

Message #1

Daniel 1:8 SELF-DENIAL ON THE PART OF DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS

Introduction:

Daniel and his friends set a great example for young and old alike.

I. What we learn about Daniel and his friends

- A. We learn that Daniel and his companions were Hebrew nobility who had been carried away into captivity by the Babylonians. .
- B. We learn that they were to be trained for service to the king.
 - 1. They would have the best of food and have it in great abundance.
 - 2. It was prepared for the king, his family, his guests and his staff.
 - 3. It was dedicated to the idol god, Bel. (In the Hebrew language, Baal)
- C. Daniel and his friends refused to eat that which was dedicated to an idol god. (They requested that they may eat pulse instead.)
- D. After a ten day trial they were fatter in the face than the other servants.
- E. After a 3 year training period he and his friends excelled above the other trainees.

II. What we learn about life and about ourselves

- A. We learn that remaining true to God will put one to the test.
 - 1. We cannot eat from Satan's table and remain true to God.
 - 2. There are a lot of things we cannot do if we would be true to God, I John 2:15.
- B. We learn that nobody is too good to make sacrifices for God. (Those young men were nobility, but they did not think that they were too good to eat beans.)
- C. We learn that self-denial prepares one for service. (Daniel could have prepared to serve the king and eat the fancy food of the king's table, but he choose to serve a higher King by refusing to eat the food that was dedicated to idol gods.)
- D. We learn that God stands by those who sacrifice for Him.
- E. We learn that one does not have to compromise with sin in order to have friends.

III. How we can benefit from what we learn

- A. We can benefit by saying, “No” to the world.
 - 1. It is difficult to say “No” to a sales person.
 - 2. It is even more difficult to say “No” to Satan and sin.
 - 3. But we must learn to say “No” and by the help of God to stick with that answer.
- B. We can benefit by having good companions to stand with us.
 - 1. Not only did Daniel take a stand for God but three of his friends did also.
 - 2. In a New Testament church there are almost always others who will sacrifice with you.
- C. We can benefit by having a greater witness for God.
 - 1. Daniel and his friends gained the great respect of their superior officer and others.
 - 2. We can even gain the respect of the unsaved by making sacrifices for God.

Message #2

Dan. 1:8 DANIEL'S PURPOSE OF HEART

Introduction:

Even before the fall of Judah, some Jews were carried away into captivity including both Ezekiel and Daniel were among them. Daniel was in group which was carried to the king's palace for special training. It was a grand opportunity. (It was better than going to the prison camp at Chebar.)

I. The problem

- A. The trainees were to be fed from the king's kitchen, V. 5. (Does that sound like a problem. It was for Daniel.)
- B. All of the meat (flesh) from the king's kitchen had been dedicated to an idol god. (The idol god was credited with providing the meat and wine its use was pledged to his glory.)
- C. For most of the young Hebrews that would pose no problem. :(Their families had practiced practiced such from their early childhood..)
- D. But for Daniel it was a real problem.
 - 1 With all his heart he believed in Jehovah God.
 - 2. He believed it would be a sin to eat such meat and drink such wine..

II. The decision

- A. Daniel purposed that he would not eat such meat nor drink such wine, V. 8.
- B. He evidently spoke to the other Hebrew youth about it, for there were three others who felt the same as he did.

III. The pursuit of his purpose

- A. He requested permission to eat only vegetables, thereby avoiding the meat and wine, V. 8b.
- B. At first his request was refused, V. 10.
- C. But Daniel had purposed not to eat and , therefore, he made a second request.
 - 1. He requested a ten day trial period.
 - 2. The ten day trial was granted and after the trial his original request was granted.
- D. What if the trial had not proven successful?
 - 1. He was trusting God that it would be successful.
 - 2. Regardless he had purposed not to eat or drink that which had been dedicated to idols.(In that event, he would face hard labor, prison or death.)

IV. The result of his decision

- A. Daniel and his three friends were highly favored by the king, V. 17-20.
- B. His purpose of heart paid off.

Conclusion:

When men purpose in heart to do God's will, it will pay off in the long run. Will you purpose to do God's will?

Message #3

Dan. 2:10, 23-30 THE GOD WHO ANSWERS THE UNANSWERABLE AND SOLVES THE UNSOLVABLE

Introduction:

Daniel's young life was confronted with one crisis after another. At about the age of 14 he was captured and carried away from home and country. He trusted God and the crisis ended with his selection to be trained for service to the king. Then came the crisis about the food which was dedicated to idols. He trusted God and that crisis ended in his favor. He graduated from training school with honors was appointed to the king's court. Then another crisis arrived. He was arrested and sentenced to death, Dan. 2:13.

I. The problem

- A. King Nebuchadnezzar had dreamed which had left him greatly disturbed.
 - 1. The contents of the dream had disturbed him.
 - 2. To complicate matters, he could not remember what the contents of the dream were and that disturbed him all the more. .
 - 3. He was so disturbed that he could not sleep. (When a king gets disturbed that spells trouble for those about him.)
- B. The king called his most trusted and experienced advisors. (These were men who were supposed to have special knowledge revealed to them by idol gods.)
- C. He demanded that they reveal to him the meaning of his dream.

II. The problem unanswerable by men

- A. At first the wise men thought the matter would be easy to solve.
 - 1. They said, "Tell us the dream and we will tell you the answer."
 - 2. They did not know what he had dreamed, but one can be sure that they would have given told him some kind of answer which was calculated to satisfy him.
 - 3. Since he did not remember what he had dreamed, he would not know but what they were telling him the truth.
- B. But the king wanted them to tell him both his dream and its meaning.
- C. This was impossible with men, V. 10.
- D. Thus, the command went out to arrest and kill all the wise men if they did not come up with an answer.

III. The answer from God

- A. Daniel, along with others was arrested to be executed.
- B. He sent word to the king that if given time, he could get the answer. (The king granted him time to get the answer.)
- C. Daniel and his three friends went to God in prayer asking God to give the answer. .
- D. God gave Daniel both the dream and its interpretation.

IV. All mankind has a problem

A. the problem is sin.

1. All people of all the world are guilty of sin, Rom. 3:10, 23; Isa. 53:6; Jer. 17:9.
2. How in the world can man stay out of hell and make it to heaven?

B. With man the problem is insolvable, Mt. 19:26; Eph. 2:9.

V. But God has solved the problem

A. He solved it by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to the cross, John 3:16.

B. He asks men to repent of their sin and trust Jesus for salvation, Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:13.

Message #4

Dan. 3:26-27 THE GOD OF SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO

Introduction:

Daniel had three special Hebrew friends. They had been brought into captivity together. They had endured trials together. They had also been exalted to high positions together. In our text Daniel's three special friends have an experience which would put their devotion to God to a test.

I. Put to the test

- A. As officers of the king they were ordered to attend the dedication of an idol god, 3:1-3.
- B. The building of the an idol after a military victory was common in that day in that part of the world. (The victory may have been the final victory over Jerusalem and the fall of Judah.)
- C. To even come to the dedication of an idol went against the grain for them. (For them to bow to an idol god would have been the greatest kind of insult they could give to their God.)

II. A grandeur occasion

- A. the statue of the idol god stood about 90 feet tall, 3:1.
- B. It was a statue of gold.
 - 1. That is, it was wood overlaid with gold.
 - 2. It took a lot of gold to overlay a 90 foot statue.
 - 3. It was a grand sight in the light of the sun.
- C. A great host of the king's officers had gathered for the dedication service, 3:2-3.
- D. A great band or symphony was present.

III. The service underway

- A. The king's herald announced the opening of the ceremony.
 - 1. He said that at the sound of the music all present were to bow to the idol, 3:4-5.
 - 2. If any would not bow it would be an act of treason and he would be burned, 3:6.
 - 3. They would not expect anyone to refuse to bow.
- B. But there were three who did refuse and who did not bow.
 - 1. Earlier they had refused to eat bread and drink wine which had been dedicated to an idol god.
 - 2. Now they refused to bow in worship to an idol god.
 - 3. They refused to bow even though they had been ordered to do so.
 - 4. They refused to bow even though they had been threatened with a horrible death.

IV. The fiery furnace

- A. Some of the Chaldeans informed the king that they did not bow, 3:9-15.
- B. But they still refused to bow, 3:16-18.
- C. They were cast into the furnace, 3:19-23.

V. Their marvelous deliverance

- A. They were seen alive in the furnace. (And the Lord was with them in the furnace, 3L24-25.)
- B. They come out of the furnace alive and unharmed, 3;26-27.

VI. Their marvelous deliverance;

- A. The God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego is the greatest God of all. (He is the only God.)
- B. Men make their own gods to suit themselves, but the real God must be accepted as He is. (Supreme)
- C. Our God is able to deliver.
 - 1. He delivered them from the flames of the furnace.
 - 2. Even so He delivers sinners from the flames of hell.
 - a. That is, He delivers those who trust Him for salvation.
 - b. He does better than to deliver them out of the fire; He prevents them from going into the fire.
- D. Our God is worthy of our love and loyalty (Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego loved God and they were loyal to Him even in the face of death.).
- E. The danger of death is always near. (One needs to be prepared.)
 - 1. The three Hebrew children were.
 - 2. The guards who died were not.

Conclusion:

- 1. God calls you to be saved, Rom. 10:13.
- 2. God calls you to worship Him and serve Him.
- 3. God calls you to be loyal to Him.

Message #5

Dan. 4:17 THE SUPREME RULER OF MEN

Introduction:

Nebuchadnezzar had another dream and finally called on Daniel to interpret it. He dreamed about the biggest tree in the world, 4:10-11. It was beautiful and had fine fruit, 4:12. A voice from heaven said, "Cut it down," 4:13-14. Only the stump was to be left, 4:16. Daniel was able to interpret the dream, 4:17.

I. The interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream

- A. The great tree represented Nebuchadnezzar, 4:20-22. (Of all empires, Nebuchadnezzar's was the greatest.)
- B. The order to cut down the tree represented an order to remove Nebuchadnezzar from the throne, 4:23-24.
- C. The strange statement was a prophecy that Nebuchadnezzar would become as an animal for 7 years, 4:25.
- D. The stump represented God's intention to restore the throne to Nebuchadnezzar. 4:26.

II. The fulfillment of the prophecy

- A. Nebuchadnezzar soon forgot the dream and was lifted up in pride, 4:28-30.
- B. God laid the ax to the great tree, 4:31-33.
- C. After 7 years Nebuchadnezzar's physical and mental health was restored and his kingdom was restored to him, 4:34-36.

III. God's intent: That all men know that God rules

- A. Nebuchadnezzar is not the only person to be lifted up in pride.
 - 1. It is too easy to think of material possessions as being obtained by self. (They are from God, James 1:17.)
 - 2. Whatever exalted position we may have is also from God.
- B. Nebuchadnezzar is not the only person to fall.
 - 1. God warns all, Pro. 16:18.
 - 2. Any time one turns his back on God and His will, he is headed for a fall.
- C. Nebuchadnezzar was not the only man to come to his senses. (When one recognizes that God is supreme and submits his will to God's will he has come to his senses.)
- D. Nebuchadnezzar was not the only man to be restored to God's good graces. (Anytime one will repent of his sin and cast himself on the mercy of God he will receive mercy from God.)

Conclusion:

Are you ready to recognize that God is Supreme? Are you ready to yield yourself to Him do His will?

Dan. 5:17-23 **THE GOD IN WHOSE HAND THY BREATH IS**

Introduction:

Nebuchadnezzar is dead and Belshazzar is king. He gave a huge party for the officers in his kingdom. In the midst of the party a hand appeared and wrote a message on the wall. Daniel interpreted the message that was written on the wall. Daniel spoke to the king and spoke of God as "The God in whose hand thy breath is," V. 23. Although this statement applied especially to Belshazzar, it also applies to all of us. He is the God in whose hand our breath is.

I. Our breath is in His hand in that He is the One who makes it possible for us to breath.

- A. The planet earth is the only place known to man which is equipped with an atmosphere which is suitable for man to breath.
 - 1. God is the One who made it that way.
 - 2. There is no enclosure to keep the air from flying off into outer space, but God keeps it in its place around the earth so that man can breath.
- B. God made man's body capable of breathing air into his lungs, absorbing oxygen out of the air and putting that oxygen into his bloodstream. (And God, Himself, put the breath of life into man.)
- C. Thanks to God, we breath so easily.
 - 1. At least most of us do.
 - 2. We breath about 12 times per minute, about 720 times per hour, about 17,280 times per day, about 6,307,200 times per year and about 127 million times in 20 years.
- D. Furthermore, God has provided for a continuous supply of oxygen for us all.

II. Our breath is in His hands for He holds the power of life and death

- A. Both Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar, in a limited sense, had held the power of life and death for those over whom they ruled, V19..
 - 1. It was the decree of Nebuchadnezzar that had placed the death penalty on Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.
 - 2. But the king never had the final word.
 - 3. Those 3 Hebrew children lived through the fiery furnace even though Nebuchadnezzar had pronounced the death penalty upon them.
- B. God always has the final say about how long one lives.
 - 1. He can bring a life suddenly to an end. (As He did with the rich man, Luke 12:20)
 - 2. God can extend life.
 - a. He extended Hezekiah's life 15 years.
 - b. He extended Methuselah's life to 969 years.

III. Our eternal destiny is in His hand

- A. God will send us either to heaven or to hell.
- B. Thank God, He gives us a choice.
 - 1. In order to be able to save man, He sent Jesus to the cross.
 - 2. All who will repent and trust in Jesus, God will see to it that they go to heaven.

3. All who will not repent and trust Jesus will go into the fire.
- C. I do not know if Belshazzar ever got saved. (If he did, he got saved soon after Daniel spoke to him because he died that very night.)

Conclusion:

The thing that disturbs me is that some of you may not yet be saved. You are promised no opportunity to get saved after today, II Cor. 6:2. :You need to call on Jesus now and ask Him to save your soul. Trust Him **now** to save your soul!

Message #7

Dan. 5:25-28 **THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL**

Introduction:

The armies of the Medes and Persians were encamped against Babylon, Belshazzar was not worried. He gave a party.

I. The party

- A. It was a big party, V. 1
- B. It was to boost the moral of his people and show contempt for the enemy.
- C. It turned into a drunken feast, V. 2a.
 - 1. He “tasted” the wine in the sense of being under its influence.
 - 2. Under the influence of the wine he showed contempt for God.
 - 3. Once the drinking starts anything can happen.
- D. Suddenly a hand appeared and wrote on the wall, V. 5-6. (God crashed the party and a hush fell over the great crowd, V. 9)

II. The handwriting on the wall

- A. The hand had written, “***MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN,***” V. 25.
- B. The most available wise men were called in, but could not read the writing nor explain its meaning.
- C. Daniel was finally called and, by the help of God, he explain it.
- D. Language scholars have given this explanation of the word, UPHARSIN: It is the word, PERES, with a prefixed “and” plus a Chaldean plural ending.

III. The interpretation

- A. MENE meant “numbered.”
 - 1. God had numbered Belshazzar's kingdom and finished it (Ended his reign over it.)
 - 2. This word was repeated for emphasis showing that the end of his rule and his kingdom was immediate. It was ended as of “NOW!” V. 26.
- B. TEKEL meant “wanting or lacking,” V. 27.
 - 1. Thus, “You are weighed in the balances and found to be wanting --- lacking.”
 - 2. He was not lacking in pomp and splendor, but in righteousness.
- C. PERES, the word upon which UPHARSIN was built meant “division.”
 - 1. Since UPHARSIN had a plural ending, it meant “divisions.”
 - 2. Therefore, the message to Belshazzar was that his kingdom was to be divided and given to the Medes and Persians, V. 28.

IV. The lessons

- A. This teaches that one who is under the influence of alcohol is still responsible to God for what he does.
- B. The pleasure of sin is not long lasting.
 - 1. Soon the party is over.

2. Gloom comes suddenly.
 - a. This is true even in this life.
 - b. The most terrible gloom comes for the unsaved in the after life.
- C. God is real and must be dealt with.
- D. Our days too are numbered.
- E. We are all weighed and found wanting.
- F. Material possessions will be left behind and divided to others.

Message #8

Dan. 6:16-23 **DELIVERANCE FROM THE LION'S DEN**

Interpretation:

When I think about Daniel in the lion's den I think of Trinidad, Texas and the little boy who was explaining why Daniel was in the lion's den. He said, "Those lions had been mean and Daniel went in there to give them a whuppin'."

I. The Bible account

- A. Daniel had been an officer in the court of Babylon practically all his life. {At this time he was up in age.}
- B. Even at that age under the Medes and Persians he had received another advance. (Darius had appointed him to be one of the highest officials of his kingdom, Dan. 6. 13.)
- C. This stirred the jealousy and anger of the Babylonian princes, Dan. 6:4.
- D. They talked the king into passing a law that for the next thirty days no one could pray except to the king.
- E. Daniel heard about the new law and knew the danger, but he went right on with his prayers to God, Dan. 6:10-11.
- F. Daniel was cast into the lions' den and was delivered by the power of the Lord, Dan:6:18-22.
- G. Then his accusers were cast into the same den. , Dan. 6:24.

II. A question about you

- A. If you were about to be cast into a den of lions would God have any good reason to deliver you?
- B. But the danger for people today is not the danger of being cast into a den of lions; it is the danger of being cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone, Rev. 20:15.
- C. If God's angels were about to cast the unsaved into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone, would God have reason to deliver you?
 - 1. If you think He will deliver you just because He is merciful, you are mistaken. (In spite of His mercy, many people will be cast into the fire, Mt. 25:46.)
 - 2. If you think He will deliver you because you have joined a church, you are mistaken. (Judas was a member of His church.)
- D. The only thing that will qualify you for deliverance is repentance of your sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Mark 1:15; John 3:18; Acts 20:21.

Conclusion:

- 1. Will you trust God as Daniel did? Will you trust Jesus Christ to save your soul?
- 2. Will you also serve God as Daniel did?

Message 9

Dan. 8:15-19 THE TIME OF THE END APPOINTED

Introduction:

From early history man has been interested in the end, Jude 14-15. Prophets through the ages have provided bits of information.

I. The time of the end appointed

- A. The time of the end is appointed, Dan. 8:19.
- B. The end is made necessary by sin.
 - 1. Satan has rebelled and has been cast down, Luke 10:18. (Much damage has been done by him.)
 - 2. Man fell in sin. (The earth was cursed because of man's sin), Gen. 3:17-18.)
- C. Sin became so great that the world has already been destroyed by water.
- D. The time is appointed for it to be destroyed again, II Peter 3:6-7.

II. The appointed time sure to come

- A. There is no reason to get alarmed by the “date-setters,” Mt. 24:36.
- B. Neither is there reason to get alarmed by the scoffers who deny the end.
 - 1. They do not know as much as the date setters, who at least know that the end is coming.
 - 2. All the scoffing will not prevent the end from coming, II Peter 3:3-10.

III. What the time is going to be like as the end draws near

- A. A very wicked world ruler will arise.
 - 1. He is called by several names in the Bible. (*Anti-Christ* in I John; *Man of Sin* in II Thessalonians; and *Beast* in Revelation)
 - 2. He is called *Little Horn* in Dan. 7:8; 8:9..
 - 3. He will be little at first, but his power will grow to become great, Dan. 8:9.
- B. He will oppose God and God's people, Dan. 7:25.
- C. When things are at their worst, the Lord will come, Dan.:7:13, 27; 8:25b.
- D. Following the millennium the elements will melt, II Peter 3:10.

Conclusion:

II Peter 3:10-12

Message #10

Daniel 9:24-27 THE LAST WEEK ON THE CALANDER

Introduction:

I speak not of the last week on our calendar, but of the last week on God's calendar for the punishment of God's Jewish people, V. 24. Each week (literally each of the series of sevens) is a week of years rather than a week of days. Therefore, each week on this calendar is a seven year period.

I. What the passing of the seventy weeks means

- A. It means the passing of time in God's special dealing with Israel, V. 24. (Note the expressions "thy people" and "thy holy city" referring to the Jewish people and the city of Jerusalem.)
- B. The close of the seventieth week will mark the end of Israel's rebellion against God. (*"...to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sin... V. 24)*
- C. It will mark the turning of the Jews to Jesus Christ. (*"...and to make reconciliation ... V. 24")*)
- D. It will bring in the millennium. (*"...and to anoint the most Holy." V. 24)*

II. The division of the seventy weeks (3 periods)

- A. The first division consists of 7 weeks. V. 25.
 - 1. This period began with the first expedition of the Jews back to their homeland. (*"...from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem..., " V. 25)*
 - 2. Naturally, it would close when the rebuilding of the city was finished.
- B. The second division would consist of of threescore and two weeks, V. 25. (62 weeks)
 - 1. This division would begin when the rebuilding of the walls of the city was complete.
 - 2. It would close with the coming of the Messiah. (*"...unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks..., " V. 25).*
 - 3. The first 7 weeks plus these 62 weeks completes 69 weeks.
- C. This leaves just 1 more week which is yet to come.

III. The cutting off of the Jews

- A. At the close of the 62 weeks, which ended with the coming of the Messiah the transgressions of Israel were not ended. .
 - 1. Instead they were increased to the point that they rejected the Messiah and crucified Him.
 - 2. Therefore, God's objective of bringing the transgressions of Israel to an end was not yet achieved.
- B. He obviously has one more week of years on this special calendar. (A 7 year period)
 - 1. If the calendar had ended at the coming of Messiah then the Jews would have accepted the Messiah and He would have been crowned their King.
 - 2. In that case the calendar would have ended at 69 weeks of years.
 - 3 But the Messiah was cut off leaving one more week on the calendar, V. 26. (The Jews did not crown Him. They cut Him off.)

- C. At this point He stopped marking the calendar and the Jews were cut off.
 1. He allowed the enemy (in this case the Romans) to come upon them and destroy the city of Jerusalem along with the temple, V. 26.
 2. This prophecy was fulfilled in 70 A. D. when the Romans captured Jerusalem, destroyed the temple and most of the surviving Jews fled to seek safety among Gentile nations.
- D. Therefore, the Jews which cut off the Messiah were themselves cut off and the calendar was stopped at 69 weeks.
 1. The calendar consists of 70 weeks with each week representing 7 years, V. 24.
 2. The 70 weeks did not all follow consecutively, but were divided into three distinct periods of time.
 3. The first division consisted of 7 weeks, the second of 62 weeks totaling 69 weeks.
 4. This leaves 1 more week in the 70 week calendar. (One more 7 year period)

IV. The coming of the last week on God's special calendar, V. 27

- A. Shortly preceding this last week a *prince* will come.
- B. Since there would be an extended space of time between this week and the preceding 69 weeks it is obvious that he is not the same prince who was spoken of in V. 25.
 1. He is not the Messiah; he is not the Christ.
 2. Rather he is the Anti-Christ.
- C. He will make a covenant (a treaty, a peace treaty) with the Jews,.
 1. It will not likely be with the Jews only but will likely include the all, or at least most, of the Middle East nations.
 2. But it will be this particular prince who will initiate the making of the treaty with Israel and who will mediate terms of the treaty.
- D. The treaty will call for seven years of peace between the parties involved in the treaty.
 1. It will appear that the reason for the 7 year limit is to allow time for negotiating a more lasting peace treaty.
 2. It would also set a time limit on the negotiations so that all parties would be hard pressed to make concessions in order to reach a more lasting peace agreement.
 3. Yet it appears that in light of verse 27 the prince, himself, may have more sinister plans in his own mind.
- E. The first half of this last week (a week of years) will be peaceful.
 1. There will be three and a half years of peace in the middle east.
 2. There will be no suicide bombings, no missile attacks, no bloodshed.
 3. There will likely be tensions, but nobody will break the terms of the agreement and all will enjoy the peace and safety.
- F. But in the middle of the 7 year period the prince, who had initiated the treaty, will break the treaty and will call for the armies of the world to move in against Israel. (When those armies move in and encamp around Israel the Armageddon War will be underway.)
- G. The last three and a half years of that seven year period will be spent in an effort on the part of the invaders to bring to an end the nation of Israel and a desperate effort on the part of the Jews to survive.

Conclusion:

Daniel does not tell us in this passage of Scripture how that last week on the calendar will end and I will not attempt in this message to do so either. But I will tell you this much: The Jews will

survive. The Prince from heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ will come to their rescue.

At the close of the last week of this 70 week calendar Jesus Christ will come and sit on His throne in Jerusalem and God has already devised the plans of a brand new peace treaty. And that treaty does not call for seven years of peace. It calls for a thousand years of peace with Jesus Christ sitting on the throne in Jerusalem.

If you have not already made your peace with Him then it high time that you do. You can do so right now by repenting of your sin and calling upon Him and asking Him to save your soul. Trust Him to save your soul and keep you out of hell. Trust Him to make sure that you go to heaven, Rom.10:13. Do it today and get in service for the Master today.

Message #11

Dan. 9:26 **THE PROMISE OF THE REBUILDING OF JERUSALEM AND THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH**

Introduction:

Daniel foretold two mighty events of Israel's history.

I. The commandment to rebuild Jerusalem

- A. This had to do not just with the rebuilding of the Temple under Zerubbabel, but the rebuilding of the entire city including the walls and streets under Ezra and Nehemiah, V. 25b.
- B. It would mean the prospect of becoming a nation again in their own homeland. (This was a land that had been given to them by the Lord.)
- C. It would mean being restored to the good graces of God. (Not a power in the world could restore them to Jerusalem without God's approval.)
- D. God did promise it. (Text)
- E. It is now history: God has kept His promise.
 - 1. The commandment is recored, Ezra 7:11fff.
 - 2. Jerusalem has been rebuilt.

II. The coming of the Messiah, the Prince

- A. The foretelling of the coming of Christ in the Old Testament should be no surprise. (The Old Testament abounds with such prophecies, Micah 5;2; Isaiah 7:14.)
- B. But Christians are sometimes surprised that the text foretells the time of His coming.
 - 1. The seven weeks plus three score and two equals 69 weeks.
 - 2. The Hebrew does not say “weeks;” it says “sevens.”
 - 3. Therefore, it says 69 sevens. (69 X 7 = 483)
 - 4. Considered in years this equals 483 years.
- C. Daniel's prophecy foretold that Jesus would come 483 years after the order from Artaxerxes to rebuild the temple.
 - 1. John Baptized Jesus in the Jordan River.
 - 2. The Holy Spirit came upon Him in the form of a dove.
 - 3. God the Father spoke from heaven saying, ***“This is my beloved Son...”***
 - 4. Jesus was well identified as the fulfillment of this prophecy.

Conclusion:

- 1. God kept His promise to restore Jerusalem. .
- 2. God kept His promise to send the Messiah.
- 3. God has promised to save all who will repent of their sins and trust Jesus for salvation.. Rom. 10:13..
- 4. God promises to restore His fellowship with all repentant Christians who have gotten out of His will.

Message #12

Daniel 10:14 UNDERSTANDING WHAT SHALL BEFALL THY PEOPLE

Introduction:

Daniel had always shown a great concern for His people. Verse 2 speaks of him being greatly distressed. He was in mourning for three full weeks. This was due to disturbing reports that he had heard from back home. The city of Jerusalem still lay in ruins and no effort to start rebuilding the city had been started. There had been efforts to rebuild the temple, but that work had been unnecessarily delayed and it looked as if it might be abandoned altogether. Daniel was grieved as deeply as if he were mourning the death of a loved one, V. 2.

In this message I will not deal with those terrible things which had befallen the nation of Israel which had disturbed the heart and mind of Daniel so much. Rather, I will speak to you about your people and your nation.

I. Understanding what will befall thy nation

- A. More than 400 years ago our people were oppressed in Europe. (They left Europe and came to America seeking new freedoms.)
- B. About 200 years later they were still suffering oppression even in their new land.
 - 1. They went to war and gained their freedom from foreign nations. .
 - 2. Yet in some of the colonies they still endured religious oppression.
 - 3. In forming a constitution for the new nation, our forefathers set forth language which provided for religious liberty for all of our nation.
 - 4. In doing so, the United States of America became the first nation in the world to provide religious liberty for her people.
 - 5. In the constitution they also provided for many other liberties which other nations had not provided.
- C. But today there is still reason for great concern.
 - 1. America has used her freedom to do wrong.
 - 2. Our land is filled with riot, rape and ruin.
 - 3. The air is static with rebellion against tradition, against government, against morality, against law and order, against righteousness and against God.
- D. Unless the people of our nation repent and turn to God this nation is headed for a great fall, Pro. 14:34
- E. We should be as deeply grieved for America as Daniel was for Israel.

II. Understanding what shall befall thy family

- A. Premature death shall befall some.
 - 1. Their latter days are already at hand.
 - 2. Those who die before accountability will go to be with the Lord, II Sam. 12:23.
 - a. David was a man after God's own heart and was assured that he would go to heaven when he would die, Psalm 23:6.
 - b. He was equally assured that his son who had died in infancy was in the same place where he would go.
 - c. So if one of your family members dies in infancy, you need not fear, that loved one will be in heaven where David's son is and where David is.

- d. Like David, you cannot bring him back, but you can go to him.
- B. Suffering and sorrow shall befall thy people.
 - 1. It is natural for parents to seek to protect their children from pain and grief.
 - 2. But it is impossible to protect the child from all suffering, Job 14:1.
 - 3. What a parent can do is to teach the child that God is available to help in time of trouble, Psalm 46:1.
 - a. Blessed is the child who has been taught this truth by his parents.
 - b. Blessed is the child who has heard his parents call upon the Lord for help with their own problems. (If the parent calls on the Lord for help with his own problems, it is likely that the child will call on the Lord for help with his problems.)
- C. It they live long enough old age and feebleness will befall thy people.
 - 1. It will be hard on them and it will be hard on you.
 - 2. Ecclesiastes 12:1-6 has well described it.

III. Understanding what shall befall thy people after death

- A. Everyone who is saved will be in glory, John 5:24. (Not because they are in your family, but because they have repented of their sin and have trusted Jesus Christ for salvation, Acts 20:21.
- B. Some will be greatly honored and exalted and greatly rewarded for their service to the Lord, Mt. 25:21. (Not because you love them, but because they have loved the Lord and and were faithful to Him.)
- C. All who will not repent and trust in Jesus will go into the fires of hell, Luke 13:3; John 3:18, 36; Rev. 21:8.

Conclusion:

We should be a much concerned about the wellbeing of our nation and of our family as Daniel was about his nation and his homeland.

The only time you can help your people is now. The only way you can help them is through the cross of Jesus Christ. Set the example. Repent of your sins. Call upon the Lord and trust Him to save your soul. Ten urge your people to do the same. Commit yourself to be faithful to the Lord as long as you live Then urge your people to do the same.

Message #13

Daniel 10:19 **MAN, GREATLY BELOVED OF GOD**

Introduction:

The angel called Daniel a man greatly beloved. He meant a man greatly beloved of God.

I. Daniel, a man greatly beloved of God

- A. Very early in Daniel's life God showed His love for Daniel.
 - 1. Daniel was given opportunity to serve in the king's court..
 - 2. He was given special favor regarding his choice of food to be eaten at the king's table.
 - 3. He was given early advancement in the king's court.
- B. God continued to show His love for Daniel.
 - 1. He revealed the king's vision to Daniel.
 - 2. He gave Daniel further advancement in the king's court.
- C. Never-the-less, God allowed Daniel to suffer great hardship.
 - 1. He allowed Daniel to be unjustly plotted against.
 - 2. He allowed Daniel to be tried by the court and sentenced to death in the lion' den.
- D. But God did not desert the man whom He so greatly loved. (He stopped the mouths of the lions and brought Daniel from the pit.)

II. Jesus, another man greatly beloved of God

- A. Very early in life, God showed His love for Jesus
 - 1. He sent an angel to shepherds who came to Bethlehem to worship Him.
 - 2. He sent a star to lead the wise men who came from foreign countries to worship Him.
 - 3. He gave Joseph and Mary a special warning about danger at the hands of Herod who sought to take the life of baby Jesus. .
- B. God continued to show His love for Jesus,
 - 1. At the baptism of Jesus He sent the Holy Spirit upon Jesus in the form of a dove.
 - 2. He also spoke from heaven and said, ***“This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased,” Mt. 3:17.***
- C. Never-the-less, the Father allowed the Son to suffer greatly.
 - 1. The Father sent Him to the cross to suffer and die.
 - 2. His body was laid in Joseph's tomb.
- D. But God never intended o leave Him in the grave
 - 1. On the third day He came forth from the grave.
 - 2. He has been exalted to sit at the right hand of God the Father.

III. Still another man (or another person) greatly beloved

- A. This person is very sinful, Rom. 3:23..
 - 1. He is desperately wicked, Jer. 17:9..
 - 2. He us totally depraved.
- B. Never-the-less, God loves him greatly, John 3:16..
- C. God sends this message to him. (or her)
 - 1. “I love you.”

2. I have always loved you.
3. "If you will repent of your sin and trust Jesus to be your Savior Jesus will save you,"
Rom. 10:13. .
4. Therefore, you will not perish, but you will have everlasting life, John 3:16.

Conclusion:

If you are unsaved then you are that person who is so greatly beloved. Won't you call upon the Lord right now and ask Him to save your soul? Trust Him to save your soul. Do it now.

Daniel 10:20-21 **THE PURPOSE OF MY COMING TO YOU**

Introduction:

An angel had come to Daniel with a message, (See V. 14) Then in verse 20 he asks a question. The question is not: “Do you know what I am saying?” nor “Do you understand what I am saying?” But the question is, “***Do know why I am here?***”

I. The question as directed to Daniel

- A. The angel was there on God's business. (Anytime God sends an angel to a man with a message that man should take it seriously.)
- B. The angel was not sent simply because he had nothing else to do.
 - 1. He had been busy protecting the interests of the Jews in Persia.
 - 2. He was to return to that task, V. 20.
 - 3. To leave even temporarily meant an important mission.
- C. He was to deliver a message from “***...the scriptures of truth...,”V. 21.***
 - 1. It was a message about future events involving God's people of Israel, V. 14.
 - 2. This message was important to Daniel and his people.
 - 3. It is important today to Jews, to Christians and to the world.

II. The question as I direct it to you

- A. The question is not “Do you understand why the angel was there to speak to Daniel?” but “Do understand why I am here today to preach to you?”
 - 1. Looking at it from the human point of view one might say, “You are here because the church has called you and hired you to be the pastor of this church.”
 - 2. And, of course, that is true, but it is only part of the answer.
- B. The chief reason that the angel was there talking to Daniel is because God sent him there and the chief reason I am here is because God has called me preach and God has called me here to be your preacher and pastor. (But that, too, is only part of the answer.)
- C. God has not sent me here to preach to you my own ideas nor the ideas of other men whose writings I have read.
 - 1. God has sent me here to preach to you “the scripture of truth,”
 - 2. That is what God had instructed the angel to speak to Daniel (V. 21) and that is what God has sent me to preach to you.
 - 3. God has not sent me here to preach to you the things which came from the brilliant minds of men, but God has sent men here to preach to you the sacred truths that are contained in the Holy scriptures of God.
- D. But the question remains:
 - 1. Why?
 - 2. Why did God send me here to preach to you the Holy Scriptures?
- E. The answer is because of God's love.
 - 1. That is why God sent the angel to Daniel; He loved the people of Israel and God wanted Daniel to tell them about the things that lay ahead of them.
 - 2. And that is why God calls men to preach today and why He has called me here to preach to you.

- a. God loves this church and He wants you to be informed about the great truths in His Holy word and to be instructed by God's Holy word.
 - b. God loves the individual families and the individual persons who make up this church .
 - c. He wants you to hear God's word and to live your life by the teachings of Gods' Holy word.
- 3.. Also God loves lost souls and He wants all of them to hear the gospel message and be saved.
- a. He wants you to hear the gospel.
 - b. He wants you to believe the gospel.
 - c. He wants you to repent of your sin and trust the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved.
 - d. God does not want you to go to hell; He wants you to go to heaven.
4. I hope that is what you want, too. (I hope that you want it bad enough that you will call upon the Lord and confess your sins unto Him.
5. I hope that you want to save bad enough that you will pray and ask the Lord to save your soul and keep; you out of hell. . .
6. I hope that you want to be saved bad enough that you will call upon the Lord right now and get this matter settled once and for all.
- a. Call upon Him right now and ask Him to save you soul. Trust Him now to saved you .
 - b. If you will trust Him now He will save you now.
 - c. If you do not trust Him now you may never trust Him.
 - d. If you do not trust Him now you may never get another chance to trust Him.

Daniel 11:2-4 **THE MAN WHO CONQUERED THE WORLD**

Introduction:

The angel had come to inform Daniel about the future of Israel, Dan. 10:14.

I. Continued Persian dominion

- A. Three more Persian kings ruled the kingdom after Cyrus, V. 2.a
- B. A fourth would follow those three and would “...*stir up*...” the kingdom against Greece.
V. 2b.
 - 1. Xerxes Ahasuerus, to whom Esther became queen, invaded Greece
 - 2. He did not conquer Greece, but he took great riches before he was driven out.
 - 3. By doing so, he not only stirred up Persia against Greece, but he stirred up Greece against Persia.
- C. There were other Persian kings after Ahasuerus, but they were not named here because they were unimportant to the revelation which Daniel is given in this passage.

II. The coming of “...a mighty king ...” from Greece, V. 3

- A. Daniel predicted that a mighty king would arise.
- B. That mighty king was Alexander The Great.
 - 1. He was born to Philip of Macedon, who had conquered Greece.
 - 2. From his youth he had been trained by Aristotle.
 - 3. At the age of 16 he began to assist his father in government and war.
 - 4. When he was 20 years old his father, Philip, died and he became king of Greece.
- C. Alexander remembered the stories of the Persian invasion and like most all Greeks, he hated the Persians.
- D. At the age of 22 he led an army against Persia.
 - 1. He defeated a Persian army of 500,000 men.
 - 2. He went on to conquer Egypt, Israel, Syria and all of the world known to him.
 - 3. Thus, Israel came under the rule of Greece.

III. The mighty king conquers all and loses all, V. 4

- A. He conquered all of the known world including India and China.
- B. It was said that he wept because there were no more worlds for him to conquer.
- C. But suddenly it was all taken from him.
 - 1. It came to pass as the angel had informed Daniel, V. 4.
 - 2. He was stricken suddenly at a great banquet and died.
 - 3. Historians do not say whether he died of food poisoning, poisoning at the hand of an enemy or died of natural causes. .
 - 4. But he died at the early age of 32.
- D. His kingdom was divide as the angel had foretold, V. 4.
 - 1. It was not divided to his posterity nor to someone whom he had named.
 - 2. It was divided among his generals.
 - 3. In that division Israel was left under Gentile rule and under the Greeks in particular.

IV. A mighty lessons left by the mighty king

- A. He gained all the world that was known to him.
- B. He had fame, fortune, power and pleasure.
- C. But he never knew the real true and living God.
- D. He died and left it all behind.
- E. He died unprepared to meet God.
 - 1. He entered and conquered all of the kingdoms of the world, but he never entered the kingdom of God ----- and he never will.
 - 2. One must be born again to enter the kingdom of God, John 3:1-3.
- F. Alexander's life and death answers the question which is asked in Mark 8:36.
 - 1. The question is: ***“For what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?”***
 - 2. The answer to that question is: Nothing! Absolutely nothing!

Conclusion:

A man's objectives in this life should not be wealth, power or pleasure. First, it should be to know God in free pardon of sin and saving grace. After he is saved his objective should be to serve God who has saved him.

Message #16

Daniel 11:31 **THE MAN WHO DEFIED GOD**

Introduction:

In our text we see a vile and wicked defiance of God. We see a false god brought into the temple of the real God. Let us remember that the angel is revealing to Daniel what would happen to Israel, Dan. 10:14. He reveals the switch from Persian dominion of Israel to Greek dominion, Dan. 11:3. He reveals the breakup of the Greek empire, Dan. 11:4. He reveals the rise and rivalry of Egypt and Syria, Dan. 11:5. He reveals the war and strife that would continue 2 or 3 hundred years with Israel suffering between them. Then the angel gives special attention to a certain Syrian king who defies God in a great way.

I. Antiochus Epiphanies and his defiance of God

- A. He was a vile and wicked king from the start, Dan. 11:21.
- B. He waged a successful campaign against Egypt, Dan. 11:25-26. (As he returned to Syria he ravaged the Jews, Dan. 11:29.)
- C. Eventually he waged another campaign against Egypt, Dan. 11:29a.
 - 1. However, his campaign was not successful, Dan. 11:29b.
 - 2. The “*...ships of Chittim...*” interfere, Dan. 11:30a. (Roman ships land at Alexandria with an ultimatum from Rome ordering him to return to Syria.)
 - 3. Antiochus leaves Egypt in humiliation and anger.
- D. He takes his anger out on the Jews, Dan. 11:30.
 - 1. He ravages and burns their cities.
 - 2. He stops the worship of Gold at the temple, Dan. 11:31.
 - 3. He brings into the temple an abomination. (An idol of Jupiter and a sow which he burned on the altar.)

Daniel 11:31 **THE MAN WHO DEFIED GOD**

Introduction:

In Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream he revealed that even though the Jews would be established in their homeland again, they would remain for many years under Gentile rule. Under the Babylonian rule they remained in captivity in Babylonia. Under the Medes and Persians a remnant of the Jews returned to their homeland. The majority, although no longer in captivity, remained in Babylonia under the Medes and Persians. After Alexander The Great conquered the Medes and Persians the Jews were under the Greeks. After Alexander died his kingdom was divided among his generals. During this time, since there was no central power which ruled over all of those nations, conflicts arose between some of them.

Daniel was informed by the angel that Antiochus Epiphanes would become the king of Syria and he is the focus of attention in our message today.

I. Antiochus Epiphanes and his defiance of God

- A. He was a vile and wicked king, Dan. 10:21. (He had no legal claim to the throne in Syria, but through flattery and deceit he gained the throne.)
- B. He waged a successful military campaign against Egypt, Dan. 10:25-26. (As he returned to Syria he ravaged the Jews, Dan. 11:28. He killed 40,000 Jews.)
- C. Eventually he waged another campaign against Egypt, Dan. 11:29a.
 - 1. However, this campaign was not successful, Dan. 11:29b.
 - 2 The “...ships of Chittim...” interfere,” Dan. 11:30a. (Roman ships landed at Alexandria with an ultimatum from Rome ordering him to return to Syria.)
 - 3. Antiochus left Egypt in humiliation and rage.
- D. He took his anger out on the Jews as he passed through their land, Dan. 11:30.
 - 1. He ravaged and burned some of their cities.
 - 2. He stopped the worship of Jehovah God at the temple in Jerusalem, Dan. 11:31.
 - 3. He brought into the temple that which is abominable to God. (Historians say that he set up an idol god in the temple and burned a sow on the altar in worship to Jupiter.)
 - 4. He did this in direct defiance of God.

II. A similar defiance today

- A. Men curse the name of God and use all manner of vile language defiling the name of God the Father and Jesus Christ, His Son.
- B. Men defile the house of God, throwing beer cans and whiskey bottles in the church yard.
- C. They pass the church building where there is singing of hymns, preaching of the word of God and where prayers are offered to the throne of God and yet they never enter to worship God. (It is as if to say to God, “I’ll show you, God, that I do have to worship you.”)
- D. They turn their back on the gospel and say, “God, I’m good enough as I am. I do not need your Son to save my soul.”
- E. Sometimes even the saved defy God. (Instead of yielding their life to the will of God, they take the idea: “It’s my life. I’ll live it like I please.”)

Conclusion:

I wish that I could warn every sinner in the world to stop rebelling against God and urge him to seek God by repenting of his sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. . I also wish that every child of God would submit to God's will and let God have His way in his life. .

Message # 17

Daniel 12:1 **TROUBLE AHEAD**

Introduction:

How many have ever seen a light focused on some man cast a shadow which was much larger than the man? So in the book of Daniel. We see a light cast on Antiochus Epiphanes which cast a shadow into the future. The events which Daniel foretold would relatively soon take place. They would be times of great trouble for Israel. But the trouble which they foreshadowed would be far greater than those which Daniel would describe. They would foreshadow The Great Tribulation which will take place in end-time events.

I. A review of what the angel had previously revealed to Daniel

- A. He had revealed the purpose of his visit, Dan. 10:14.
- B. He had revealed the changeover from Persian dominion over the Jews to Greek dominion over the Jews. .
- C. He had already revealed the breakup of the Greek empire.
- D. He had revealed a rivalry between Egypt and Syria.
- E. He had revealed the coming of Antiochus Epiphanes to the throne in Syria.
 - 1. He had foretold his invasion of Egypt by Antiochus and his wrath against Jerusalem.
 - 2. He had foretold his stopping the worship of God at the temple and the abominable idol which Antiochus brought into the temple at Jerusalem, Dan. 11:31

II. A literal fulfillment of the prophecy concerning Antiochus

- A. He did invade Egypt and ravage Jerusalem. (Three times)
- B. He did bring in an abominable idol into the temple at Jerusalem.
- C. He slaughtered many Jews.

III. A greater calamity foreshadowed

- A. As a shadow is larger than the object which cast the shadow even so the persecution of the Jews by Antiochus is not as great as that which will take place in The Great Tribulation
 - 1. The conflict which took place in the third campaign of Antiochus specifically foreshadows a conflict between the king of the south (Egypt) and the king of the north (Anti-Christ) which will take place in end-time events, Dan. 11:40-45.
 - 2. Daniel 12:1 Daniel spoke of a time of suffering which would come upon the Jews in the days of Antiochus, king of Syria.
 - 3. That event and that suffering foreshadowed a time of much greater suffering that would take place in the distant future.
Tribulation.
- B. Jesus spoke of that time of much greater suffering which will take place in the Great Tribulation, Mt. 24:15-11.
- C. Antiochus only foreshadows the Anti-Christ and The Great Tribulation.
 - 1. As Antiochus invaded the Holy Land, even so will the Anti-Christ.
 - 2. As Antiochus persecuted the Jews, even so will the Anti-Christ.

3. As Antiochus brought an abominable false god into the Holy temple at Jerusalem, even so will the Anti-Christ, II Thes. 2:1-4.

IV. Some special lessons

- A. God knows all the future
 1. What He foretells is for our benefit.
 2. Therefore, we ought to listen to what he says.
 3. We ought to heed His warnings.
- B. The Jews are not the only ones in for trouble.
 1. Every godly Christian will suffer persecution from the unsaved, II Tim. 3:12.
 2. Every backslidden Christian is in trouble with God and will suffer chastisements, Heb. 12:6.
- C. Every human being who will live in the days of the Great Tribulation is in for an awful lot of trouble, Mt. 24:22.
- D. Every person who either refuses to repent of his sins and trust Jesus to save him or neglects to do so will suffer forever in a lake of fire and brimstone, Rev. 20:15.

Conclusion:

1. God wants all to be informed about what lies ahead.
2. He wants every unsaved person to repent of his sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, Isa. 45:22.
3. God wants every backslidden Unchristian to turn back to Him and live godly, Mt. 5:16.
4. God wants ever dedicated Christian to become even more dedicated.

Daniel 12:2-3 **AWAKING OUT OF THE DUST OF THE EARTH**

Introduction:

The angel had come to inform Daniel what would happen to Israel in the latter days, Dan.10:14. One thing he revealed was the time of great trouble, Dan. 12:1. Also, he said that Michael would provide assistance and that deliverance for Israel would come. He spoke of a time when there would be an awakening from the dust.

I. Many to awake from the dust of the earth

- A. This is a physical resurrection from the dead.
- B. “Many” here is like the “many” of Romans 5:19. (It speaks of all.)
 - 1. All inherited Adam's sin nature and all became sinners.
 - 2. All the great multitude shall awake from the dust.

II. Some to be raised to everlasting life

- A. “Everlasting life” is used here to speak of a good condition.
 - 1. There will be a good, pleasant, favorable condition.
 - 2. And the beauty is that it will last forever. (The life will last forever and the pleasant conditions will last forever.)
- B. One gets everlasting life spiritually when he is born again, John 5:24; 3:16.
- C. But one does not get everlasting life physically until he is raised from the dust of he earth.
 - 1. It does not come as long as the body is capable of sin, sickness and death.
 - 2. It comes only when one is raised immortal, I Cor. 15:51-53.

III. Some to be raised to everlasting shame and contempt

- A. The New Testament sheds much light on this:
 - 1. There is to be 1000 years between these two resurrections, Rev. 20:5..
 - a. The Time element was unimportant to the angel.
 - b. What was important to him was that all will be raised to face God.
 - 2. The angel does not mention the Lake of Fire, Rev. 20:13-15.
- B. The angel did stress the shame and contempt which the unsaved will face. (Shameful, abhorable, detestable, horrible conditions)
- C. Those conditions will last forever.
 - 2. Just as the good conditions for the saved will last forever, even so the bad conditions for the unsaved will last forever. (There will be no improvement, no relief, no cure.)

IV. A message for all people of all nationalities

- A. The angel was interested in informing Daniel about the Jews, but I am interested in informing you about all people including you. (Especially you.)
- B. The Jews are not the only ones who have opportunity for everlasting life, Rom. 1:16; John 3:16.
- C. The Jews are not the only ones who will suffer everlasting shame and contempt if they

reject Jesus Christ, John 3:18, 36.

Message #19

Daniel 12:2-3 **THE TIME TO RISE AND SHINE**

Introduction:

The angel of the Lord had just made a tremendous announcement --- the dead would arise. He continued with another announcement that was just as marvelous, V. 3. Thus, "They that be wise" could not refer to the unsaved. It is not that they are unintelligent ---- just not wise.

I. The first stage of wisdom: *salvation*

- A. This come by calling on Jesus to save the soul.
 - 1. We are not going to spend eternity here.
 - 2. It is just a matter of wisdom to trust Jesus for salvation.
- B. When one has trusted Jesus to save his soul he is wise.
 - 1. He is wise even though he may not be the smartest fellow around.
 - 2. But he is wise concerning the most important matter in the world, Pro. 9:10.

II. The second stage of wisdom: *service*

- A. After one has trusted Jesus for salvation it is then wise for him to serve God.
- B. It is wise for him to render his service to God according to the instructions which God has set forth in the Bible.
 - 1. It is not wise on the part of the saved person to seek to serve God in a manner which is contrary to the teachings of God's word.
 - 2. Not all service done in the name of God is pleasing to God, Mt. 7:22-23.
 - 3. The Apostle Peter was sincere in suggesting the building of three temples, but God was not pleased with that suggestion, Mt. 17:4-5.
 - 4. It is wisdom for the saved to follow God's instructions, Mt. 28:20.
- C. It is not wisdom for the saved to neglect the service of God, Heb. 10:25.
 - 1. God chastens His children for such neglect.
 - 2. He rewards them only for service rendered, Mt. 6:19-20.

III. The \third stage of wisdom: *soul-winning*

- A. This is an advanced stage of wisdom.
 - 1. It is wise to get saved.
 - 2. It is wise to serve God.
 - 3. It is wise to seek to win souls to Jesus, Pro. 11:30.
- B. This is not a work to be done by preachers only.
 - 1. Preachers are not the only ones who can be wise.
 - 2. Preachers are not the only ones who can witness for Jesus.
 - 3. Preachers are not the only ones who can win souls to Jesus, Psalm 126:6
- C. All church members are to witness for Jesus, Acts 1:8.

IV. The result of this wisdom: *shining*

- A. They shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, V. 3.

B. This is figurative language picturing two things:.

1. It pictures the fact that the right choice was made.
2. It pictures great rewards for service rendered.

C. Nevertheless, there will also be a literal shining.

1. Jesus, Himself, will literally shine, Mt. 17:1-2; Rev. 1:16.
2. The saved will be like Him, I John 3:2. (They will not shine as bright as Jesus, but they will shine.)

Conclusion:

The results of the wisdom will best be seen only after the resurrection. But the choice to become wise must be made now.

1. Will you trust Jesus now and be saved?
2. Will you advance to the second stage of wisdom and join in the service to our Lord?
3. Will you actively engage in soul-winning effort?