

Preparing for Tribulation Daniel 12

One of the interesting phenomena in America is the industry that has built up around people who are preparing for a doomsday scenario which ordinary people with ordinary provisions could not survive. The people preparing for the end of the world are so interesting that they were the subject of a reality TV series a few years ago.

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2069270/>

When everything goes downhill, I will hope that I have some good friends who are preppers. While most people's minds go to the physical preparations of food and security, God is much more interested in the spiritual preparations that his children are making to face tribulation.

Daniel 12 is one final difficult-to-understand passage from the prophecies. Some people believe the events being prophesied have already taken place in history, while others believe that it is a prediction of a future antichrist. Regardless of the interpretation of the fulfillment of the prophecy, its message for God's people is the same. Tribulation is guaranteed throughout history for the people of God. But God's salvation extends beyond the temporary nature of the tribulation.

Daniel 12

1 "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.

2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

3 And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

4 But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

5 Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream.

6 And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, "How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?"

7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.

8 I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, "O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?"

9 He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.

10 Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand.

11 And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days.

12 Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days.

13 But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."

Discussion Questions

- What do you think is meant in verse 1 by people "whose name is written in the book?"
- How does verse one give you confidence that God knows and saves you personally?
- What do verses 2 and 3 teach us about resurrection?
- How should future resurrection change our view of present tribulation?
- What is the significance of Daniel "sealing the book" until the time of the end in verse 4?
- Do you think the answer to the question of "how long" in verse 6 satisfied those who heard it?
- Why are we not given the specifics of when the "time of the end" will come?
- Where is the hope in this prediction of a tribulation for God's people?
- Why is it significant that God gives a measure of the tribulation that numbers in days?
- What do you think God's goal is for his people as they endure tribulation?
- Should we enhance our security in light of Daniel 12?
- What steps should we take to be spiritually prepared for tribulation as it comes?