

## “The Time of the End” 4

Daniel 11:36-45

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**.

As a bit of introduction, this section is the climax of chapters ten through 12 as well as the climax of the whole series of prophecies in this book. Keep in mind that, Daniel’s people, the Jewish people, are the focus of entire book. God WILL keep His promises to His ancient, chosen, earthly people! The end of chapter eleven focuses on the political and religious aspect of the time of the end while the opening of chapter twelve focuses on Israel as a people.

There are 3 things these verses add to the previous revelation: the time of the end has a special relationship to Israel; Jewish people who truly worship God will experience a time of

unique deliverance; and the promise of the resurrection, which occurs at this time, will provide hope for those recently martyred. We'll explore these in greater depth as we continue.

Notice how this first verse begins; *and at that time...* In fact, this same phrase is mentioned twice in this verse. This is a continuation of what's being revealed to Daniel in the previous chapter regarding the time of the end. It seems the events listed here are not subsequent but simultaneous chronologically, they are occurring together.

The angel, Michael, is reintroduced as *the great [or chief] prince who stands watch over the children of your people*. Jude 9 refers to Michael as **the** archangel, the highest of the angelic beings. Here, it's stated that he has the responsibility of protecting the people of Israel. What is the reason for his presence here?

There will be a time of trouble and tribulation like the world has never seen before and will never see again. Even liberal commentators, who doubt the authenticity of Daniel, agree that these verses in no way describe the persecution under Antiochus Epiphanes. This is the time of Jacob's trouble and it's prophesied in many places. It's also referred to as the Day of the Lord and the Great Tribulation, an unprecedented time in world history.

One of the earliest predictions of this is in Deuteronomy 4:27 to 30. But Jeremiah 30:5 to 7 is very specific; *for thus says the LORD: We have heard a voice of trembling, Of fear, and not of peace. Ask now, and see, whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, and all faces turned pale? Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; **And it is the time of Jacob's trouble**, but he shall be saved out of it.* Additional references are Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24:21, and Zechariah 13:8.

Jesus described this time of great tribulation as beginning with *the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet*. That's Matthew 24:15. As you may recall, the Antichrist will make a covenant with Israel for one week, the seventieth week of Daniel's vision. After 3 and one-half years he will break that covenant of peace made with Israel and desecrate the Temple. We talked about that in chapter eleven. Israel, as a nation, will enter a time of the most severe persecution and suffering.

Jesus gave explicit instructions to His people regarding what they should and shouldn't do when they see this time of tribulation unfolding. He said this time of tribulation will be so severe that if God would not cut it short, NO flesh should be saved.

Let's look at what happens during this time of trouble. Daniel is promised that *your people will be delivered*... This deliverance seems to refer only to those actually living at the time of Christ's return. However, there is a caveat. The delivered ones will be those *whose name shall be found written in the book*. We may ask what book? The book of life.

This idea about a book of life, as Revelation 21:27 calls it, appears early in Israel's history. In Exodus 32:32 after the sin of the golden calf, Moses pleads with God for his people; *if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written*. Psalm 69:28; Revelation 13:8, and Revelation 21:27 all contain similar references.

Notice this double reference to *your people* in this first verse! 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."<sup>1</sup>

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

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<sup>1</sup> Walvoord, John: Daniel, p. 287

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.

## **CLOSING**

My friend, I hate to interrupt, but we're almost out of time for today's broadcast. Lord willing, we'll be back in one week to continue this study. If you'd like an audio CD or a printed copy of this complete teaching, just request it by its title, "The Time of the End."

The quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). That e-mail address is [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). That email address again is, [m-a-i-l@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:m-a-i-l@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 conclude our study, "The Time of the End." And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.