**Surviving in Dangerous Times – Lesson 12 – Daniel 12**

I. Review

II. Preview – the conclusion of the final vision

A. Central question to be answered: will God’s people endure when evil does its worst?

B. Living in a world that can’t be fixed – can only be recreated

1. Brokenness, suffering, pain, trials, testings, persecution, etc. will continue – living in dangerous times

2. Book of Daniel began that way, and it ends that way

3. Question now – when will this all happen?

C. Book of Daniel is not a sedative to dull the pain, but a wake-up call to live with wisdom

III. Final Piece of the Daniel 11 Vision (v1-4)

A. Time of distress will be greater than at any time in Israel’s history – Mk 13:19

1. First words of v1 point back to last part of Daniel 11 – “at that time” links to Dan 11:45

2. The appointed time of the last wicked king

B. In the midst of this time of severe suffering, those who are truly God’s people will be:

1. A helped people

a. Michael arises – great prince who stands guard over God’s people

b. Will be fighting the invisible war for us

2. A known people – precious to God

a. All found written in the book will be rescued – Ex 32:32-33, Rev 20:12,15

b. Many who have already died will be raised to everlasting

c. Those not written in the book will suffer disgrace and everlasting contempt

d. Only two groups of people – all will be resurrected to one of two places

3. An encouraged people

a. Those having insight will shine brightly before all

b. Those who lead many to righteousness will be like stars – Mt 13:43, Prov 4:18

c. Struggle against all enemies of God is limited by God in His mercy

4. A prepared people through instruction

a. Daniel instructed to conceal and seal the book until the end time – Mt 24:14

b. God’s people will have a sealed document – to preserve and authenticate it

(1) Preserved for future generations

(2) Authentication would come as vision was actually fulfilled

c. Knowledge will increase – people will have clearer understanding of the vision toward the end of the times – Prov 1:7

d. Many will go back and forth and knowledge will increase

e. Knowledge of Scripture more important than personal experience unlike the message of today’s society where experience is normative

f. Truth helps us stand firm in midst of broken world

IV. Concluding Footnotes to the Vision (v5-13)

A. Daniel perceived with his eyes two others who stood on either side of the riverbank – probably two more angels – v5

B. The angel Daniel had been speaking with and who was dressed in linen who was above the water in the river – v6-7

1. Questioned by one of other angels as to how long it would be until the end of the wonders

2. Man in linen raised his right and left hands toward heaven

3. Swore by God that it would be for a time, times and half a time – Dan 7:25, Rev 12:14

a. Thought to be equal to 3½ years – half of what Nebuchadnezzar’s complete period of judgment was – Dan 4:25

b. Same time as last half of the 70th week in Dan 9:27

4. Would be as soon as they finish shattering the power of God’s people – a devastating statement – Mk 13:30

5. Precisely timed by God, but unknown to us

C. Daniel hears but does not understand – v8-9 (Lk 18:34, Jn 12:16)

1. Asked about the outcome of the events

2. Man in linen tells Daniel to go his way without an answer – answer is concealed and sealed up until the end time that is appointed

3. Many of the faithful would be purged, purified, and refined – they will understand what is happening – v10 (Jn 7:17)

a. Our part is to persevere in faith and trust

b. This age will be one of constant refining and testing

4. Wicked will continue to act wickedly – they will not understand what is happening

5. If Daniel does not understand everything here completely, we cannot expect to do so either – understanding will increase as the time draws closer and these events actually begin

D. Some timing – v11-12

1. From time that regular sacrifice is abolished until the abomination of desolation will be 1290 days

a. Regular sacrifice is abolished – repression of true worship

b. Abomination of Desolation – despicable misuse of Temple of God during time of great trouble – imposition of false worship

c. Literally the abomination that makes desolate – the temple would be used for an abominable purpose sometime in the future

d. God’s faithful people would no longer worship there because of their revulsion to what happened

e. Jesus likely referring to Dan 9:27 & 12:11 in Mk 13:14

f. Different thoughts as to when this happened/will happen

(1) Antiochus IV – 165 BC

(2) Roman destruction of temple – 70 AD

(3) Some future time – II Thes 2:3-4

2. Blessed are those who keep waiting and attain to 1335 days – endurance is going to be required

E. Daniel told to go his way to the end of his life – v13

1. Go your way until your end

a. “End” has 2 different meanings in this verse – first deals with end of Daniel’s life

b. We live in a time between the times right now – after the early part of the vision but before the end part of the vision

c. Be faithful in those things which God has for us – I Cor 15:58

2. Daniel will enter his rest – for some of us that will be the case if these times continue – if we are around for the “shattering,” we get the opportunity to endure

3. Daniel will rise again for his allotted portion at end of the age (second meaning of end refers to time of our resurrection at the end of the age when Christ comes again) – Jn 14:1-3

F. Essentially, Dan 12 is one of the clearest pictures in the OT of a resurrection of God’s people – it is addressed to us as well