

TRIBULATION AND TRIUMPH FOR ISRAEL

Daniel 11-12

PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.

Introduction

Antichrist was introduced in the last lesson as the rebellious king of the revived Roman Empire. He will be the most wicked human that this world has seen. He will cause the death of billions of people through his quest for world power. He will be killed in a war, but raised back to life. He will be given Satan's authority to govern the world as his trusted servant. He will rebel against God in words and deeds. He will be worshipped along with Satan by much of the world before he is cast alive into the Lake of Fire with his false prophet. Then Christ will establish His Kingdom on earth for 1000 years where all believers will be blessed with peace and prosperity. The Eternal Kingdom will follow His Millennial Kingdom where believers will live in the New Jerusalem with God and His Son (Rev 21-22).

Daniel 11:40-45 reveals the war that will occur between Antichrist and the end-time king of the north and kings of the south during the Tribulation. This prophecy will be fulfilled during the 70th week of Daniel before Christ comes to earth to set up His Millennial Kingdom.

Aim of the Lesson

Trust the plan of God, which will succeed, rather than any plan of man, which will ultimately fail.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa 55:8-9).

Outline of the Lesson (Use the Study Notes to add to this lesson plan as the Spirit leads you.)

I. Attack against Antichrist – 11:40-12:1

In the last lesson Antichrist was introduced as a new "king" in the future, who is like Antiochus Epiphanes, but more wicked (Dan 11:36-39), Antichrist will take control of the territory once held by the old Roman Empire (basically Europe plus northern Africa and western Asia). He will make a peace treaty with Israel for seven years and it appears he will make a similar treaty with Egypt. Since Antichrist will gain control of many nations, a king north of Israel and his allies will engage him in war to stop him from expanding his empire.

We will see that both Antichrist and the king of the north will make plans that will fail. Do not follow their example. We must trust the plan of God, which will succeed.

A. Identity of the "Kings" against Antichrist – 11:40, 43; cf Ezk 28:5-6

There is strong evidence that the king of the north is Russia and his allies are Iran (Persia) and eastern Turkey (Gomer and Togarmah) in the north and Ethiopia and Libya in the south. Daniel only mentions the kings of the south, Libya and Ethiopia.

We hear the news of these nations in the Middle East and wonder if they are being prepared for this war. If so, we know that their plans will end in failure.

B. Sequence of Events in the Battle – 11:40-45; cf Ezk 38-39

The conflict between God and the king of the north that attacks Israel is given in Ezekiel 38-39. The prophecy of Daniel gives a good sequence of events in this war, which is more suitable for the outline of this lesson. Both accounts reveal the devastating failure of man's plans.

The king of the north initiates this war. He will overthrow many countries including Israel. Since Antichrist will make a treaty to protect Israel, he could be in Israel and be killed in this battle (cf Rev 13:12, 14). Then the king of the north will join his African allies in the south and plunder Egypt of her wealth. All

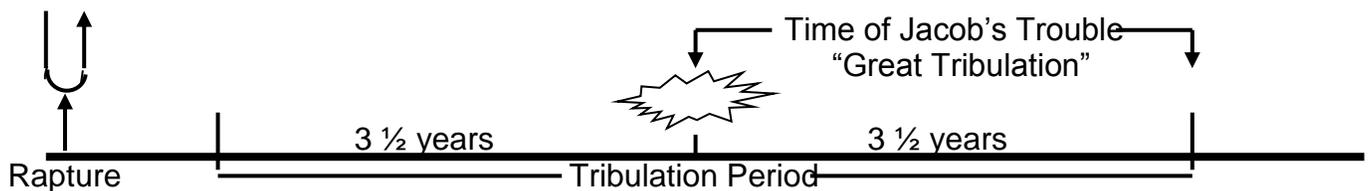
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seems to be working for him until he hears terrifying news from the area northeast of Egypt, which would be Israel. Could it be that he hears that Antichrist is healed of his wound and raised from the abyss (Rev 11:7; 13:3, 12, 14; 17:8)? This terrifying news forces him to return to Israel and set up his command center in the holy mountain near or in Jerusalem. That is where he will come to his end and none will be able to help him. God will defeat his plan, destroy him and devastate his allies.

We can learn from this war that the plans of men, though successful at first, will fail, but the plans of God will ultimately succeed. Trust in God's plans to succeed in life.

C. Time of the Battle – 12:1

12:1 – “At that time” – these words refer to the time of the battle that is described in 11:40-45. Two phrases identify the time of these events: (1) “Michael (shall) stand up” and (2) “there shall be a time of trouble such as never was.” Both of these events point to the middle of the Tribulation. (This is explained in the Study Notes.)



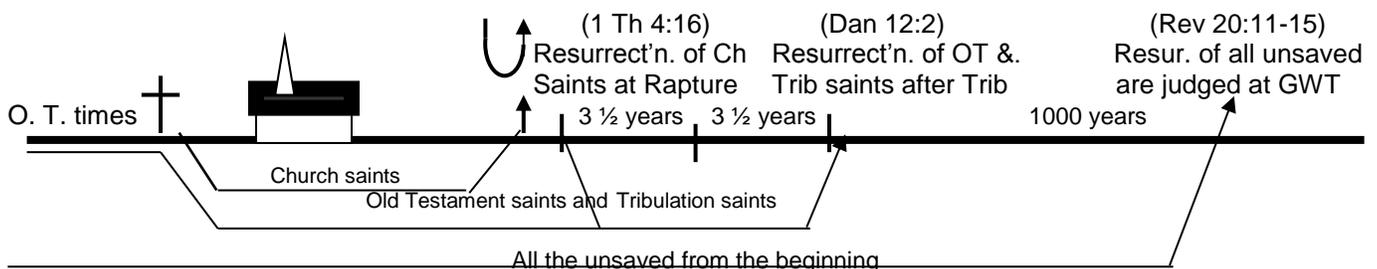
Antichrist, no doubt, will take advantage of the Russian leader's death at that time and take control of his country and the countries of his allies in his quest to rule the entire world for Satan. These are oil-rich lands that will force countries that need oil to submit to his demands for worship (Rev 13:15-17).

We must not think that God has lost control of the earth when evil men seem to succeed. God allows men to reveal the wickedness of their hearts before He destroys them.

II. Actions after Christ Returns – 12:2-13

A. Two Resurrections – 12:2-3

Now the vision passes to the end of the Tribulation to reveal that those who died in the Tribulation will be resurrected. Two resurrections are in view here. The resurrection of Old Testament and Tribulation believers will occur at the end of the Tribulation so they can be in Christ's Millennial Kingdom. All unbelievers will be resurrected after His Kingdom on earth is completed and will suffer shame and everlasting contempt. It was revealed to John that they will be judged at Christ's great white throne and be cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev 20:11-15).. (The Church saints will be specially resurrected at the Rapture before the Tribulation, but they will return to earth with Christ to rule with Him in His Millennial Kingdom – Rev 2:26-27; 3:21; 20:4, 6).



The righteous, who are raised at that time, will be rewarded for their work. The “wise” are the ones who “turn many to righteousness” through their wisdom in witnessing for God! These shall shine as the stars forever and ever, bringing glory to God through their soul-winning service (1 Cor 10:31).

We will be wise if we follow God's plan and we will be rewarded for doing it (Heb 11:6).

B. Completed Judgment – 12:4-10

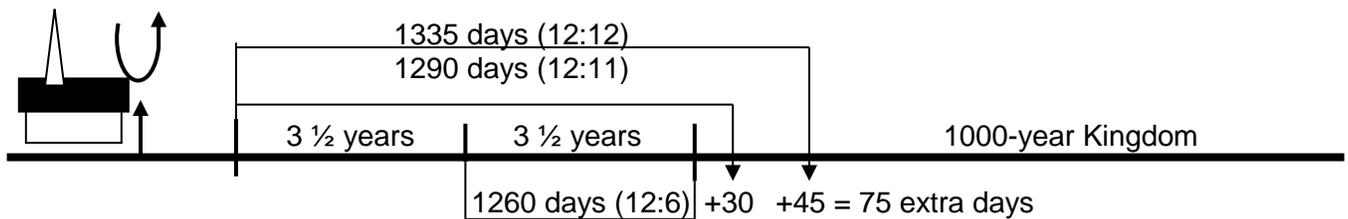
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Daniel was told to seal the book to keep it being altered. Then the question was asked how long it would be for these judgments on Israel to be fulfilled and the answer was times, time and a half, which is the 3½ years of the Great Tribulation (compare Rev 11:2; 12:6, 14). Then the question was asked as to what the “end” or “result” of these things would be. The result would be good and bad. Many would be “purified” due to the trial of judgment, but many would continue in their sin, accusing God of being unjust.

We will suffer persecution when we follow God’s plan (2 Tim 3:12), but we will be blessed when we receive the final results.

C. Completed Blessings – 12:11-13

Two more time segments are mentioned as the book closes. Both segments begin with the middle of the Tribulation as did the time, times, and ½ time of 12:7 (1260 days – Rev. 12:6). The first segment is 1290 days, which adds another 30 days beyond the end of the Tribulation. The second is 1335 days, adding another 45 days, stretching it to 75 days beyond the end of the Tribulation.



These two segments of time are probably transitional days allowing for the accomplishment of many items of business necessary for the official establishment of the Kingdom. The first 30 days will probably be taken up with such things as the resurrection of Old Testament saints and Tribulation martyrs (Dan. 12:2), the regathering and judging of Israel (Ezk. 20:34-35; Mt. 25:1-30), and the judgment of the Gentiles surviving the Tribulation (Joel 3:2; Mt. 25:31-46).

The second set of 45 days will possibly be more concerned with the material/physical preparations for the Kingdom. Israel’s topography must be altered (Isa. 26:15; 54:23; Zech. 14:10), the millennial Temple must be constructed (Ezk. 40-48) and Christ must officially be inaugurated as King on David’s throne. Then the Millennial Kingdom officially begins, for it is said that those who “wait” and “come” to the 1335 days will be “blessed,” i.e., they will inherit the blessings of God’s earthly Kingdom.

12:13 – Daniel was given a special promise and assurance of blessing as this great book closes. He would continue in his course of life until he died (“rest”). Then God assured him that he would inherit a portion (“lot”) of the Kingdom on earth when he was resurrected with His people at the end of the Tribulation.

We will be in Christ’s Kingdom, if we chose to follow God’s plan and not the plan of the world.

[Notice: There are a couple of maps at the end of the Study Notes that will clarify the attack by the king of the north and his allies during the Tribulation. The students should have a copy of these maps with their lessons.]

A CHART TO COMPARE THE VISIONS IN DANIEL

VISION	DANIEL 2 (603 B.C.)	DANIEL 7 (553 B.C.)	DANIEL 8 (551 B.C.)	DANIEL 9 (538 B.C.)	DANIEL 10-12 (536 B.C.)
BABYLON (605-539 B.C.)	GOLD head Symbolic of Nebuchadnezzar. Gold is king of metals.	LION + 2 eagle wings Wings plucked; stands on feet; given a man's heart (Neb's sickness, recovery, conversion)			
MEDO-PERSIA (639-323 B.C.)	SILVER breast / arms 2 arms (Medes and Persians) were united in breast (one empire)	BEAR – one shoulder is higher than the 2 nd -- two nations united to make one empire with Persia greater than the Medes.	RAM had two horns: one horn higher than the 2 nd (Persia was greater than Medes)	445 B.C. – Artaxerxes makes a decree to let Nehemiah rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. The city was rebuilt during the next 7 wks of yrs.	XERXES was the 4 th king. He was the rich- est and would use his treasures to attack the Greeks. This stirred up Greeks' hatred for M-P.
GREECE (323-63 B.C.)	BRONZE belly/thighs Belly (one empire) 2 thighs (2 Greek king- doms rule over Israel)	LEOPARD with four heads (4 kingdoms). Four wings (speedy conquest of M-P)	MALE GOAT has one horn =Alexander. Horn is broken =Alex death. 4 horns; a little horn comes from 1 of them.	The 62 weeks of years includes the last part of M-P Empire, all of Greek Empire and the 1 st part of Roman Emp.	Alex destroyed M-P. His empire is divided 4 ways. Israel is ruled by Kgs N or S of them; one persecuted them.
ANCIENT ROME (63 B.C.-A.D.476)	IRON legs 2 legs (Eastern and Western divisions of the Roman Empire.	FIERCE BEAST It was dreadful and strong. It had iron teeth.		Christ is heralded as the King in Jerusalem. This ends 62 wks of yrs. Then He is cut off; Jer. destroyed (A.D.70)	
FUTURE ROME (Date ???)	IRON/ CLAY feet Has strength of iron, but weakness of clay. (Clay is brittle pottery)	TEN HORNS These are ten kings that reign at the same time. A little horn will arise in their midst.	The Greek little horn is like the Roman little horn in nature & in persecuting Israel, but he is more violent.	70 th wk of yrs is the Tribulation. AC makes a 7-year cov. with Isr. He breaks the cov. in middle of it; attacks Isr.	AC builds a strong army. Kg of N. attacks AC in Isr; then attacks Egypt, but is killed in Isr. Now AC attacks Isr
MESSIANIC (After the fall future Rome)	STONE >>mountain Set up by God after Antichrist is judged. Christ rules the earth. His Kingdom is eterna	ANCIENT of DAYS gives the kingdom of David to the SON of MAN. This is when Tribulation begins.		Antichrist (AC), the desolator is desolated. Israel (Isr) receives her Messiah and is given 6 blessings.	75 days after the Tribu- lation, Christ rules the world and those who have received Him will rule in His Kingdom.