

Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 9:13 PM

Subject: Last Nite's MOB Study on Daniel 11:36-12:13

Last nite, we saw how God, through His special messenger, Gabriel, delivered the final part of a "remarkable prophecy" to Daniel--and to those who, sometime down through the ages of time (still to come!), will actually see these prophecies being fulfilled and, as a result, come to know and believe in the God of Heaven, and the God of the Bible--and even be willing to die for their beliefs! It reveals what is yet to come--in the "latter days...pertaining to the days yet future" (Daniel 10:14). Last week's lesson, covering the first 35 verses of Daniel 11, represented "part I of this remarkable prophecy," and included things that already have been fulfilled, basically to the letter--which should cause all who read it now to believe!

Daniel (in Daniel 12:1) referred to what's coming as "a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until now." It's the proverbial "70th week" of the "70-week" period "decreed for his people and his holy city" (Daniel 9:24) which, translated, represents the final 7 years of this world as we know it! The prophet Jeremiah (in 30:7) called it "the time of Jacob's trouble"--and Jesus Himself said "there would be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, and never will be!" (Matthew 24:21)

The 7-year Tribulation will feature, among other things, the rise of the "Antichrist," who will "do as he pleases, and exalt and magnify himself above every god and speak monstrous things about the God of gods; and will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done!" (Daniel 11:36). He will present himself initially as a man of peace and even "make a covenant with the many for one week (7 years!)..." And, according to God's Revelation to John, the "whole world will be amazed by him, and follow him" and even worship him--particularly after he miraculously recovers from a fatal wound that he receives, and "deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform" (Revelation 13:3-14). (It should be noted here that when it says that "all will worship him," it doesn't include "those whose names have been written from the foundations of the world in the book of life of the Lamb," nor those who will not receive "the mark of the beast on their hands or foreheads"!)

But at the mid-point of the 7-year Tribulation, things change, and the Antichrist, Daniel prophecies, will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and, among other things, commit the blasphemous "abomination of desolation" and other atrocities, as he wars against other nations and passes through, and desecrates, the "Beautiful Land." His "change of heart"--and the second half of the tribulation--appear related to, and instigated by, a "war" which (according to Revelation 12:7-17) simultaneously breaks out in heaven between Michael, the archangel and his angels, and "the dragon, that old serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the world, and was thrown down to the earth (again!). And, according to Daniel 12:1, Michael will return as well to "stand guard over the sons of Daniel's people. All of which leads to intensified warfare, along with the final battle of Armageddon, and the Second Coming of Christ, when the Antichrist "will come to his end"!

Matthew 24:29-30 describes it this way: "But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then, the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with a great

trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other."

Daniel also speaks about a great rescue and resurrection that will occur at the time of the end! "Everyone who is found written in the book will be rescued. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life but others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever!" All of which suggests that salvation will come to many during the tribulation period! (Daniel 12:1-3)

The revelation to John, in Revelation 20:4, 6, seems to address the occasion! "I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and to the Word of God, who had not worshipped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years...Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years!" And thus the thousand year "millennium"!

Well, if you're confused by any of this, Daniel appeared to be too! He wanted to know how long it would be "until the end of these wonders"--and what the final outcome would be! He was told about the three and a half year period of the great tribulation, but nothing more apparently! He was told to "go his way...for these words are concealed and sealed until the end time"! (Daniel 12:5-9). The implication is that the prophecies weren't particularly applicable to Daniel's time, but that a time is coming when the words of this book will be the most important words on earth! These "remarkable" prophecies--the Word of God--needed to be kept secure and available to those who would really need them!

Meanwhile, Daniel was to accept the "mystery" which he had been given and get on with his life! After all, he was only in his mid-80's! Basically, he was told to protect the prophecy, proceed with his life, and prepare for the future! He would rest (as in death), arise (as in resurrection), and receive his inheritance! He would reign with Christ in the Millennium, along with those who would (will) resist the mark of the beast, and be martyred for their faith! For Daniel, the best was (is) yet to come!

And so for us! May we dare to be a Daniel!

What a great study it's been! Hope you were (are) challenged as I was, and am!

May God bless your week--and weeks and months ahead!

Lowell