moment of shock and despair. In the same way, the Book of Life is the ultimate guest list for eternity. As we read in Revelation 21:27 , only those whose names are written there will enter the heavenly city. Taking this illustration to heart serves as a reminder for us to live in a manner worthy of such a legacy, ensuring that our place is secure in God's eternal plan.

God will not rescue

Those who's names are not in the book of life.Rev 20:15

Essentially God's deliverance is for those:

He chose to save.

Application

God may at times deliver you from death.

He may deliver you from sickness, by healing you.

Or He may deliver you by death and later the resurrection.

But the greatest rescue for His elect is through Jesus's death and resurrection.

The believer is rescued from God's wrath,

from the penalty of sin

from the power of sin

in the future

from the very presence of sin

from an eternity in hell

The believer now also will be rescued from the tribulation.

But it's through the tribulation period that God will rescue Israel and the tribulation saints.

Knowing this it encourages you to stand firm in Loving God and obeying him even when life becomes hard.

We zoom in briefly on those who will die, and how God will rescue his people.

2. God's resurrections vs 2

² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake,

Not every one will see God's deliverance in the tribulation period

Many of the believers in the tribulation period will die.

But God will at the end of the tribulation period resurrect them.

The dust is an allusion to Gen 3:19

Genesis 3:19 *ESV*

¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Because of mans sin, man is destined to die physically, his body returns to dust.

The term sleep is used as a metaphor for death.

Sleep is a temporary state that you normally wake from.

He is preparing the reader for the concept of the resurrection.

John said the same thing as Daniels stated.

John 5:28–29 ESV

²⁸ Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice

²⁹ and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

The resurrection happens when the body comes to life and is reunited with the soul. Its fundamentally a reversal of what happened in Gen 3:19, because of the fall.

Now there will be two kinds of resurrections:

- The resurrection of the believer
- The resurrection of the unbeliever

some to everlasting life,

If you as a believer die right now, your spirit will immediately go into Gods presence.

| 2 Corinthians 5:8 (ESV)

| ⁸ Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home **with the Lord.**

| Philippians 1:21–23 (ESV)

| ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

| ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.

| ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is **to depart and be with Christ,** for that is far better.

The believers resurrection is called the first resurrection.

Revelation 20:6 ESV

⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

The believers will receive a glorified body, that is described as (1 Cor 15:35-49)

- heavenly
- glorious
- imperishable
- powerful
- spiritual;

The resurrection for the church will happen at the rapture preceding the Tribulation period(1Thes 4:13-18)

The resurrection of Believers is grounded upon Christ resurrection.

1 Thessalonians 4:14 ESV

¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Christ is the first fruit of the resurrected. The first fruit was normally the first portion of the harvest which was dedicated to God.

1 Corinthians 15:20 ESV

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Jesus would be the first of many that would follow

The resurrection of Israel will happen at the end of the tribulation period preceding the Millennial kingdom.

Believers will be with Christ in perpetual joy.

Although we have complete salvation through his death, because we are reconciled to God by it, it is by his resurrection, not his death, that we are said to be born to a living hope (1 Peter 1:3).

John Calvin (French Reformer)

But there is also the resurrection of the unbelievers

and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

The unbeliever that dies now departs to Hades, the place of dead to a place of torment.

Luk 16:22-31 describes the place of torment

The soul will be:

- Able to see
- communicate
- feel pain
- taste
- remember the past
- and will be in agony and in flames.

The resurrection of the unbeliever is called the 2nd resurrection and is described

| Revelation 20:11–15 (ESV)

| ¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.

| ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

| ¹³ **And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead** who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.

| ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

| ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

John calls it

| John 5:29 (ESV)

| ²⁹ and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to **the resurrection of judgment**.

Daniel called it :awaking to shame and contempt

Shame= disgrace, scorn, insult, a state of dishonor

Contempt: loathsome, aversion, abhorrence, lack of respect, feeling an intense dislike.

These will be some of the emotions, and feelings the unbeliever will experience eternally.

Note that its described as everlasting(forever, perpetual, ceaseless, 24/7)

Just as the believer receives a body to live in the new earth, the unbeliever will receive a body fit to experience the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:15 ESV

¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Passages that describe hell

Revelation 14:10–11 ESV

¹⁰ he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

¹¹ And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."

Isaiah 66:24 ESV

²⁴ "And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me. For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh."

It will be a place in which people will experience eternal punishment, eternal destruction and eternal banishment.

Application

The big question that you face this morning is where will you be when you die.

If you were to die now, would your soul be with Jesus or would it be joining the ranks of the rich man in Luk 16.

If you know that you are not ready,

Acknowledge the condition of your souls to God.

Confess your sin to Him.

Repent of your actions and turn to Jesus

Trust Him as savior.

trust in His death and resurrection

and submit to Him as Lord of your life.

He is to be the boss of your life.

Not your feelings

not your emotions

not your traditions

not your culture

not your heart.

Jesus is to be master of all

3. God's glory vs 3

³ And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above;

and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Those who are wise are also those who turn many to righteousness

The grammar implies that they are those will cause to have insight and will cause others to turn to righteousness.

The same word is used for the wise in the Maccabees revolt

Daniel 11:33 ESV

³³ And the wise among the people shall make many understand, though for some days they shall stumble by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder.

They set their mind upon Gods word and have learned to apply it to life's situations.

Brother or sister, have you really learned how to apply Gods word to the various things that happen or come to you in this life.

They read, ponder , study and memorize God's word and then skillfully apply it .

They fear God.

They receive God's word

They pay attention to it

They seek understanding

they search for it

They gain the fear of God, the knowledge of God and through that wisdom to skilfully aply Gods word.

Proverbs 1:7 ESV

⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and

instruction.

They have insight, they love God and love His word.

Wisdom is the God given understanding to choose to do what is right.

Wisdom is the ability to make the best judgement call and follow the best course of action or response to any situation. will shine

They not only wise but they are leading others to Christ and to becoming followers of Christ.

The results are they shine (their distinguished, eminent, they reflect the glory of God)

They will be elevated in God's kingdom.

Though they suffered in the tribulation, they vindicated and exalted.

Jesus stated

Matthew 13:43 ESV

⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Paul wrote

Romans 8:18 ESV

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

1 Corinthians 15:40–42 ESV

⁴⁰ There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another.

⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

⁴² So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

The believer who is wise will have a glorified body and experience a glorious state in heaven and on the new earth.

Application

If it's your desire to shine, to experience great reward eternally do two things

Read, study, ponder, memorize and apply God's word to all areas of your life.

Follow Jesus and make followers of Jesus.

Be a disciple and make disciples.

If you don't know how.

Learn

Make time to be available

We will end our sermon here, due to time constraints

And pick up the final instructions next week.