

A Biblical View of the Future: 5 Key End-time Trends (Dan. 11-12)

I. JESUS DIRECTED HIS PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND THE VISION IN DANIEL 11-12

- A. There is only one Old Testament vision about the end times that Jesus *directly* called His people to understand, and that is the vision of the prophet Daniel, recorded in Daniel 11 and 12. Jesus pointed us to this vision in Matthew 24:15; therefore, we should take time to understand it.

¹⁵“When you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet...whoever reads, let him understand... ²¹For then there will be great tribulation...” (Mt. 24:15, 21)

- B. Daniel 11-12 is one of the most important passages in the Bible about the end times. A mighty angel gave Daniel an unusual amount of detail about what will happen in the generation of Jesus’ return. It will be the most unique, powerful, glorious, violent, difficult, important generation in history. The angel assured Daniel of the ultimate triumph of God’s people related to the Great Tribulation.

- C. There is coming a time of unprecedented trouble that will result in an unprecedented victory for God’s people. The greatest victory for God’s people comes in context to their greatest persecution.

- D. A great revival and harvest of new souls will occur at the same time as the end-time falling away. The wheat and the tares will mature together at the end of the age. (Mt. 13:30).

³⁰“Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say...‘First gather the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.”
(Mt. 13:30)

- E. Thinking about the end times causes some to be fearful, but it is because they do not understand the full picture that Scripture sets forth. In this vision in Daniel 11-12, we find much good news such as the assurance that many will know God, experience the miracle-working power of the Spirit, gain understanding of what God is doing, and effectively share that understanding with many others.

³²“...but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. ³³And those of the people who understand shall instruct many...” (Dan 11:32-33)

- F. Details of God’s end-time plan were shown to Daniel so that His people would prepare themselves spiritually. The truths of Daniel 11-12 will give God’s people confidence and courage to stand for truth and to live godly, instead of yielding to *fear, offense, confusion, deception, and compromise*.

- G. Daniel 12 emphasizes God’s sovereign power over all and that history is heading towards a glorious future in which His people will prevail in victory. Our God knows the end from the beginning. Jesus is leading history and the nations into a time that will result in God’s glory filling the earth. It will be the greatest hour in history and will be a great privilege for believers living at that time.

- H. ***Optimum environment:*** We must see the big picture—the negative and positive aspects—knowing that God is establishing the optimum environment for His people to walk in love, power, and purity. What the devil means for evil, God will use for good to train His people and cause them to mature. *God uses the least severe means to bring the greatest number of people to the deepest level of love.*

II. THE ABOMINATION THAT CAUSES DESOLATION

- A. Jesus drew attention to one phrase that Daniel emphasized twice—the *abomination of desolation* (Dan. 11:31; 12:11). By understanding this phrase we can understand some of the major themes of end-time prophecy. The abomination of desolation is the only political and religious event that Jesus gave to let His people identify when they were in the generation of His return.

“When you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet...” (Mt. 24:15)

- B. The “abomination” speaks of a *great evil*—one that will cause “desolation,” or great destruction. In other words, it speaks of a future evil event that will result in great destruction in the nations. Two main components of the abomination are the *image* and the *mark* of the Beast (Rev. 13:15-18).
- C. This event concerns the Antichrist entering the temple in Jerusalem and declaring himself to be God, then demanding on pain of death that the whole world worship him as God (2 Thes. 2:3-4). Paul and John give more information about the abomination of desolation (2 Thes. 2; Rev. 13).

III. DANIEL 11-12

- A. Daniel 11-12 describes one vision reporting a long conversation which Daniel had with a mighty angel who mentioned abomination of desolation *twice* (11:31; 12:11). This vision is the *only* other place in the Scripture that used the exact phrase that Jesus used—the “abomination of desolation.” See mikebickle.org for more on the abomination of desolation.
- B. In Daniel 11-12, an angel described the key trends occurring on the earth when Jesus returns. This angel described the trends *twice* in one vision, mentioning the abomination of desolation both times (11:31; 12:11). The two descriptions cover the same five themes using different terminology. Some of these events were partially fulfilled in the time of Antiochus Epiphanes in 175-163 BC.

The first description (Dan 11:31-35): connects the *abomination of desolation* (11:31) to five key themes—knowing God and understanding His plans (11:32-33), doing miracles (11:32b), reaching “many”—both saved and unsaved—who will be purified (11:33b, 35), God’s people facing martyrdom (11:34a), and receiving God’s help in persecution (11:34).

³¹**“Then they shall...place there [the temple in Jerusalem] the abomination of desolation...**

³²**The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits [miracles].**

³³**And those of the people who understand shall instruct many...³⁴**When they fall [martyrs], they shall be aided with a little help...³⁵**Some of those of understanding shall fall [martyrs], to refine them, purify them...until the time of the end.” (Dan. 11:31-35)******

The second description (Dan 12:1-11): connects the *abomination of desolation* (12:11) to five themes—increased angelic activity (12:1a), great trouble (12:1b), the deliverance of God’s people (12:2), embracing righteousness (12:3, 10), and receiving understanding (12:10).

¹**“At that time Michael shall stand up...there shall be a time of trouble [Great Tribulation] ...your people shall be delivered...³and...turn many to righteousness ...¹⁰**Many shall be purified ...but the wise shall understand...¹¹**and the abomination of desolation is set up...” (Dan. 12:1-11)******

IV. FIVE KEY END-TIME TRENDS: SUMMARY OF BOTH DESCRIPTIONS (DAN. 11:31-12:11)

A. **Premise:** The trends that will *come in fullness* at the time of Jesus' return are *occurring now* and will *continue to increase* until He comes. Thus we believe that God will release the greatest revival in the Church and the greatest harvest of the lost in the midst of the escalating darkness.

B. **#1 Time of trouble:** Jesus referred to Daniel 12:1 when referring to the tribulation (Mt. 24:21).

¹“...there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation...” (Dan. 12:1)

¹⁵“When you see the ‘abomination of desolation’...²¹there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.” (Mt. 24:15, 21)

Distress of nations (Lk. 21:25): This will include terrorism, racial clashes, violent weather, war, financial crisis, etc. The intensity of the distress will cause men's hearts to fail from fear.

²⁵“There will be...on the earth distress of nations...²⁶men's hearts failing them from fear...” (Lk. 21:25-26)

Falling away: Scripture describes many people falling away from the faith in the end times (Mt. 24:9-13; 2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:1-7; 4:3-5; 2 Pet. 2:1-3).

¹Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons...³forbidding to marry... (1 Tim. 4:1-3)

Martyrdom (11:33): There will many martyrs in the end times. I do not believe the majority of believers will be martyred, but each will face the possibility and have to decide whether they will stand for Jesus. This will have a sanctifying effect, causing others to be refined.

³³“They shall fall by sword...³⁵Some of those of understanding shall fall [martyrdom], to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end.” (Dan. 11:33-35)

C. **#2 Supernatural ministry:** There will be great miracles or exploits (11:32), including much angelic activity by Michael and his angels (Rev. 12:7-9) and a global outpouring of the Spirit (Joel 2:28).

³²“But the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits [miracles].” (Dan. 11:32)

¹“At that time Michael shall stand up...and there shall be a time of trouble...” (Dan. 12:1)

Michael: Michael standing up (12:1) and Michael and his angels fighting Satan (Rev. 12:7) indicate that an increase of angelic activity will be manifested in the end times. Angels intervened to help the saints in Acts (Acts 1:10; 5:19; 8:26; 10:3; 12:7-10, 23; 27:23).

⁷And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon...⁹The great dragon was cast out...the Devil...he was cast to the earth... (Rev. 12:7-9)

Outpouring of the Spirit: God will pour out His Spirit in fullness that touches “all flesh.”

²⁸“...I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.” (Joel 2:28)

- D. **#3 God's people delivered:** God's people will be fully delivered *physically* (from persecution) and *politically* (from oppressive governments) by Jesus' return and the resurrection (12:1-2). In the resurrection they will recover all that was lost in the persecution (12:3). Some of God's people "shall be aided" in the face of persecution with a supernatural deliverance (11:34), just as angels twice opened prison doors for Peter (Acts 5:19; 12:7-11), while others were not delivered.

¹"...your people shall be delivered...²those who sleep in the dust...shall awake [resurrection]...
³and those who turn many to righteousness [shall shine] like the stars forever." (Dan. 12:1-3)

³⁴"When they fall [martyrdom], they shall be aided with a little help." (Dan. 11:34)

- E. **#4 Many walking in righteousness:** This includes "many" *believers* repenting of compromise to walk in righteousness and purity as well as "many" *unbelievers* turning to Jesus from every tribe and tongue to be strengthened to walk in purity (Dan. 11:35; 12:3, 10; Rev. 7:9, 14). The Lord will release a *great revival* in the church and a *great harvest* among the lost in all the nations.

³"...those who turn many to righteousness..."¹⁰"...many shall be purified..." (Dan. 12:3, 10)

³⁵"...to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end." (Dan. 11:35)

⁹"...behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne..."¹⁴These...come out of the great tribulation." (Rev. 7:9-14)

- F. **#5 Increased understanding to know God and His plans:** The Lord will raise up "people of understanding" who will *know God* and make His heart and plans known to "many" (11:32-33). Daniel also described these faithful messengers as "wise" (12:3, 10). Their wisdom will be related to understanding more of Jesus' glory and beauty, as well as His plans, including what the Bible says about the unique events and trends that will occur on the earth in His end-time plan.

³²"...but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.

³³And those of the people who understand shall instruct many." (Dan. 11:32-33)

¹⁰"...and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand." (Dan. 12:10)

Many: The fact that they teach *many* indicates that *many* will be hungry for understanding. Someone without a public teaching ministry could teach many through social media.

Know God: As people encounter the heart of the Father and the beauty of Jesus, they will call young people to a righteous lifestyle through a lens of love that sees the beauty, liberty, and excellence of "love-based" righteousness, which is obedience (Jn. 14:15, 21).

People of understanding: The Lord will release understanding of what the Word says about His end-time plans. There are 150 chapters in the Bible focusing on end-times. We must not neglect these since they come from the same Bible, reveal the same Jesus, and are inspired by the same Spirit as the gospels. See mikebickle.org for a list of 150 chapters on the end times.

²⁰The anger of the LORD will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. (Jer. 23:20)