

Winter Texan Bible Study 2019 ~ Pastor Bill Waddell
Prophecies of Daniel, Lesson 8 ~ February 26, 2019

Dan. 12 – When we read the last 6 chapters of Daniel it’s like running the last 6 miles of a marathon. Daniel 7 on is like that no man’s land - mainly pointing at a time that no one has seen or can really imagine. Daniel 7:1b ~ “..then he wrote the dream down and related the following summary of it.”

Nowhere does the Bible say that the race of life that’s being run on this planet gets better. II Timothy 3:1-4 ~ “*But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure, rather than lovers of God.*”

We are the ones that are destroying this place; our choices, our turning our backs on God and the ways of God, and for this reason God is going to end it in the form and fashion that is described in Daniel and Revelation 11:16-18 ~ “*And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying, ‘We give Thee thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who art and who wast, because Thou hast taken Thy great power and hast begun to reign.’ And the nations were enraged, and Thy wrath came, and the time to give their reward to Thy bond-servants the prophets and to the saints and to those who fear Thy name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.*”

The summative statements of Daniel 12 give us direction on how to think and conduct ourselves until then.

1. God tells us this so we can know He’s in control and He keeps His appointments.
 - Daniel 11:35 ~ “*And some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge, and make them pure, until the end time; because it is still to come at the appointed time.*”
 - I Thessalonians 5:9 ~ “*For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ...*”
2. God tells us this so we will not be surprised when troubling times come. You may think, “I’d just rather not know.” But the God who made us is telling us these things because we need to know it. John. 16:33 ~ “*These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.*”
3. God tells us so that we will make good use of our time. Daniel 12:3 ~ “*And those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars, forever and ever.*”
4. God tells us this so we can better understand our purpose and all He’s doing through us. V. 3 ~ Stars? We don’t see the stars during the day, do we? They are always there, always shining but we don’t see them until its dark. The darker it is the better they shine.

We’re wringing our hands and getting all upset about the increasing darkness in our world, whereas we should be saying, “Here we go man! It’s our time to shine!” When God moves you into a dark place, be careful what you do and say. Resist the urge to become inward focused! A lamp is to always be outward focused, especially in dark times and places. God is moving you into a place to shine! VV. 8-10 ~ “*As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, ‘My lord, what will be the outcome of these events?’ And he said, ‘Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time. Many will be purged, purified, and refined; but the wicked will act wickedly, and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand.*” Trouble makes us better at what God put us on earth to do!

5. God tells us this so we can know how it really ends. “The end of the world is near.” It is! God is going to make an end of all this mess, but it isn’t the end for those who belong to Him. V. 13 ~ “*But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age.*” V. 2a - Like Noah and the flood, it was the end for the entire planet, but it wasn’t for Noah and his family. It was the beginning of a new life for them. Jesus says in John 5:24-29; and John. 11:25