

DIAMONDS FROM DANIEL

by

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CHAPTER TWELVE

THE CLOSING SCENES

THE CLOSING SCENES AND SIGNS OF THE TIMES

“The world’s midnight is yet to come. That was a dark day when the flood swept the antediluvian world into the pit. It was a dreadful day when the fiery billows rolled over the fair plains of Sodom and Gomorrah. It was a sad day when Pharaoh put his heel upon the Israelitish heart in the dark night of Egyptian bondage. The fall of Jerusalem and the Babylonish captivity was a severe stroke, but far worse was that of the siege of Jerusalem under Titus, when mothers ate the flesh of their own dead children, and untold horrors reigned supreme. Fire and flood, war, pestilence, and famine, have all contributed their dark chapters to the world’s history. But . . . there is an awful time coming, the darkness of which will overshadow all the tempestuous epochs of the past, and might very appropriately be termed the world’s midnight.”

- J. O. McClurkan

At that time

In order to clearly understand Daniel 12 the reader should compare it with Revelation 12.

These two chapters make it clear that there are to be special and separate resurrections for certain of the Jews and Israelites, at specific periods during the seven years Great Tribulation. If the reader will remember that Daniel 12 is still speaking of **“thy people”** i. e. Daniel’s people, he will clearly perceive and understand such scriptures as **“many of them that sleep . . . shall awake.”** It is not so much the fact of a resurrection which is occupying the attention of the Prophet for ALL who sleep in the dust shall eventually awake. Daniel is thinking and writing about special, separate and specific awakenings or resurrections of God’s people during the Great Tribulation. Daniel 12:1 has nothing whatever to do with either the Gentiles or the Church for it plainly applies only to Daniel’s people. **“Thy people”** twice mentioned in the verse refers ONLY to Daniel’s people. There is to be an out resurrection for the special elect remnant of Israel during the Great Tribulation as there is to be a special select OUT RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD of all the Church saints at the second appearing of Christ at the close of this Church age. Not only is there to be a future NATIONAL RESURRECTION of Israel but there is also to be a special, select OUT RESURRECTION of the faithful martyred remnant during the Great Tribulation.

“At that time” refers to the time during which the willful king, or Antichrist oppresses the Jews.

“At that time,” the time of his apparent greatest triumph—*at that time*—shall Michael, the Archangel, stand up in defense of God’s people. Michael is Israel’s special prince and defender.

There shall be a time of trouble

“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Matthew 24:21).

“For when they shall say, Peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape” (I Thessalonians 5:3).

“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book” (Daniel 12:1).

“For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain”

1. It will be a time of Judgment on Apostate Christendom.
2. It will be a period of special desolation.
3. It will be an era of dreadful wickedness (Isaiah 26:21).
4. Antichrist will be world dictator.
5. The False Prophet will complete the Trinity of hell:

- (1) Satan
- (2) Antichrist
- (3) False Prophet.

6. It will be a time of trouble; such as never was (Daniel 12:1).

At that time thy people shall be delivered

Israel may be likened to an EXCURSION which is delayed, sidetracked, or held up in a siding, and waiting for the EXPRESS which is the Church, and which now has right of way.

Church truth was not revealed by Daniel.

The Church age was not opened to the vision of the Prophet. The mystery of the Church’s birth, growth, glory, rapture and return to the earth was revealed to the Apostle of the Gentiles, and not by Daniel the Prophet.

The expression **THY PEOPLE** refers to Daniel’s people i e. the Jew.

Shall Awake

The literal, bodily Resurrection of Christ is the corner stone of Christian Doctrine. It is also the Gibraltar of Christian Evidence, the Waterloo of Infidelity and the sure and certain proof that the saints shall also awake in his likeness some glad and glorious day.

If there is no resurrection of the dead, then, faith is vain, we are all sinners and false witnesses. Christ is also dead. (I Corinthians 15:13-17) and the race is doomed. We need to be reminded that if Christ did not arise from the dead, mankind is lost and salvation and heaven are alike impossible.

Many of them that sleep . . . shall awake:

Daniel had just been informed that the great prince Michael shall stand up to defend God's cause and God's people (Daniel 12:1, Revelation 12), that the agony of the ages was yet in the future, and that the faithful remnant would be preserved through the fiery furnace of that coming agony.

The words "**many of them**" have to do with Daniel's people. The "**them**" of v. 2 refers to the "**thy people**" of v. 1 and has nothing to do with the Gentiles or a so-called general resurrection. There is no such thing known to the scriptures as a GENERAL resurrection. The resurrections of which the Bible speaks are all ear-marked, special, select resurrections.

Beginning with MOSES and continuing with THE WIDOW'S SON, LAZARUS, CHRIST, DORCAS, the saints who arose with Christ, the coming rapture of the living and resurrection of the sleeping saints at the coming of the Lord, the national resurrection of Israel and their restoration to their own land just prior to the setting up of the millennium, the resurrection of saints during the great tribulation, and last, the resurrection of all the wicked dead at the close of the millennium (Revelation 20:11-15) they are each and all earmarked resurrections.

A general resurrection of sinners and saints at the end of the world is utterly foreign to the Scriptures. "**Many of them that sleep . . . shall awake**" has reference only to Jews—thy people—Daniel's people (v. 1).

Not only is there to be a national resurrection of all Israel such as was seen by Ezekiel in his vision of the dry, yes! Very dry bones (Ezekiel 37), but there is to be a special resurrection of Jewish Saints who suffered martyrdom during the great tribulation and the cruel reign of the Antichrist. Such special saints are marked out for a special resurrection to everlasting life and participation with Christ in his glorious millennial kingdom.

Not only are the faithful few, who, rather than disobey, suffered and died, to arise from the dead during the closing scenes of the great tribulation, but those who received the mark of the beast, those apostate Jews who bowed before the image of the Antichrist and received his mark, they, too, are to arise from the dead only to be covered with shame and everlasting contempt. Special sinners are marked out for special shame!

Some to everlasting life

The some here refers to the Jewish Saints during the great tribulation that elected to die rather than yield. There will be Daniels, who, rather than stop praying will suffer themselves to be slain. There will be Hananiahs, Mishaels and Azariahs, who, rather than bow down to the image set up by the Antichrist will suffer themselves to be slaughtered.

Such, who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake as a special resurrected company and thus inherit everlasting life.

Some to shame and everlasting contempt

The *SOME* in this passage has reference to those of the children of Abraham who during the fearful hours of the great tribulation became like Judas, Demas and Ananias, who received the mark of the beast, and as special sinners shall awake to special shame and contempt.

Daniel 11 and 12 thus deals with all history from the first year of Darius the Mede to the closing scenes of the oncoming Great Tribulation, the apocalypse of the Antichrist and the ushering in of God's Utopian morning that shall know no night.

Everlasting contempt

Everlasting contempt. What terrible words!

Two classes are here dealt with by the prophet:

(1) Those who accept the truth and despite the terrible trials and persecutions through which they are called upon to pass, and despite the fact that they must suffer martyrdom for their faith, endure as seeing Him who is invisible and consequently awake to everlasting life.

(2) Those who accept the false Messiah who comes in his own name, and who receive his mark. Those who submit rather than suffer. Those who yield rather than endure. Such shall also awake but to shame and eternal contempt. During the dreadful days of the Great Tribulation there is a special reward for special faithfulness and a special shame for special sin.

They that be wise

Better be wise than be wealthy. A half-witted boy watching the funeral of a once wealthy miser remarked, "There he goes and not a penny in his pocket."

The word here translated WISE is the word used for *INSTRUCTORS OR TEACHERS of others*. It means wise in the sense of conveying the truth to others. Those who know the truth of God and instruct others therein shall shine as the brightness of the firmament.

They that turn many to righteousness

Those who have been burning and shining lights, those who have instructed others, those who have been fishers of men, those who have been, in season and out of season, searchers of sinners and seekers for souls shall enjoy glorious reward. What an incentive to soul winning! **“They that be wise [teachers] shall shine as the brightness of the firmament and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever.”**

Shut up the words and seal the book

If these were the closing words of the book of Daniel, as some have preached and practiced by severely leaving the contents of the book alone, we might well despair of ever understanding its meaning. We may thank God; however, that such is not the closing word. There is no full stop after the words SEAL THE BOOK, for the whole passage reads **“Shut up the words . . . seal the book, to the time of the end.”** The first book of the New Testament, the Gospel according to Matthew together with the last book of the New Testament, the Revelation according to John on the Isle of Patmos supplies the double key which unseals the book of Daniel. That which was sealed by the Lord in the Old Testament is unsealed by the Holy Spirit in the New Testament.

Many shall run to and fro

“Ye hypocrites,” said Jesus one day, **“Ye can discern the face of the sky, but can ye not discern the signs of the times?”** Nahum evidently foresaw the automobile age when he wrote, **“The chariots shall be with flaming torches,”** and also forewarned that such would be **“in the day of His Preparation.”** Who ever heard of raging chariots before the automobile arrived? The prophet Nahum also mentioned the principal street along which they would run and jostle one against another. **“They shall jostle one another in the broad ways.”** THE BROADWAYS of New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and London. These are only a few of the signs of the times (See II Timothy 3:1-3, Nahum 2:3-4). Nahum saw the automobile age while Daniel foretold THE AGE OF TRAVEL. **“Many shall run to and fro.”**

“Many shall run . . . and knowledge . . . increased,” find special fulfillment and emphasis in the present century. Railways, steam engines, steam and motor vessels, automobiles, telephones, wireless, libraries, books, newspapers, magazines, microscopes, submarines and X-rays are only a few of the inventions and discoveries of our own day and age. The prophet said **“Many shall run,”** and many are indeed running. He said **“knowledge shall be increased”** and knowledge has been and is being increased.

Many shall be purified

Here is one more outstanding sign of the Times. **“Many shall be purified and made white.”**

THERE is a striking and interesting passage in the book of Hebrews which says **“Some must enter therein”** (Hebrews 4:6).

Put these two scriptures together and you have a most interesting and instructive combination:

- (1) **“Many shall”**
- (2) **“Some must.”**

Reverse the order and you have (1) **“Some must”** and (2) **“Many shall.”** **“Some must enter therein”** for God’s plans and purposes must be fulfilled, despite the opposition of men and devils. Thank God **“Many shall be purified and made white and tried.”** With pure hearts (purified) and clean hands (made white) they shall thus be prepared for the fiery trials and tests of the closing days of this age.

The wicked shall do wickedly

- (1) Yes! The days in which we live are the most wonderful that the world has ever seen.
- (2) No! The world is not getting better every day.
- (3) Yes! We are living in the midst of dreadful days.
- (4) Yes! The world is getting worse and worse.

Evil is today a thousand times worse than it ever was.

Sin is more subtle today, more devilish, more refined, and hence a thousand times more dangerous and more damnable.

On the other hand there are more good and holy people in the world today than ever before in history, and goodness and truth is more abounding than ever before. The human race is on the increase. Sin and error also are on the increase and hell is being enlarged. Holiness, truth and goodness are abounding as never before.

Sooner or later there will be a final clash between the two forces, one of which will be headed up in the Antichrist and the other in God’s Christ. **“The wicked shall do wickedly”** but **“Many shall be purified and made white.”**

When the world’s cup of iniquity is full, the crises will have been reached and the smiting stone will fall, the colossus of man’s day will crash and crumble, sin will forever be swept from the earth and the stone, the smiting stone, the stone cut out without hands, the stone which was once set at naught, the stone against which Israel stumbled and was broken, the stone will roll on, and on, and on, gathering momentum as it rolls, until it fills the whole earth.

- THEN and not till then will right be on the throne and wrong be on the scaffold.
- THEN and not till then shall HOLINESS be triumphant and God’s will be done in earth as it is done in heaven.

Daniel 12:10 describes the normal state of society from Daniel’s day until the second advent of Christ:

- (1) Many shall be purified and made white
- (2) The wicked shall do wickedly
- (3) None of the wicked shall understand
- (4) The wise shall understand.

So much, at least, is settled. These things are no longer open for debate, for God has spoken. The sacred scriptures never hint the gradual conversion of the world. There can never be any reconciliation of good and evil. There never can be friendship between holiness and sin. They ARE at enmity. They are mutually antagonistic and destructive. The crisis will be reached when the Christ of glory comes and the Colossus of man's civilization, pomp and power crashes and crumbles to pieces. This is the end of man's day. Selah!

The abomination that maketh desolate

The expression, "**the abomination that maketh desolate**" is twice mentioned in the Book of Daniel and once referred to by our Lord Jesus Christ. (Compare Daniel 11:31; Daniel 12:11; Matthew 24:15).

In Daniel 11:31 it has reference to Antiochus Epiphanes. Because of his wild, wicked, and willful ways, words and works, he was called "Epimanes" which means "*the madman.*" He was a forerunner and perhaps the most outstanding type of the Antichrist who is yet to come.

In Daniel 12:11 the expression "**the abomination of desolation**" refers to the Antichrist of whom Antiochus Epiphanes was but a type. Before our blessed Lord comes in glory at the close of the great tribulation Antichrist will devastate the land of promise and attempt the utter annihilation of God's people.

He will declare himself to be God, demand worship, enter the temple dedicated to the God of the Hebrews, profane God's Holy things, persecute God's holy people, and he will attempt the extermination of all worshippers of the true and living God.

He will be the climax and culmination of all wickedness, and shall be destroyed by Christ when He returns with His Saints to set up His Glorious Millennial Kingdom.

The "**abomination**" of Daniel 11:31 is past while the "**abomination**" of Daniel 12:11 is future.

The 1335 days (12:12)

The twelfth chapter of Daniel introduces us again to Michael, the only archangel mentioned in the Bible. He is the great prince, who, with Gabriel has charge of the government of God for this world. Michael and Gabriel take care of God's interests on the earth. Michael is the great prince watching over God's people, Israel, while Gabriel is chiefly concerned with the Gentiles.

During the great tribulation, which is yet future, Michael shall stand up in defense of the Jews in order to preserve the faithful remnant alive in those dreadful days (Read Revelation 12 and see Riches from Revelation).

The Great Tribulation will occupy the last week of Daniel's seventieth week which equals seven years.

The first half of the seven years will be taken up by wars, famines, earthquakes and pestilences upon all the earth.

The second half of the seven years will witness the rise of the Antichrist and the closing half of THE GREAT TRIBULATION proper shall begin in earnest. This will last for a time (1 year) times (2 years) and half a time (1/2 year) or 1260 days.

At the close of the 1260 days of hell on earth, under the sovereign sway of Satan, the Antichrist and false prophet who constitute the trinity of hell, Christ Jesus will descend in all his eternal power and glory, arrest the devil and incarcerate him in the bottomless pit for a 1000 years, seize the Antichrist and fling him into the lake of fire which is his final doom. The wicked followers of Antichrist will be destroyed and the way cleared for the setting up of the millennial kingdom.

The living nations shall be judged by Christ according to Matthew 25:31-46. The earth shall be cleaned up, the wicked nations destroyed and the way prepared for the glorious reign of Christ.

This preparing of the way of the Lord will occupy 75 days and then full blessing comes to Israel, Judah and the world. The millennial reign of Christ will begin and hence "**blessed is he that cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.**"

Seventy-five days, in which the living nations shall be gathered together before the King of kings to be judged as nations, the earth swept clean and the way prepared for the glorious reign of Christ. Full blessing shall then come to Jew and Gentile and the 1000 years reign of Christ will begin.

1260 . . . 1290 . . . 1335 days

Here are three periods of days.

- (1) 1260 days or the closing half of the Great Tribulation.
- (2) 1290 days or 30 days before the middle of the Great Tribulation the daily sacrifice shall be taken away and the worst half of the Tribulation shall begin.
- (3) 1335 days or 75 days after the destruction of the Antichrist the full blessing of Christ's Millennium kingdom will be realized.

After the smashing of the image of the Beast and the destruction of the Antichrist it will take 75 days to clear away the debris before the millennial kingdom of Christ is set up.

Thou shalt rest

The Bible reveals to me:

- A FATHER, who has numbered the hairs of my head;
- A SAVIOR, who by his own shed blood has saved me from sin;
- A HEAVEN in which I am to REST in everlasting fellowship with God.

GO AND REST. Daniel must have lived to a ripe old age. He must have been a very aged man when the gracious Lord told him to go and rest. He was taken captive in the 3rd year of Jehoiakim, he lived through the 70 years captivity and until the reign of Cyrus. **“Go and Rest.”** To the saint death is but a sleep. To the Child of God the waiting time between death and resurrection is a RESTING time.

Toil and trouble, discouragements and disappointments will all be over. Daniel’s long, strange, wonderful journey was about to end. No more shall he be the target for cruel, envious, jealous office seekers. He has seen his last den of hungry lions. His righteous soul shall no longer be vexed by the sin of Jew or Gentile. A good man, full of the Holy Ghost and faith, tested and true, loving and loyal, faithful and fearless, Daniel shall rest and await the resurrection morning when he shall be richly rewarded by his wonderful Redeemer and King. When our work is done, may we, too, hear the wonderful words of our wonderful Lord, **“GO AND REST.”**

Thou shalt stand in thy lot at the end of the days

Heaven is a place as well as a state.

It is a place of holy, restful activity. Nothing short of Heaven can satisfy the universal longing of humans for perfect rest, perfect knowledge, perfect God-likeness and perfect service. **“Go . . . rest . . . and stand”** were God’s last words to his faithful prophet.

Heaven and immortality are thus realities of Revelation.

JOB knew that his Redeemer was alive and that after worms had banqueted on his body he knew that he would see God (Job 19:25-27).

CHRIST declared that God was the God of the living and thus assures us that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are living (Matthew 22:32).

LAZARUS’ body was probably on the ash-heap or junk pile but the rich man saw him in Abraham’s bosom (Luke 16).

MOSES AND ELIJAH talked with Christ a 1000 years after their earthly ministries ceased (Matthew 17:3-4). Paul knew that he had a building eternal in the heavens (II Corinthians 5:1) and triumphantly declared that death would be swallowed up (I Corinthians 15:52-55).

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