



STANDING STRONG IN TRYING TIMES

The Book of Daniel

Standing Strong To the End

Key idea:

God's people will continue to go through trying times, but as they trust in God's Sovereignty and their future eternal reward it will enable them to stand strong to the end.

Key text:

Daniel 12

At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people — everyone whose name is found written in the book — will be delivered. ² Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. ⁴ But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.” ⁵Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank. ⁶ One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?” ⁷ The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, “It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed.” ⁸ I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, “My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?” ⁹ He replied, “Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end. ¹⁰ Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand. ¹¹ “From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. ¹² Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days. ¹³ “As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance.”

Key points:

1. Daniel 12 is the conclusion of Daniel's final vision and also serves as the conclusion for the whole book.

2. Daniel 12 gives another glimpse of the great tribulation that would come upon Israel, culminating in the destruction of the Temple in 70AD.
3. Jesus referenced Daniel 12 many times in His prediction of the destruction of the Temple in 70AD.
4. The troubles discussed in Daniel 12, like the rest of the book, are not merely one-time events but are rather a repeating pattern for God's exile people.
5. Daniel 12 points us to the ultimate hope of the resurrection from the dead and our eternal reward.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. How does the rest of the book of Daniel help me to interpret Daniel 12?
3. Why does Jesus reference Daniel 12 so often in his prediction of the destruction of the Temple (See Matthew 24/Mark 13/Luke 21)? How does this help me to understand the meaning of Daniel 12?
4. Why does it matter if Daniel 12 (and Matthew 24/Mark 13/Luke 21) are primarily about 70AD rather than a future great tribulation? How does this affect my understanding of the "end times"?
5. The key points from Daniel 12 that Jesus referenced include the fact of a time of distress and suffering, the deliverance of God's people, and the call for God's people to endure. How important are these themes throughout the book of Daniel?
6. How is the book of Daniel applicable to me as a Christian living in America in the 21st century? How can it help me to understand my culture, my place within the culture, and how to live faithfully as part of God's people?
7. Why does God speak to Daniel of the resurrection of the dead at the end of time? How would this be helpful to Daniel? How would it help those living during the times of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th kingdoms spoken of throughout Daniel? How does it help me today?
8. Why do Daniel 12:2 and John 5:28-29 both speak of the resurrection of both the righteous and the evil, God's people and those who have rejected Him? Why is it important that all people will be resurrected?
9. What is the thing I have learned from the book of Daniel that has instructed, encouraged, or challenged me the most?

10. Who will I call or see to encourage this week?

For Further Study:

[Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Consummation](#) (Series - February-October, 2007)

[Systematic Theology Classes](#) - Lessons 54-57

[Daniel's Seventy Sevens](#) (October 24, 2021)

[The Beasts, the Little Horn, and the People of God](#) (September 26, 2021)