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Sermon Notes

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The Resurrection and Eternal Glory of God's People

Daniel 12

I. Resurrection: Humanity's Only Hope

A. Death the Great Mocker of the Human Race

1. Mocking all human achievement
2. Mocking all human relationships

B. Worldwide mourning

Illus. Mourning rituals from around the world

C. Humanity's Central Question

Job 14:14 "If a man dies, will he live again?"

Scripture has a clear answer to this...YES

Many Old Testament promises of resurrection

Job 19:25-27 I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. ²⁶ And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; ²⁷ I myself will see him with my own eyes--I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

Psalms 73:23-26 Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. ²⁴ You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. ²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Isaiah 25:7-8 On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces

Isaiah 26:19 But your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You who dwell in the dust, wake up and shout for joy. Your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead.

D. Resurrection of Jesus Christ: Humanity's Only Hope

John 10:17-18 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life--only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

John 14:19 Because I live, you also will live.

John 11:25-26 "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

Jesus is the one, the only DEATH CONQUEROR... Scripture is full of the promise of resurrection, but only through faith in His name

The prophecies of Daniel are clear as well... there is an eternal kingdom; an if that eternal kingdom is to have people in it, they must also somehow conquer death as well

In the final chapter of this magnificent book is a stunning promise of a general resurrection for all, both the righteous and the wicked... with the glory of eternal life promised to the righteous:

Daniel 12:2-3 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

Let's understand it in context

II. Context: The Final Triumph of God's Eternal Kingdom

A. The Constant Struggle: Human Empires Defying God

- Daniel 2: Nebuchadnezzar's dream...: a monstrous statue symbolizing a series of world empires, ultimately destroyed by an eternal divine kingdom, symbolized by a flying rock which became a mountain

Daniel 2:44-45 "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. ⁴⁵ This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands--a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

- Daniel 3: Nebuchadnezzar fights back... sets up a statue (probably of himself) for all men to worship; persecutes the Jews (Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego) who refuse to bow down; God miraculously delivers his people from the trial
- Daniel 4: God humbles Nebuchadnezzar to teach him a valuable lesson:

Daniel 4:34-35 His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. ³⁵ All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?" "And those who walk in pride, he is able to humble."

- Daniel 5: Belshazzar defies God and that very night, the Babylonian empire falls
- Daniel 6: Darius the Mede foolishly signs a law that all people must pray only to him; Daniel resists and is thrown into the lion's den; God miraculously delivers His servant from the trial
- Daniel 7: the Son of Man vision... the Antichrist wages war against God and His people; God intervenes by sending the Son of Man on the clouds of heaven to destroy the Antichrist

Daniel 7:14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

- Daniel 8: the Greek king (Alexander the Great) sweeps across the earth, setting up a mighty empire; one of the kings of that empire arises to defy God and oppress His people; God destroys that "little horn", Antiochus Epiphanes
- Daniel 9: Daniel given a vision of the cleansing of his people through the death of the Messiah; also a timetable for the Messiah's first coming, and a description of the suffering of his people
- Daniel 10-11: Daniel given a vision of wars that sweep across the Holy Land, culminating in the Antichrist... the final Gentile ruler of the world who uses his power to oppress and to seek to destroy God's people

B. The Irresistible Advance: Christ's Unstoppable Kingdom

1. Christ is building His kingdom
2. It is spreading from nation to nation
3. Earthly human rulers seek to use their influence to destroy it

Psalm 2:1-3 Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? ² The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One. ³ "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters."

4. They will utterly fail... they kings themselves should be wise and throw in their lot with Christ, as it seems Nebuchadnezzar did

Psalm 2:10-12 Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. ¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling. ¹² Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way,

5. Prophecy: Antichrist = one final human king, ruler of all the earth, defying Christ and oppressing His people one last time

C. The Final Showdown: Antichrist's Rule (11:40-45)

The Antichrist comes at the end of the world to destroy God's people... to set himself up in God's temple as a god to be worshipped; the themes of Daniel come together in one person and in one terrifying seven-year period

D. The Ultimate Fate of Daniel's People

1. The Jews: the focus of Daniel
 - a. Daniel constantly prayed toward Jerusalem
 - b. God sent Gabriel to tell him the future of Daniel's people

Daniel 10:14 Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come."

- c. Daniel 12 centers itself around the Jews

12:1 "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people--everyone whose name is found written in the book--will be delivered.

2. The Jews who rejected their Messiah in the 69th week of Daniel will embrace him at last

Romans 11:25-27 I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. ²⁷ And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins."

3. But general national salvation does not mean every single Jew will be saved

III. Chapter 12: Eternal Destiny, National and Individual

A. Antichrist Attacks (vs. 1, 5-7, 11-12)

12:1 "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people--everyone whose name is found written in the book--will be delivered.

1. A "time of great distress"... terrible suffering under Antichrist's rule

Illus. Kristalnacht... the beginning of the Holocaust; Diary of Anne Frank

2. Attack specifically on Daniel's people, the Jews

3. God delivers His people miraculously

Just as He delivered Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego in Ch. 3, just as He delivered Daniel from the lion's den in ch. 6, so will He deliver His people now

4. BUT NOTE: national deliverance does not guarantee individual salvation

But at that time your people--everyone whose name is found written in the book--will be delivered.

B. Heaven Defends and Conquers (vs. 1)

1. The Sovereign Decree

Duration of the oppression is carefully measured out... not a day too long or too short

vs. 5-7 Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank. ⁶ One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long will it be before these

astonishing things are fulfilled?" ⁷ The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, "It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed."

vs. 11-12 "From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. ¹² Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.

1290 days = 3 ½ years + 12 or 30 days

1335 days... an extra 45 days, not really sure why; some believe these extra days are for the establishment of Christ's kingdom on earth after the Battle of Armageddon;

Either way, the days are carefully measured out

2. The Spiritual Defense

The Archangel Michael defends the Jews in spiritual warfare

12:1 "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise.

Michael commands the Lord's armies, and he throws his full weight into protecting the Jews from Satan's onslaught

3. The Savior's Descent

11:45 [Antichrist] will come to his end, with no one to help him.

Illus.: "Lo, Ho comes with clouds descending..."

Revelation 19:11-15 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³ He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations.

Christ destroys the Antichrist simply with the breath of His mouth:

2 Thessalonians 2:8 *And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.*

C. The General Resurrection (vs. 2)

vs. 2 *Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.*

1. Sleeping in the dust: death... scripture constantly likens death to sleep
2. Awaking = resurrection
3. Either to Everlasting Life or Everlasting Contempt... EVERYBODY!!!!

John 5:28-29 *"Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out--those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.*

D. Judgment Day and The Eternal State (vs. 3)

1. Judgment Day

Hebrews 9:27 *"It is appointed for men to die once, then comes the judgment."*

Daniel 7:10 *The court was seated, and the books were opened.*

Revelation 20:11-13 *Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.*

2. Books opened

The record of every single deed ever done; every thought, every word, every action

3. "Another book"

vs. 1 *But at that time your people--everyone whose name is found written in the book--will be delivered.*

Revelation 20:12 *Another book was opened, which is the book of life.*

Anyone who trusts in Christ for salvation has their name written in the Book of Life... if your name is found written there, you will not be judged by what is recorded in the Book of Deeds

4. Everlasting Life: Shining Like Stars

vs. 2 *Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.*

vs. 3 *Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.*

This is the doctrine of glorification... that we ourselves will be so transformed that we will shine forever with the glory of God!!

5. Everlasting Contempt: Judged Eternally

"Everlasting shame and contempt"

This is none other than hell... eternal condemnation for those who refuse salvation in Christ

Revelation 20:15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

The conclusion of the Book of Daniel is the conclusion of the history of humanity...

- At that time, earthly power, prestige, honors will mean nothing
- At that time the size of your earthly conquests and empire will mean nothing
- At that time, the only thing that will save is simple faith in Jesus Christ

E. The Sealed Prophecy

1. The Command to Conceal and Seal

vs. 4 *But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.*"

vs. 8-9 *I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, "My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?" ' He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end.*

2. The Future: Inescapable Mystery

God has not told us everything there is to know about the end... only those things we need to know

There is inescapable mystery about the end of the world... it is God's glory to conceal many of these things until they are revealed in history

3. An Angel's Inquiry

1 Peter 1:12 "Even angels long to look into these things..."

vs. 5-6 Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank. ' One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?"

The angel didn't know how long the final tribulation would last; he seemed as fascinated and astonished as Daniel

Another angel had the information... lifting his hands and swearing that the tribulation would last "a time, times and half a time."

Some angels know more than others!!!

4. A Prophet's Inquiry

1 Peter 1:10 The prophets searched intently and with the greatest care trying to find out the time and circumstances...

vs. 8-9 I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, "My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?" ' He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end.

5. How Knowledge Increases

a. history validates

As history unfolds, future generations have a much clearer understanding of the prophetic Scriptures when they see how GOD intended them by what He actually does in history

vs. 4 But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."

As history moves us, knowledge increases

b. the end time approaches

As the actual end of the world approaches, end time prophecies will literally comes true

vs. 9 *He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end"*

At the time of the end, more will understand

c. righteousness gives insight

vs. 10 *Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand*

The righteous will listen to Godly teacher instructions and they will understand what these words mean!!

IV. Daniel's Inheritance... and Yours?

A. Daniel's Rest... and Inheritance (vs. 13)

vs. 13 *"As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance."*

1. The Book ties up the final major theme... the righteous servant Daniel and his reward
2. Throughout we have seen Daniel as the righteous, believing Jew
3. He will die... He will sleep with his fathers
4. But in the end, he will arise from the earth and receive his inheritance

Allotment or inheritance = language from the days of Joshua and the conquest of the Promised Land

Each Jew received a division of the Promised Land by lot

This was his inheritance

B. The Inheritance Christ Offers

Matthew 24:34 *"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world."*

Colossians 1:12-14 *giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the*

dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Christ offers you the Kingdom... a place in the eternal Kingdom he's been talking about all through the Book of Daniel

A Kingdom that's been advancing forcefully since the Days of Christ on earth

A Kingdom that is glorious and which will have no end

A Kingdom of light and glory, where nothing evil ever enters

A Kingdom build by God Himself, with Christ Jesus Himself as the radiance of God's glory

C. The Death Conqueror Offers You the Spoils: Is Your Name in His Book???

Today we celebrate the glory of Christ's conquest over death

Today we celebrate the very foundation of his Kingdom... eternal life, the destruction of the grave

The only question is: is your name written in the Book of Life??