

Session 13 The Father’s End-Time Plan: Ultimate Victory (Dan. 12)

I. THE LORD’S VIEW OF THE FUTURE (DAN. 12:1-10)

- A. In Daniel 12, a mighty angel assured Daniel of the ultimate triumph of God’s people related to the time of the Great Tribulation. It will be the most unique, violent, difficult, powerful, glorious, and important generation in history. The victory will come in context to the tribulation.
- B. We are drawing closer to the most dramatic timeframe in history. All of history has pointed to this one generation. It is time now for God’s people to resolve to live fully dedicated to the Lord.
- C. In the end times, the Spirit will restore the *heart of the father* in the Church. The Lord knew there would be a crisis of fatherhood in the home, society, and the Church. The Church matures as we understand and experience the father heart of God in our lives and then express it to others.
*⁵I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.
⁶And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse. (Mal. 4:5-6)*
- D. Daniel 12 emphasizes God’s sovereignty over all, namely that history is heading towards a glorious future in which His people will prevail in victory. Our God knows the end from the beginning. The Lord is leading the nations into this time that will result in the glory of God filling the earth. It will be the greatest hour in history and is a great privilege for believers living at that time.
- E. There is coming a time of unprecedented trouble that will result in an unprecedented victory for God’s people. The falling away, great revival, and a harvest of new souls will occur simultaneously.
- F. The truths in Daniel 12 will give God’s people boldness and courage to stand for truth and to live godly, instead of yielding to fear, offense, confusion, deception, and compromise. Details of God’s end-time plan were shown to Daniel so that God’s people would prepare themselves spiritually.
- G. We must be resolved to be faithful long *before* the intensity of temptation and persecution escalates. We teach our children to be resolved to make choices *before* they face the temptations that come in their teens. We don’t just hope that they will figure it out and make good choices, but we train them ahead of time in the security of family life to be resolved *before* they face increased temptations.
- H. ***Optimum environment:*** The Lord will create an optimum environment for His people to choose love in the end times. The Antichrist is a great adversary who will be used to create this situation.
- I. The crisis related to the Supreme Court legalizing same sex marriage is giving the Body of Christ a chance to work our “spiritual muscles” in a new way to prepare spiritually for a far greater crisis in the future. The current crisis is causing leaders in the church to be intentional about cultivating unity and training people in what the Scriptures say about righteousness in practical areas of daily life.
- J. The Lord will use this current crisis to “heal the infection” from the wound in the Church today, which is the promotion of compromise. The main conversation in the Church will shift away from validating compromise to seeking to be wholehearted in seeking the Lord and walking in obedience.

II. THE FATHER'S PLAN: VICTORY, RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PURITY (DAN. 12)

- A. Daniel 12:1-10 describes the full and final deliverance of God's people. It will be the greatest hour of deliverance (v. 2) with the release of God's glory in a spirit of righteousness and purity (v. 3, 10).
^{12:1}At that time Michael shall stand up...and there shall be a time of trouble [Great Tribulation], such as never was...At that time your people shall be delivered...²Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake [resurrection]...³Those who are wise shall shine like brightness... and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever...¹⁰Many shall be purified... but the wicked shall do wickedly...but the wise shall understand. (Dan. 12:1-10)
- B. The Father's plan for His people in the end times involves both very positive and negative things. There is coming a time of great trouble that will result in a great victory for God's people. The Lord will use the least severe means to reach the greatest number of people at the deepest level of love.
1. **Time of trouble:** This trouble is referred to by Jesus as great tribulation (Mt. 24:21). The Lord will raise up the Antichrist as a powerful adversary, causing deception and wickedness to increase with intense persecution of believers, leading to a great falling away from the faith.
 2. **God's people delivered:** They will be permanently, fully delivered spiritually (from sin and compromise), physically (from persecution), and politically (from oppressive governments).
 3. **Supernatural ministry:** There will be great miracles, (11:32) including much angelic activity by Michael and his angels (Rev. 12:7-9), and a global outpouring of the Spirit (Joel 2:28).
 4. **Eternal rewards:** In the resurrection the saints will recover all that was lost in the persecution. The saints are emboldened by the certainty of the rapture, resurrection, and rewards (12:2-3).
 5. **Harvest:** Many will know God, receive salvation, and turn to righteousness (11:32; 12:3).
 6. **Righteousness and purity:** Many believers will embrace righteousness and purity (12:3, 10).
 7. **Wisdom:** The wise shall understand God's end-time plans (Dan. 11:33; 12:10; Jer. 23:20).
²⁰The anger of the LORD will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. (Jer. 23:20)
- C. Daniel 11:32-35 introduced themes that were developed later in this vision (12:1-10) such as knowing God (11:32a), doing miracles (11:32b), receiving understanding (11:33a), reaching "many" in the harvest (11:33b), being helped in persecution (11:34), and spiritual maturity (11:35).
*³²But the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits [miracles].
³³And those of the people who understand shall instruct many...³⁴When they fall [martyrdom], they shall be aided with a little help...³⁵Some of those of understanding shall fall [martyrdom], to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end..." (Dan. 11:32-35)*
- D. **Some shall fall in martyrdom:** There will be an unprecedented number of martyrs in the end times. The martyring of the apostles had a sanctifying, redemptive effect, causing others to be refined.

- E. **Michael shall stand up:** This indicates an increase of angelic activity will be manifested in the end times. Michael and his angels will cast Satan and his demons out of heaven to earth (Rev. 12:7-9).
⁷And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought...⁹So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil... he was cast to the earth and his angels were cast out...¹²Woe to the inhabitants of the earth... The devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.” (Rev. 12:7-12)
- F. **Great Tribulation:** Jesus referred to Daniel 12:1 when speaking of the end-time trouble (Mt. 24:21). He described this time as being so violent that, if the time were not cut short, no one would survive.
²¹There will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world...²²And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved [from physical death]...” (Mt. 24:21-22)
- ⁶The curse has devoured the earth, and those who dwell in it are desolate. Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left. (Isa. 24:6)*

III. TURNING THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN (MAL. 4:6)

- A. In the end times, the Spirit will restore the heart of the father in the Church as He releases a great revival. It is essential to understand and receive the father heart of God and then express it to others. The Lord is raising up spiritual fathers (male and female) to invest in young people, care for them, give them a sense of belonging to a spiritual family, and help them see His purpose for their lives.
¹“For behold, the day is coming...yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble...²But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings...⁵I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ⁶And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers...” (Mal 4:1-6)
- B. **Prophetic spirit:** God is a creative thinker; He thinks “outside the box.” Prophetic dreams allow us to receive a part of His creative plan for this generation and the individuals in it. He called each believer to be part of the miracle of His end-time Church. He has a plan for each one of them. Ask the Lord for a dream or vision related to your assignment in God to bless others and society.
¹⁷“It shall come to pass in the last days...that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸...I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy. (Act 2:17-18)
- C. A “father” sees who someone is before God, believes in their calling, and encourages them to pursue it. Many children are abused and/or neglected, thus have no voice calling them forth. Being sexually abused as a child opens the door to future sexual struggles in their lives.
- D. Part of our primary assignment—individually and corporately—is to train up our children (physical and spiritual) to love Jesus without compromise or offense in their hearts.
- E. There are different expressions of spiritual fatherhood. Some are more involved than others. Do not approach this as “all or nothing,” but invest in others to the measure that you have grace and time.

IV. TURNING PEOPLE TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

- A. The wise are loyal to the truth—the truth about the *nature of who Jesus is* (fully God and Man; the only way to salvation) and *truth about His leadership* in our life (walking in righteousness).
³Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever. (Dan. 12:3)
1. ***Righteousness***: Righteousness includes all that God's Word says is "right" in practical areas of our daily life related to our money, speech, sexuality, time, and relationships (Mt. 28:20).
¹⁹"Go...make disciples..."²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Mt. 28:19-20)
 2. ***Turn***: Those who turn will be those who formerly lived in unrighteous and sinful addictions. People most effectively turn to righteousness when others—pastors, fathers, or mentors—invest in them by walking with them through the practical processes of their godly choices.
 3. ***Shine***: They will shine like stars forever as the Lord rewards the faithful for standing true. In other words, ***it is worth it*** to choose righteousness and forever shine (Mt. 13:43).
- B. Whoever does and teaches God's commands will be "called great" in the age to come (Mt. 5:19). The life choices of the wise will be "called great" by the Lord Himself.
¹⁹Whoever...breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least...but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom. (Mt. 5:19)
- C. Spiritual "fathers" call people to "*love-based*" righteousness that encounters a loving God. It is essential to include a fathering or mentoring aspect in calling people to turn to righteousness. As we encounter the heart of the Father, we will call young people to righteousness through a lens of love that sees the beauty, liberty, and excellency of "love-based" righteousness.

V. MANY: THE EFFECTIVENESS OF GOD'S END-TIME PLAN (11:33; 12:3, 10)

- A. The Lord's plan will greatly succeed as multitudes love Him, proclaim His wisdom, and walk in purity in the midst of the intense pressures in end times (Dan. 11:33; 12:3, 10; Rev 7:9, 14).
³³And those of the people who understand shall instruct many. (Dan. 11:33)
³Those who are wise shall shine...those who turn many to righteousness like the stars...
¹⁰Many shall be purified, made white, and refined...the wise shall understand. (Dan. 12:3, 10)
⁹"...a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne..."¹⁴These...come out of the great tribulation." (Rev. 7:9-14)
- B. ***Many***: Many will be purified; thus they will break free of their bondages and renounce all compromise. They will experience the Spirit's power in their everyday struggles with temptation. They will see that it is doable to live in obedience, even in the midst of temptation and persecution. They will repent deeply and turn from compromise to embrace righteousness in their lives.