***Session 14 Seven Key End-Time Events and Trends (Dan. 12:1-10)***

1. The Lord’s view of the future (Dan. 12:1-10)
	1. Daniel 12 is one of the most important chapters in the Bible on the end times. A mighty angel gave Daniel an unusual amount of detail about what will happen in the generation of Jesus’ return. This angel assured Daniel of the ultimate triumph of God’s people related to the Great Tribulation. It will be the most unique, powerful, glorious, violent, difficult, important generation in history.

*Daniel 12 is a unique passage because there is so much valuable information that is very precise and it is all in this one vision. Daniel 12 is one of the most important chapters in the Bible on the end times. I just want you to register that. What I mean by “the end times,” I mean the generation in which the Lord returns, because in that generation a lot of really exciting, dynamic, powerful, Holy-Spirit things are going to happen. On the other extreme, some really dark, demonic things are going to happen. So in that generation it will be the most glorious and powerful, but it will be the darkest and most challenging, because the two of them—the light and the darkness—will come to fullness at the same time across the earth. It is actually a very glorious hour to live in because it is a time where the Body of Christ, the people of God, will see the power of God even beyond what was witnessed in the book of Acts.*

*Now it is interesting—we will get to this point later—Daniel 12 actually is the only vision that Jesus with His own mouth actually directed people to understand. In Matthew 24—we will look at it later; the information is in the notes—He told us to understand what Daniel said, and He directs us to this passage right here. So it has that unique place of importance because Jesus pointed to it. I mean Jesus obviously believes in all the prophets and what they said about the end times, as He was the One who inspired them, but He only highlighted one and it happens to be this vision right here. So I want to take time to pay special attention to it.*

*A mighty angel gave Daniel unusual amount of precise and valuable information. Now this information is rare. The part that makes me sad, although it is not going to be sad for long, is that so much of the Body of Christ is not taking hold of this rare and valuable, lifesaving, life-giving information. The reason I say I am only sad for a while is because this very vision itself makes it clear that multitudes of God’s people are going to take hold of this vision. I know we are at a time where the Lord is going to begin to highlight it, so why not look at it now and begin to get in the conversation with the Lord about this vision, knowing the Lord is going to breathe on this vision on the days to come?*

*Now the key point I want you to take away here is that the mighty angel assured Daniel of great and ultimate victory in this vision, but it is in context to the Great Tribulation. Do not lose sight that he emphasizes the point of the greatness of the victory that is coming. This will be the most unique generation in history. It will be the most powerful generation in history. It will be the most glorious, the most violent, the most difficult, the most important—put a bunch of other words there—generation. I mean all of history is pointing to that generation.*

*Now this is my personal opinion—it is not a prophecy—I believe we are in the early days of that generation. I might be wrong, but I think I am right, and many people around the world think we are in the early days of that generation. Some think we are further along, and maybe it is a little bit further down the road than I think. Again it is only an opinion. It is not a prophecy. I am getting stronger in my conviction about that as I watch what is happening across the earth and compare it to what the Bible said would happen in the earth in that time.*

* 1. The greatest victory for God’s people will come in the context of their greatest persecution. There is coming a time of unprecedented trouble that will result in an unprecedented victory for God’s people. A great revival and harvest of new souls will occur at the same time as the falling away.

*The greatest victory for God’s people will happen in context to the greatest persecution and the greatest trouble. Now we all want to see the power of God, and we want to see multitudes saved and breakthrough in lives and people walking in love and filled with peace. Well, that is the victory this chapter is talking about, but know it will be in context to pressures and persecutions.*

*The reason we want to understand this vision is because the enemy wants us afraid. The enemy wants to twist the information so we only get part of it and we become afraid and think, “Oh no, the end times!”*

*The Lord would say, “No, it is the opposite. It is, ‘Oh, yes, the most powerful hour of victory in human history leading up to the coming of the Lord!’”*

* 1. Daniel 12 emphasizes God’s sovereign power over all—that history is heading towards a glorious future in which His people will prevail in victory. Our God knows the end from the beginning.
	Jesus is leading history and the nations into a time that will result in God’s glory filling the earth.
	It will be the greatest hour in history and will be a great privilege for believers living at that time.

*This vision emphasizes God is sovereign. He has all the power. He has all the information. He has all the love. I mean the One that is all loving, all powerful, that has all the knowledge is the One leading this generation. Some people look at the headlines of the news and they think that history is like a train that has got off the tracks and is going out of control. It is not! There is a Man who is fully God and fully Man, and He is leading human history. He is the King. He has all the power and all the knowledge. He is love incarnate, and He has all the right motives in His leadership. It is a great honor to be alive in that hour.*

*Again, I am not prophesying we are in that generation, but I think we are in the early days of it. I might not see it in my day, but I think there are people alive on the earth who well might see it in their day. What a privilege of believers to be alive at that time! It is not a time when you need to be afraid. Again, the enemy wants to twist it.*

* 1. The truths of Daniel 12 will give God’s people confidence 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.

*If you understand it aright you have confidence and courage. You have peace. The enemy twists it so that people are filled with fear. They are offended at God. They are confused. They take hold of deception. They yield to compromise. The enemy wants the exact opposite of a response of confidence, courage, and peace.*

* 1. The wheat and the tares will mature together at the end of the age. (Mt. 13:30).

3“Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say…’First gather the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” (Mt. 13:30)

* 1. We must resolve to be faithful *long* *before* the intensity of temptation and persecution escalates.
	2. ***Optimum environment***: We must see the big picture—the negative and positive aspects—knowing that God is establishing the optimum environment for His people to walk in love, power, and purity. What the devil means for evil, God will use for good, to train His people and cause them to mature. God uses the least severe means to bring the greatest number of people to the deepest level of love.

*The Lord has planned a time frame in history when He will use intense negatives and intense positives to create the optimum environment for the people of God for the largest number of people to say “yes” to the Lord and to say it at the deepest level of love. He says, as it were, “I am going to create an environment where I am going to let the free will of man be exercised, even the dark side. I am going to allow the free will of man responding to the grace of God. I am going to create an environment where the greatest number of people will say ‘yes’ at the deepest level of love.”*

*Now because people have a free will, He is going to allow them to exercise it. People will use their free will to promote evil, I mean great evil. The Lord would say, “I am so powerful that what the devil intends for evil I am going to turn around and use to train My people in love. I am going to cause it to backfire on the kingdom of darkness. I am going to show that I am superior in power and knowledge and love. My plan will win the day.”*

* 1. Jesus called His people “to see” the *abomination of desolation* and pointed us to the book of Daniel to gain understanding of it (Mt. 24:15). Paul and John elaborated on it (2 Thes. 2; Rev. 13). The abomination of desolation is the central event that helps us see Jesus’ view of the end times. This is the only political and religious event that Jesus identified to let His people know that they were in the generation of His return and that the Great Tribulation had started.

15“When you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand)…21then there will be great tribulation.”
(Mt. 24:15, 21)

*Here is the verse I mentioned earlier where Jesus talks about Daniel. If you read it carefully you can see He is talking about the vision of Daniel 12. It seems a little cryptic at first, but it is pretty simple actually. I will break it down for you. He says, “When you see the abomination of desolation.” Now that is a little cryptic. The abomination of desolation, what is that? He goes on to say it is that reality or that series of events that Daniel talked about. Well, when does Daniel talk about this the most? In the vision of Daniel 11-12, because the Daniel 12 vision actually starts in Daniel 11. It is one long vision. I am focusing on Daniel 12 just to sum up the key points right there in Daniel 12.*

*Let’s read this again in verse 15. Now remember we are talking about the King of kings, our beloved Bridegroom God, the Bridegroom King. He is talking to His people, and here is what He says, “When you see the abomination of desolation, when you see it standing in the holy place in the temple in Jerusalem, then I want you to know this…” I want you to take time and understand what this means, is what Matthew adds. Matthew puts in a parenthesis. He says to take time to understand what Daniel was talking about, because Jesus points to the abomination of desolation as the central event to understand. Because, if you understand the abomination of desolation, you will understand a lot of the major themes of end-time prophecy from Jesus’ point of view. You will also know you are in the generation of the coming of the Lord when that takes place.*

*Now what is the abomination of desolation? It is actually pretty simple. An abomination means something really evil, okay? The abomination is the great evil. Desolation means trouble. So it is the great evil, the abomination, that leads to great desolation or great trouble. It is the great evil that leads to great trouble. What is the great evil, the abomination, that leads to great trouble? Because it is going to happen. It is when the Antichrist goes into the temple in Jerusalem, declares himself to be God, and demands at the threat of death that everybody in the world worship him as God. That is the abomination of desolation in the most simplified definition that I can give.*

*Now in this series here on Daniel—we are on session fourteen for those who have been here Friday after Friday. Our Bible school is away for the summer, but I am staying on the series, and a number are tracking from home as we are just continuing with it because I think Daniel is such an important book because Jesus pointed to Daniel as a book to understand right here in this verse—in session four I break down the abomination of desolation I think in really simple terms, and I have all the notes on the internet. Again, abomination is what? It is something really evil, and desolation is something really troublesome. It is the big evil that causes the big trouble. I mean that is as simple as I can get so you are not confused by that term. It is related to the mark of the beast and the image of the beast. Again it is when the Antichrist goes into the temple and then puts a statue or an image of himself in the temple. He says, “I am God, and if you do not worship me I will kill you.” I mean there are a lot of implications to it, so this is a little simplistic, but in session four I have the notes in detail. You can read it if you want to know more about it. I think you do want to know more about it.*

*Here is the point I want to make tonight: in Daniel 12, in this glorious vision, the abomination of desolation is mentioned twice. Jesus says to go study—go understand in essence. The implication is to go study and understand what this is. Well, the vision in which this is mentioned twice to Daniel is the Daniel 12 vision. Again I have the notes for it here. It is the most evil event and has the most horrific consequences. It is the central event that lets us know when the Great Tribulation is beginning. It is the central event that gives us insight into the negative side of God’s end-time plan.*

*Though it is the devil doing this, God is allowing it and using it to produce an environment to cause the Body of Christ to have a great revival and come to red-hot commitment to Jesus, I mean to love God with all their heart. He is going to create an environment. He is going to pour out His Spirit at a time second to none in history, but with this intensity in the society with the outpouring of the Spirit together with the knowledge of God’s plans in the prophets.*

*When we know the plan, we encounter the Spirit while we have the resistance in society. The combination of this will cause many people to touch God in a depth at which they have never before. It will cause them to walk in great levels of the power of God and of liberty and in the love of God and in righteousness.*

* 1. Two components of the abomination are the *image* and the *mark* of the Beast (Rev. 13:15-18). The abomination will include the Antichrist claiming to be God and forcing the nations, by law and with state resources, to worship him as God, under penalty of death.
	2. Daniel 11-12 describes a vision in which an angel continued in one long conversation with Daniel about the end times, speaking of the Antichrist’s activities related to the *abomination of desolation* (Dan. 11:31; 12:11). *See more on the* *abomination of desolation in session 4 of this series.*

*I am taking a while to introduce things tonight. The seven points are pretty self-explanatory so maybe we will only spend a minute on each of them. I want to convince you of the value of this Daniel 12 vision. Again, it is really one long vision, Daniel 11-12. The reason I am emphasizing Daniel 12, which is the end of the vision, is because it gets really precise and kind of like one, two, three, four, five, lays out really clearly how the glorious dynamics are going to happen as well as the really negative dynamics. They are just so precise and laid out one, two, three, four. Do not lose sight of the fact it is one vision, because in Daniel 11 the angel did not pause and say, “Hey would you put a chapter break in here?” There was no break between Daniel 11 and 12; it is one conversation between Daniel and the angel and it is one vision. The angel is telling Daniel about the end times.*

* 1. Daniel 11:31-35 connects the *abomination of desolation* (v. 31) to what happens to God’s people. Notice seven themes—knowing God (11:32a), doing miracles (11:32b), receiving understanding (11:33a), reaching “many” in the harvest (11:33b), facing martyrdom (11:34a), receiving God’s help in persecution (11:34), and being brought to spiritual maturity with purity (11:35).

31“They shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation… 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. 11:31-35)

*Here we’ll start off in Daniel 11. Now remember this phrase: the abomination of desolation. It is the great evil event, the abomination that leads to desolation, tremendous trouble, desolation and trouble, and again that is a real simplistic definition. Look how it starts here in Daniel 11:31; we are jumping right in the middle of this long vision, Daniel 11-12 though we will only focus on the back end of the vision, Daniel 12.*

*This is a mighty angel speaking, because he is described as an angel of unusual stature. That gives us insight as to the unusual importance of the vision as well. Many times in Scripture the stature of the angel that is sent to give the vision gives insight as to the importance of the vision. So this is one of the mighty angels, and the idea is this is a very, very important vision, one of highest importance. Again it is the only one that Jesus points to.*

*Now notice this angel says in verse 31, “and they will take away the sacrifices, and they will place there”—right in the temple in Jerusalem—“the abomination of desolation.” There is the phrase right there. Note that phrase because Jesus said that the vision you want to pay attention to is the one that unpacks the abomination of desolation. No place in Scripture unpacks it like Daniel 11-12.*

*When this horrific event of the abomination happens, this great evil, the nations will feel like, “Oh no! What is going on?” But look at verse 32—I like this—notice the angel says, “But do not go there, do not give up, do not give in, and do not say, ‘Oh no, it is over.’ Yes, it is horrific, but the people who know God, the people who are close to Jesus, will be strong. Their spirit will be strong because the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the revelation of the glory and the beauty of Jesus will be released at a greater level then any time in history. They will do great miracles. This is the hour of history when they will do great exploits.”*

*He goes on in verse 33 to say that there will be a group of people who understand. I think this group is millions. Notice “those of the people who understand.” Because there will be a company of people on the earth—I believe all over the nations—so put your name on this verse 33. I believe it will be millions and millions. They are called by this angel “the people who understand” what is going on.*

*Meaning, right now, today, as things are heating up, many in the nations are pretty confused about what is going on. The Lord would say, “I have written many of these things in the Word. Be a person who understands what I am doing in this generation” or in that final generation. Again it is my opinion we are in the early days of that generation. Now the people who understand are very different from the people who are filled with fear, who are confused, filled with deception, seduced into compromise, offended. The people of understanding are very, very different. Instead of hiding in a cave and giving up and giving in and being filled with fear, these people go proactive and are teaching many. They are sharing their ideas from the Word of God with many.*

*Now you may say, “Well, I am not going to teach many.”*

*My question would be, “How do you know?”*

*“Well, I am not a Bible teacher.”*

*In this hour of technology, you may write something on social media that has fresh insight and fresh understanding and it goes viral, that a million people read. You do not know. You do not have to have a big church congregation or a big regular Bible study to be one of these people. You may be alone at home and the Lord give you a dream or a vision or just even understanding of the Word. You write something out, you post something, it goes viral, and multitudes gain insight around the world. You don’t know if you are not one of these people.*

*The Lord opens it wide open* ***to whomever wants*** *to be one of the people of understanding. Again it is not an elite little group on a hill somewhere. I believe it is millions in the Body of Christ, all over the Body of Christ. Many other millions will not be people of understanding. They will be very confused, they will be offended, and they will be troubled.*

*Now he goes on to say in verse 34, that “when they fall”—that is talking of martyrdom. There will be martyrdom in the Church—“they will be aided with a little help.” We will look at that a little bit later, but even some of the people with great prophetic understanding will be martyred.*

*Sometimes God says, “I will even use one of My vessels whom I have used to teach many, and they will be martyred, and by their courage and by their testimony in martyrdom, multitudes in the Body of Christ will be inspired by it and encouraged by it.”*

*They will say, “If that guy or gal is not afraid of death, neither am I. If they believe in the resurrection, if they believe this thing about Jesus is that real, so do I.” This will have a purifying effect all throughout the Body of Christ around the world.*

* 1. Daniel 12:1-10 describes the full and final deliverance of God’s people (v. 2) with the release of God’s glory and righteousness (v. 3, 10) in the context of the *abomination of desolation* (v. 11).

1“At that time Michael shall stand up…and there shall be a time of trouble [Great Tribulation]… 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…11And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days [1,290 days]. (Dan. 12:1-11)

*Daniel 12, now this is only a moment or two later in the vision. I mean Daniel is still in the same conversation with the angel. The angel is going to develop these same ideas. He is going to say them again, but sometimes in a different language or vocabulary, and sometimes he is going to use the exact same language. The point I want you to get is that it is the* ***same*** *angel in the* ***same*** *vision and the* ***same*** *conversation. It is this vision that highlighted the abomination of desolation —remember Daniel 11:31?—where we are going to find out in a moment that the angel is going to mention the abomination of desolation again. Again, the reason we care about that term is because in Matthew 24 Jesus said that when you see the one that Daniel talked about, then go understand that vision that Daniel talked about, as this is a very important vision.*

*The very mention of the abomination of desolation on both ends of this vision gives us confidence that this is the actual vision that Jesus is talking about, though it is not limited to this vision. I mean He says to go understand in essence what Daniel meant so that when you see it you will get what is going on. You will not be deceived, you will not be afraid, and you will not be confused. You will be emboldened. You will say, “My God is leading. We are in a place where things are going to escalate in the power of God, and the Great Harvest is going to go to the whole next level. Those that know God will do great miracles. Oh praise God! What an hour to be alive!” That is what you will say when you see it.*

*Now notice the saints are* ***on the earth*** *to see the abomination of desolation. When Jesus said that when you see it know the Great Tribulation has started. In other words, the saints are here. It is the greatest hour of victory. The saints are not gone. They are not raptured before this time. They are here to see the event, interpret it, and make sense of it to others across the nations.*

*Well, he says in verse 1, “At that time…” Again we are in the same conversation, and the angel is going to give a few more details, but he is going to repeat a few of the same themes again. He says, “At that time,” and the timing is talking about the end times. How do we know that? Because the verse before Daniel 12:1—go back one verse—Daniel 11:45 is talking about when the Antichrist has his headquarters in Jerusalem. So it is clearly talking about the end times, no question at all.*

*“At that time Michael the archangel shall stand up.” Now there are a lot of implications when Michael stands up because there is more in the Bible on this in the book of Revelation. When Michael stands up, there is going to be a tremendous increase of angelic activity, even in the midst of the people of God. This is a big phrase, when “Michael stands up.” That is only an introduction. There is a whole dimension of the angelic realm more powerfully manifested and involved in the affairs of what is happening on the earth.*

*We see the angels in the book of Acts; there are quite a few examples of angels. In the notes I have the verses there that you can read later. If angels were involved in the book of Acts opening prison doors and all these kinds of things, imagine when Michael the mighty archangel arises to stand. It means he is going to act in the earthly realm; that is what that means. He is going into an unusual mode of activity in the earthly realm. That is the implication when you put all the verses together.*

*He goes on and says, “Yeah, it will be a time of trouble, but you got Michael helping. The angel is manifesting, but you have got trouble. That is okay,” the angel says, “you will be delivered.” The people of God will be delivered, the nation of Israel will be delivered through all of the hostility.*

*God would say, “So, by the way, I have got news for you: Iran is not going to destroy Israel, and Russia is not going to destroy Israel, and this group is not going to and Islam is not. Israel is going to be supernaturally delivered by a Jewish Man coming from the sky to deliver them.”*

*So I care what is going on in the nations, but not because I think they are going to win. Because the greatest coalition of armies on the earth are no match for this Man who is fully God, with resurrection power. He is a Man, and He is a King. He is coming back in the glory of the Father, and Israel will be delivered. All the saints that were martyred will be delivered and, everything they lost will be fully returned to them far beyond anything they could imagine, the full return of everything lost in the crisis.*

*That is the point he makes now in verse 2. This mighty angel says, “By the way, those who fell asleep in death”­—in other words the martyrs, and not only the martyrs, but that is the theme this chapter has been highlighting: the martyrs—“do not worry when they sleep in the dust of the earth. When they die, death is not the end of the story. Death is not the end of the story, and everything they lost when they died is fully recovered. It is not the end of the story when the wicked take their stuff.”*

*The Lord would say, “Are you kidding? Do you have any idea how I am going to return back to you everything that is good beyond anything you could imagine? You will have it forever, in perfection.”*

*So that is what the angel tells Daniel. Then he goes on to say in verse 3, “Those who are wise…” These are the people who love God, who take a stand. I mean there is ridicule, there is persecution, but they take a stand. They do not draw back, they do not go hide in a cave, but they stand. They boldly proclaim what the Word of God says. The angel says, “they will shine like the brightness of the stars. They will turn people to righteousness.” They will convince people of the glory and the value of obeying Jesus. That is what righteousness is. They are going to lead many unbelievers to the Lord, and they are going to lead many believers to wholehearted Christianity. They are going to see the glory of walking in love-based obedience in righteousness. They are going to see the wisdom of it. The angel says that this is what these messengers are going to do.*

*Now some messengers will have a larger impact, but many messengers will speak in person to maybe a small number of people. Then again, through the internet you never know what might go viral and what might be an inspiration and a point of courage and strength for multitudes. So you do not really quite know who is going to have that impact. The angel is opening it up, so to speak, and saying just to be a person of wisdom or a person of understanding; those terms are used interchangeably. That same group of people is called the people of wisdom or the people of understanding. They are the wise. It does not mean they know all the secrets of math and science. Wise means they agree with the Word of God and they stand boldly with the Word of God. That is what the definition of wisdom would be in this context.*

*They will turn many people to righteousness. I mean they are going to convince people to be wholehearted in their obedience to Jesus. You know, if you convince people to be wholehearted in their obedience, even in the Church right now you will be ridiculed. There will be voices in the Church, “Oh, you don’t need to obey God that way. There is the grace of God this and the grace of God that.” There is a really distorted grace message that is emerging in the nations right now, with all kinds of distortion in it. They are using the term “grace,” but they are not meaning exactly what the Bible means when the Bible uses the word grace. So because a lot of folks talk about “grace” and “love people,” many other believers think that it must be biblical grace.*

***We*** *are talking about a grace message where we experience the free love of God and the full forgiveness of God in our brokenness, but it motivates us to say “yes” to righteousness. We still stumble, but that grace produces such gratitude. We are not looking for ways to sin more. We are looking for ways to obey with greater elements of our strength, to love Him with all of our strength. God says through this angel, “I am raising up messengers who will convince people about the glory and the beauty of righteousness, the true liberty of righteousness.”*

*Look at verse 10, “and there will be many that will be purified.” I have good news for you! The Body of Christ is not going to dwindle away to a little ragged remnant over in the corner holding on in a cave somewhere. “Many will be purified.” Many will say “yes” to the leadership of Jesus. Many young people will live lives of purity and radical obedience.*

*You know I have heard over the last couple of years, “Well, you don’t really understand this generation. They don’t really do the Bible really intensely. They do not really go for God that way. They are into social media, so they don’t pay attention very well.” All this, that, and the other stuff.*

*I say that I have a different source. My source tells me that many are going to say “yes” to righteousness and many are going to say “yes” to purity–many. The “many” are going to be young people. Now you hear this number a lot—I have heard it said by many, many people—“We are believing God for a billion people to get saved in the end-time harvest, a billion people.” I know many different ministries that talk like that, though nobody knows the number. Here is the point I want to make: of that billion—whatever that number is—who come to the Lord in that great final revival, the vast majority will be young people, the vast majority, just by the demographics, just by the sheer demographics of the earth, because most of the earth’s population is young people. It will be mostly young people coming to the Lord. That is the group that will turn to righteousness; that is the group that will say “yes” to purity.*

*So I have great confidence in this generation and the generation coming after you, as it may not come to fullness when you are in your youth; maybe it is for your children and their children. You might be the old moms and dads who are shepherds in the Body of Christ raising up your children and grandchildren. I am telling you this, that, whatever generation they will be, multitudes will say “yes” to righteousness. No matter what the statistics say, they will go deep in God, they will understand righteousness, they will love righteousness, and they will see it is the glory of God. It is not some legalism that is against grace of God to live in that kind of radical obedience. It is our glory; it is an expression of our love.*

*Now look at verse 11. The angel says, “From the time of the daily sacrifice is taken away and the abomination is set up.” So that angel bookends this vision: in the beginning part of the vision about the end times and the end part of the vision he uses the phrase, “the abomination of desolation.” He bookends the vision with the phrase about which Jesus said to go learn that phrase. Again, He is talking about this vision right in Daniel 12.*

1. Seven key end-time Events and Trends (Dan. 12:1-10)

*Well, let’s look at the seven key events and trends. I will take a minute at each one. Most of them are quite self-explanatory. They are precisely laid out right here at the back end of this vision; it is the Daniel-12 end of this larger vision which is contained in both Daniel 11 and 12.*

* 1. ***#1 Time of trouble***:This trouble is referred to by Jesus as a time of great tribulation (Mt. 24:21). The verse before Daniel 12:1 describes the Antichrist being established in Jerusalem (Dan. 11:45).

1“At that time…there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time”…7[an angel] swore…that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time [3½ years]… and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished. (Dan. 12:1, 7)

*The first key trend is negative. It will be a time of trouble since it is the Great Tribulation; that is what this verse is talking about. Remember this: Jesus the King is in leadership. He is going to use what the devil plans for evil and make it backfire on the kingdom of darkness; He is going to use it for good. The Lord would say, “I am going to use the outpouring of My Spirit. I am going to use the unique information that I gave My Prophets in the written Word of God. I am going to give insider information. I am going to give the anointing of the Holy Spirit. There is going to be conflict in the society. Between all of those components, My people will say ‘Yes’ and go deep in God.”*

*It will be “At that time,” when the Antichrist will be in Jerusalem. Again the verse before Daniel 12:1 is Daniel 11:45, one verse back. It is describing the Antichrist and his headquarters in the city of Jerusalem. So when the angel says, “At that time,” he is meaning that right when the Antichrist is going strong it will be a time of trouble. The angel qualifies that it will be such trouble as there has never been before.*

*In fact, in verse 7 the angel makes this solemn vow; the angel really brings it up a notch. He says that the trouble will be so intense for a time, times, and half a time—that is three-and-a-half years. Because a time is one year, times is two years, half a time is half a year—that for three-and-a-half years the power of the holy people will be completely shattered. The angel says that God is going to use this time to completely break the self-reliance of the people of God. They will not rely on their own strength, and they will not rely on their agenda. Jesus will be their source, and Jesus will be their agenda. “I am going to break them from their self-reliance and their self-agendas. I am going to shatter all of their false conceptions about a life outside of God’s leadership as being superior. I am going to break that lie wide open, and none of My people will believe in that lie.” That is what he says here. That is pretty intense. He says, “I am going to completely dismantle that lie so they are not relying their strength or their own agenda.”*

* + 1. ***Great Tribulation***:Jesus referred to Daniel 12:1 when teaching on the end times (Mt. 24:21). He described it as being so violent that, if the time were not cut short, no one would survive.

15“When you see the ‘abomination of desolation’…21There will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time…22And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved [from physical death].” (Mt. 24:15-22)

*Jesus actually references this very verse. In Matthew 24:15—let’s read it; we have looked at several times—“When you see the abomination of desolation”—when you see that Daniel 12 vision, all the stuff in that Daniel 12 vision, verse 21—“there will be great tribulation.” Now Daniel called it a time of trouble. Jesus made it a little stronger. He said, a time of “great tribulation.” Then Jesus uses the same phrase from Daniel 12, “It will be a time like no other time in history.”*

*So Jesus is saying, in essence, “I am talking about the Daniel 12:1 statement. It is going to be more than a time of trouble; it is going to be the Great Tribulation.” Jesus is going to bring it up another notch. He said, “If that time was not cut short”—to three-and-a-half years is what it means when you read all the verses together—“no one would survive it.” He says that it is going to be such a violent time in the earth that nobody would survive it, apart from God intervening.*

*He is saying that if you understand Daniel 12, if you understand this great abomination of desolation, then you know it is going to get evil, you know it is going to get violent, but know I am going to deliver you. Whatever you lose in death I will give you back a hundredfold times a hundredfold in the resurrection and I am going to purify My Church in the midst. I am going to purify and save the nation of Israel in the midst of this conflict.*

* + 1. ***Some shall fall in martyrdom (Dan. 11:33)***: There will be an unprecedented number of martyrs in the end times. I do not believe the majority of believers will be martyred, but each will face the possibility and have to decide whether they will stand for Jesus. The martyrdom of believers will have a sanctifying, redemptive effect, causing other believers to be refined.

33“They shall fall by sword…35Some of those of understanding shall fall [martyrdom], to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end.” (Dan. 11:33-35)

*Well, there is going to be martyrdom, but as we said the martyrdom is going to have a sanctifying effect. When the people of understanding, even some high profile leaders, are martyred, their courage and confidence will have a ripple effect. It will be an inspiration to many in the Body of Christ.*

* + 1. ***Falling away***: The falling away from the faith and the revealing of the Antichrist on the world stage are two signs that Paul gave, which will alert the Church to the nearness of Jesus’ return.

3Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin [Antichrist] is revealed, the son of perdition. (2 Thes. 2:3)

*It will be a time where the trouble will make many people decide, “Am I in this thing for real or am I in this “Jesus thing” for show?” Though I do not believe most believers will be martyred—I do not believe it will be the majority—the number will be large enough to cause every believer to ask the question, “Am I following Jesus for show or am I following Jesus because I believe He is the King of kings and He is the One who loves me and I am His forever? Which is it?” The pressure and the persecution will make everybody make a serious decision. So a lot of folks are going to say, “I do not want this Jesus thing,” and many will leave the church.*

*Hundreds of millions will join the kingdom of God. Hundreds of millions will say, “You know, I was looking for something worthy to give everything to. This thing is so glorious, this thing is so real, this is worth my whole life.” Many unbelievers will flock into the kingdom, and though they will have lifestyles of addictions and all kinds of brokenness, they will find the power of purity and will walk in the liberty of righteousness. I mean the time of trouble will be the time of breakthrough for the people of God.*

* 1. ***#2 God’s people delivered***: God’s people will be fully delivered *physically* (from persecution) and *politically* (from oppressive governments) by Jesus’ return. Some will be supernaturally delivered in times of persecution (Dan. 11:34), just as angels opened prison doors for Peter (Acts 5:19; 12:7-11).

1“Your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book.” (Dan. 12:1)

34“When they fall [martyrdom], they shall be aided with a little help.” (Dan. 11:34)

*The people of God will be delivered; we already mentioned that. Israel will be surrounded by the nations. Zechariah 14 says that all the nations of the earth will surround Jerusalem to try to exterminate the Jewish people in the land of Israel. A King is coming back to deliver them. Even the Body of Christ will be in persecution and oppression and ridicule. The King is coming back. He would say, “I will fully deliver you. The pressure will only be there for a moment. I will remember every movement of your heart of obedience. I will honor you; I will show you how I feel about the way you loved Me.” That is called eternal rewards. He is going to deliver His people.*

* 1. ***#3 Eternal rewards***: The saints will be emboldened by the certainty of the resurrection, and eternal rewards (12:2-3). In the resurrection they will recover all that was lost in the persecution. Daniel was assured that the martyrs and the wise (who faithfully stand for the truth) would shine like stars forever. Jesus emphasized this promise (Mt. 13:43). It is worth choosing righteousness.

2“Those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake [resurrection]…to everlasting life… 3Those who are wise shall shine…those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever.” (Dan. 12:2-3)

*Not only He is going to deliver His people by His return, He is going to give rewards to everybody who stood true to Him. Those that are asleep in the dust means they died in martyrdom, but it also includes all the saints through history as well who were not martyred. They will awake in the resurrection.*

*Verse 3, “Those that are wise”–again the phrase the wise or the people of understanding. It is the same group, the people who stood for truth. Like right now there is ridicule if you stand for what the Bible says about the sanctity of life, the sanctity of marriage, the sanctity of sex, the truth about love-based obedience and the grace of God that calls us to wholeheartedness. You will be ridiculed in the church right now if you take a stand in many places. You will be ridiculed in the society.*

*God is raising up many in the Church around the world who are taking a bold stand. I mean the numbers are increasing. I have heard folks saying that it seems like everybody is joining the other side. I say, “No, I am tracking with leaders all around the world. I don’t mean I know all of them, but I know many and I know many who know many. There are many men and women of God, young and old, who are taking a stand, who are coming out of silence. They are coming out of siting in the background. They are saying, ‘I am taking a stand.’” This is getting exciting.*

*Yeah, it is getting darker, but I have never seen more calls to prayer. I just got the news today that another governor is going to call a solemn assembly. Already two governors, from Texas and Louisiana, called a day of fasting and prayer and gathered people in an arena or stadium; two governors have done that in the last couple of years. A third governor is going to do it. This has never happened in recent history. More and more political leaders are taking a stand for Jesus, when before they were quiet. This hostility, this adversity, is drawing out their boldness and their convictions. I am saying, “Lord, this is getting negative, but it is getting exciting.”*

*I can hear the sounds of an arising of the people of God, sounds of a victory of a revival that is around the corner. Men and women of God are taking a stand. Young people are taking a stand, saying, “I am not going to live in immorality. I am not going to try to cut the corners. I want to live in radical wholehearted love for God. I love Him. He is worthy of my all.” I mean it is happening all around the world right now.*

*Well, the Lord is saying, “I will not only raise them from the dead. I am going to give them a resurrected body. I am also going to cause the resurrected bodies to shine in the brightness of the glory of God like stars forever. In their resurrected body, they will carry the glory of God that will shine forth in a way that declares the way they loved Me when they were on the earth in this age.” It is called eternal rewards, and that is a big subject.*

* 1. ***#4 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).

32“But the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits [miracles].” (Dan. 11:32)

* + 1. ***Great exploits***: The people who know God shall be strong and do great exploits, or miracles.

*There is going to be supernatural ministry and great miracles. The mighty angel told Daniel that the people who know their God will be strong. They are not going to draw back in a cave and go silent. They are going to get bold. They are not going to fall into sin; they are going in the other direction. Not only that, they are going to do great exploits, and they are going to do miracles.*

* + 1. ***Michael shall stand up***: This indicates that 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). I believe this will result in angelic ministry increasing on a global level. In this vision, Michael fought the demonic principality of Persia—Iran (Dan. 10:13, 21). This same spiritual and physical battle is reemerging from Iran today. Angels intervened to help the saints in the book of Acts (Acts 1:10; 5:19; 8:26; 10:3; 12:7-10, 23; 27:23).

7And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon…9The great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil…he was cast to the earth and his angels were cast out…12“Woe 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)

*Number two, in this realm of miracles Michael the archangel is going to stand up. Again when the Bible talks about Michael standing, it is talking about his activity in the earthly arena being manifested in a far greater way. In the book of Revelation John elaborated on Michael standing. I will not read it, but you can read it on your own in Revelation 12. There is coming a time in the future when Michael will stand, and he will challenge Satan himself in the heavenly realm. All the ranks of angels with Michael will fight against the devil and all of his demons, and they will defeat them. Of course the defeat is because of Jesus’ work on the cross, but defeat in the sense that they are going to be openly manifested as losing a place of advantage in their attack against the Church. They are going to be weakened. They are going to be filled with rage, but they are going to be weakened in their position to stand against the Church. The angels are going to be far more involved. That is how I interpret this passage.*

* + 1. ***Prophetic spirit***: The Lord will pour out His Spirit on “all flesh”—*every believer.* This would have been a radical idea to Israel, who saw the norm as the Spirit resting on male prophets, not women, children, or Gentiles. All prophetic insights must honor the written Word.

28“…I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. 29And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. (Joel 2:28-29)

*Well, number three, beloved, when it says the Spirit is going to be poured out on all flesh, do you know what* ***all flesh*** *means? I mean I know you know what it means! It means all flesh, but you know what that means? It means every single born-again believer is going to operate in the anointing of the Holy Spirit. We are talking about every believer operating in the anointing, receiving dreams and visions, and moving in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*This “pouring out upon all flesh” had a down-payment in the book of Acts 2,000 years ago with Peter. This has not been fulfilled yet. It has been a little bit fulfilled over the years, 2,000 years, more and more. There is coming a time when every single born-again believer who has given their heart to Jesus is going to operate in the things of the Spirit. That is yet coming. When you read the passage in context, Joel 2, it is related to the return of the Lord in the clouds, at the time when the Lord returns. Now it began on the day of Pentecost, it has been increasing for 2,000 years, but it is going to explode in that hour of history.*

* 1. ***#5 The wise***: The *people of understanding* will understand God’s end-time plan (11:33; 12:10).
	The wise at the time of the end will understand, from God’s perspective, what is happening in the nations. Those who are wise respond in a way that is very different from those who are deceived, offended, and overcome with fear The wise in this passage are wise in matters related to Daniel’s end-time vision (Dan. 11-12); having clarity from the Word about what is happening in the earth.

33“And those of the people who understand shall instruct many.” (Dan. 11:33)

3“Those who are wise shall shine…those who turn many to righteousness like the stars…
10…and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.” (Dan. 12:3, 10)

*There is going to be the people of understanding. Now again this is not that they are wise in their economics. I believe in having biblical wisdom in your economics, in your family life, in the way that you steward your life. The word wisdom is used in that regard many times in the Bible, but in this vision “the wise” is talking specifically about those who know what is going on in the nations in that hour of history. They get it. They are not deceived. They are not confused. They are not afraid. They get it. They get what the Lord is doing. They have studied the Word of God, and the Spirit is confirming it. They say, “We get what is going on.” Those are called the wise or the people of understanding.*

* + 1. The fact that they teach *many* indicates that *many* will be hungry to receive understanding. Someone without a public teaching ministry could teach many through social media.

*It says here—look again, I am going to read the same verse we looked at—“they will teach many.” In Daniel 11:33, the people of understanding or the wise, use which ever term you want, will teach many. Do you know what it means, that they are teaching many? It doesn’t just mean you might impact many through the internet. Again you do not have to teach them in person, but let’s go to the other side of the word “many.” That means the hunger for this understanding will be had by* ***many*** *in the nations. There are more and more people in the nations, even in the last three months, who are getting hungry to understand what Daniel is talking about, what the prophets mean. What is going on in the world? There is a new hunger that is going to get bigger and bigger and bigger. Many are going to want to know what this stuff means.*

* + 1. ***150 chapters***: There are over 150 chapters in the Bible focusing on end-times. We must not neglect these since they come from the same Bible, reveal the same Jesus, and are inspired by the same Spirit as the gospels. *See mikebickle.org for a list of 150 chapters on the end times.*
		2. The *anger of the Lord* refers to His judgment of those who persist in rebellion at the time of the second coming of Christ. *Perfect* understanding speaks of *mature* understanding.

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)

*I want to encourage you: do* ***not*** *make this the* ***only*** *thing you study. I mean the main subject we study is Jesus: the beauty of Jesus and who He is, and how to walk in love with one another and bring the power of God to others.*

***Part*** *of our searching is to see what the Bible says about that hour of history. Because, if you are not in that hour—though I think you are in the early days of it—but if you are not, I would say that your children or grandchildren certainly need to be equipped in this. I think we are actually in the beginning of that. Again it may be twenty, thirty, forty, fifty, sixty years from now, or it may be a little bit longer. I do not know. Nobody knows the day or the hour, but we know that things are escalating. This is an hour to be in that trajectory, that pathway, where you are becoming a person of wisdom related to this vision God gave Daniel, because wisdom here is connected to the vision of what is happening in that generation.*

* 1. ***#6 Harvest***: Many will know God, receive salvation, and turn to righteousness (11:32; 12:3). John saw a great multitude coming to Jesus during the Great Tribulation (Rev. 7:9, 14).

3“Those who are wise…those who turn many to righteousness…” (Dan. 12:3)

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)

*Daniel 12:3 says that they will turn many to righteousness. Many will come to righteousness. That is, the unsaved will come to Jesus and the saved will move into wholeheartedness. So there are two groups that are being called to righteousness–unbelievers* ***and*** *believers. I believe it is going to be a billion plus who are going to come to Jesus, the unsaved. I think another dynamic is happening as well. I think that hundreds of millions of believers are going to shake off compromise and embrace a life of consistent righteousness in their life. So I think there are two groups in focus here.*

*Revelation 7:9, look at this. I mean talk about exciting! John saw this, a great multitude from every tribe, every tongue. There are 7,000 tongues—7,000 languages—in the earth right now, about 7,000. Every dialect of every language will have a group of people who are operating in a spirit of revival, who are staying strong even in the midst of persecution and difficulty. Every single place in the earth will have people radically committed to where they will not back down in the pressure. They stay true to the end, every place in the earth, a great multitude, not a few. This is not a little revival that kind of ekes out an existence a little bit and we hang on until the end. It’s a number nobody can count, with every tribe, every tongue, coming to Jesus even before His return. Beloved, what a glorious time to live!*

* 1. ***#7 Righteousness***: The Lord’s plan will succeed as multitudes know and love Him, proclaim His wisdom, and walk in purity in the midst of the pressures in the end times (Dan. 11:33; 12:3, 10).

32“The people who know their God shall be strong…35Some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end.” (Dan. 11:32-35)

 3“…turn many to righteousness…” …10“Many shall be purified, made white…” (Dan. 12:3, 10)

* + 1. ***Know God***: As people encounter the heart of the Father and the beauty of Jesus, they will call young people to a righteous lifestyle through a lens of love that sees the beauty, liberty, and excellence of “love-based” righteousness, which is obedience (Jn. 14:15, 21).
		2. Many will turn when they see the compelling beauty, value, and liberty of obedient love. They will see purity as freedom that liberates the heart to walk in true love. Many will embrace godly lifestyles, and make the first commandment—to love God wholeheartedly—first in their lives. They will embrace deep purity in the face of the gross sexual immorality celebrated and promoted in the nations through the media, Internet pornography, and more.

*Number seven, people will be committed to righteousness. Beloved, the people are going to turn to righteousness and they are going to say “yes” to purity. I am using that interchangeably because what is happening now is that when people hear righteousness, they think, “Oh, that is kind of the negative side of being saved: we have to deny sin.”*

*Beloved, righteousness is the place of liberty. The way people are going to turn to righteousness is they are going to see the compelling beauty and the liberty and freedom of righteousness. Righteousness is where the heart is liberated on the inside. Living in compromise is not liberty. That is bondage at the heart level. I know a lot of folks who are out there just going wild, out there doing their stuff, but they have such a heavy spirit. Their dark emotions are increasing in their life, though they are showing the face of having a ball. But when they are quiet and alone, the dark emotions are stronger and stronger.*

*Beloved, liberty is found under the leadership of Jesus. That is where love is discovered. When we tell people about a love-based life of obedience—an obedience that is motivated by encountering the love of God—and the glory of loving God and people, that obedience is exciting. I have got good news: many are going to say “yes” to that, many all over the nations. Amen and amen.*