



Ministry of the Word

Sunday 28th January 2018

by Vincent Gannon

Scripture: Daniel 12:1-3

Subject: Chapter 12, Part 35 – Jacob’s Troubles

“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince who standeth for the children of thy people and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation, even to that same time. And at that time, thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise, shall shine like the brightness of the firmament and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever.” Verses 1-3

Last week we looked at two of the points in which these verses bring hope even in the time of Jacob’s Trouble. We looked at the **special distress** which will occur in those times and that there will be a **special defender**. This morning we will consider the remaining three: a **special deliverance**, a **special destiny** and a **special dividend**.

A special deliverance.

Back to verse 1 again and at the end of the verse, it says, *“thy people shall be delivered.”* God will protect them in the wilderness for three and a half years. He will not remove them for the trouble, he will allow them to go through it but with special protection. Israel will be delivered. All Israel? Romans 11 states in verses 26 & 27 that all Israel will be saved.

“And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.”

This is also confirmed in Jeremiah 30 in three verses.

Verse 7 –

“Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob’s trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.”

Verse 11 –

“For I am with you,’ says the Lord, ‘to save you; Though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, Yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, And will not let you go altogether unpunished.”

Verse 17 –

“For I will restore health to you, And heal you of your wounds,’ says the Lord, ‘Because they called you an outcast saying: “This is Zion; No one seeks her.””

Who is All Israel? Let's find out. Please turn to Ezekiel chapter 20 verse 33 - 38

““As I live,” says the Lord God, “surely with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out, I will rule over you. ³⁴ I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out. ³⁵ And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face. ³⁶ Just as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will plead My case with you,” says the Lord God.

³⁷ “I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; ³⁸ I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the country where they dwell, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord.”

God's will bring all of Israel back [all of the 12 tribes see Revelation 7:4-8]

Passing under the rod, there is that shepherd's term again. Each sheep will pass under the rod, he will drop the rod and examine each one. God says, "I'm going to examine you personally." These verses evidently show that while He will bring them back, he will be dealing with the rebels, the apostates, the transgressors and those of that vein. He will purge them out and they will meet their just rewards. It will be only the remaining ones, those who have accepted The Lord as their God who will be protected. As already quoted from Zechariah 13:8, one third shall remain and these people will be the remnant who will become the duly

constituted nation in which the promise of redemption will be fulfilled. As Daniel 12:1 noted it will be those whose names are found written in the book. Did you know that Moses also knew about this book? Exodus 32:32-33 Moses had a pleading conversation with God

“Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.” And the Lord said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.”

That was the end of that conversation, God put it clearly, if your name is not in the book you will not be getting into heaven.

That's verified again and again throughout the scriptures even in Revelation chapter 12 verse 17 it tells us, *“And the dragon was angry with the woman and went to make war with the remnant of her seed.”* What remnant? *“Those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”* It is against them that the attack will be made and it is these people, those who have the testimony of Jesus Christ who will know the protection and special deliverance. These verses are clearly stating, God is not finished with Israel, and only those who come to accept Jesus as Messiah, Lord and Saviour will have this protection and special deliverance, there is a distinction between the Jew who believes according to the Scriptures and those who will not, those who traditions are more important than God's written word and truth.

Remember in Malachi, that last book of the Old Testament states:

“Then they that feared the Lord spoke often one to another and the Lord hearkened and heard it and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord and thought on His name and they shall be Mine, says the Lord, in the day when I make up My jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son that serves him. For behold, the day comes and it shall burn like an oven and all the proud and wicked shall be stubble, the day comes it shall burn them up. But unto you that fear My name, shall the Son of righteousness arise with healing in His beams.”

So, it's fair to say that we have just established who will know this special deliverance, but how will they come to know the truth to experience it? Revelation points to how this will come about however we must be careful of how we sequential chronological these slots as these events are futuristic and there is no clear timeline, not one that we can be dogmatic

about anyway. So, let's look at some of those insight into events leading up to the special deliverance.

One of the very key things to remember is that God will set apart, according to Revelation chapter 11, two witnesses. Remember them? Two olive branches, two witnesses who can do miracles, verse 3 – 6 tells us.

“And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.”⁴ These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. ⁵And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. ⁶These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.”

During this time people will come to the truth and will turn to God for Salvation, not everyone. In fact, they will be killed [verses 7-10] and they will be not buried so everyone, all over the world, will be able to see their bodies lying in the street, and they will rejoice seeing them dead. How will they see? TV, Internet, whatever technology is available then. Anyway, the two witnesses will be murdered because of their testimony and what they are preaching about. But their testimony of how great their God is, doesn't end there! Verse 11 - 13

“¹¹ Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. ¹² And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. ¹³ In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.”

Yes, they physically rise from dead, I imagine their message becomes somewhat more convincing!

Another way of how the Jewish people will come to know the truth will be through those who will become true believers, will win other Jews to Christ so that many will come to know Him and they will be part of the preserved remnant, a redeemed nation.

Jeremiah 46:28 says,

“For I am with thee, for I will make a full end of all the nations whether I have driven thee but I will not make a full end of thee.”

There will also be angelic messengers proclaiming the good news throughout the world bringing the gospel to people, Revelation 14 verse 6 to 13 tells us so. It seems in those days

there will be strong presence of angels throughout the earth, those that are heavenly as well as those that are fallen.... 'As in the days of Noah'

So, this special deliverance is two-fold. It is a deliverance of personal salvation which happens on a wide scale, for everyone and secondly, God protects the Israelites who will be redeemed so that it becomes a national deliverance, as a duly constituted remnant of believing Jews become the all Israel that is saved. This, beloved, is Israel's hope. The purging will someday be over. The nation will be saved and ushered into the long-awaited and long-promised Kingdom.

This special deliverance will not just deliver and protect them from this life's turbulence and great tribulation, but they will be delivered completely from the clutches of Hell and the destruction of their souls.

Now that special deliverance leads to, **a special destiny.**

A special distress demands a special defender, a special defender provides the opportunity for a special deliverance, and a special deliverance leads to a special destiny--verse 2.

"And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt."

Resurrection! Hallelujah! Not just a spiritual one but an actual bodily resurrection where the soul is given a brand-new body – 1 Corinthians 15:42-57

"So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. ⁴³It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. ⁴⁵And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. ⁴⁹And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

⁵⁰Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. ⁵¹Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴So when this corruptible

has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

⁵⁵ "O Death, where is your sting, O Grave, where is your victory?"

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

This has long been the hope of the Jews. Some Biblical scholars and commentators feel that they never had this hope, that Jews never really had a clear understanding of life after death due to the Sadducees as seen in the Gospels, didn't believe in life after death. But that's not true for all of them. It is very clear that Abraham had confidence in the resurrection of the dead which is why he was obedient to God to go up to the mountain to offer Isaac and he even told his servant that the two of them would be back. He had faith in God's promise that through Isaac there would be a great nation. We also knew that this was a prophetic foreshadowing of God offering His only son. If you doubt that, you should read Hebrews 11:19. It is very clear that Job believed in the resurrection of the dead, and the book of Job is the oldest book in the Bible. Job who lived before Moses said this,

"For I know that my Redeemer liveth and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth and though after my skin worms destroy my body, yet in my flesh shall I see God whom I shall see for myself and not another, though my reins be consumed within me."

He knew he'd be resurrected. Isaiah, who lived more than a century before Daniel, predicted that dead men would live again. And their bodies would rise, Isaiah 26:19:

"Your dead shall live; Together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; For your dew is like the dew of herbs, And the earth shall cast out the dead."

Hosea, a contemporary of Isaiah, said in chapter 13 verse 14a

"I will ransom them from the power of the grave. I will redeem them from death."

Even the resurrection of Christ was predicated on the words of David who said in Psalm 16:9-11,

"My flesh shall rest in hope, for Thou wilt not leave my soul in Hades, neither wilt Thou suffer Thine holy one to see corruption."

These are just a few examples in scripture of how this has been their hope all along. Thank God that there is hope, real hope, an eternal hope. There will be not only a deliverance but beyond that, there will be an incredible destiny, a resurrection.

There are two different types of resurrection; The first is positive, resurrection unto life and glory and the second type is death and damnation.

Surely as believers and followers of Christ we have much to be grateful for as we have that sure hope, knowing that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord!

The first type of resurrection, the one unto life, has three parts. The first fruits of resurrection was Christ. When He was raised from the dead there were several saints who also experience resurrection after His resurrection (Matthew 27:52&53). Just to underline, their resurrection was like Lazarus's resurrection, they did not ascend like Christ but had another death.

The second part of the first resurrection is the church. Whenever you die as a believer, your soul goes into the presence of God. But at the time of Rapture, the dead who are in Christ, their bodies will be taken up first, united with their souls and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in a twinkling of an eye, you will be completely caught up with the Lord in the air with them. Then we will be with the Lord forever together.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. The dead in Christ shall rise first and then they which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with the Lord to meet the Lord in the air and so shall ever be with the Lord."

Then comes the third part after time of the Great Tribulation period, the church will have been removed we know this because the church age is the interval period of grace between the first 69 weeks, and the 70th. During the 70th week God's deals primarily with Israel once again. At the end of that 70th week, the end 3 ½ years of that period known as Jacob's troubles, there is the final part of the resurrection which is the raising of the Old Testament saints' bodies and the Tribulation saints. This will include some Gentiles because there will be Gentiles saved during that times.

The second type of resurrection just has one part and this resurrection takes place after the millennium reign of Christ and this is for the unjust. Go back again to Revelation 20 which clarifies this. That, my friends, is the resurrection to shame and everlasting contempt.

Daniel did not see a thousand years in between because Daniel didn't have the whole picture, the whole concept was a mystery to him. The Old Testament prophets had many big gaps in their knowledge of the redemptive plan. Peter acknowledged this when he said in 1 Peter 1:10-12:

“Of this salvation, the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, ¹¹ searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹² To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.”

Daniel said there's a resurrection to life and a resurrection to shame and contempt. Revelation confirmed this, and goes further on to say that they are thousand years apart. The first resurrection is for the holy and the blessed, it starts with Christ and then the church and then the Old Testament saints with the Tribulation Saints. They don't get raised until the end of their era. Now what a glorious hope this is! They didn't understand everything I've told you. They didn't get the whole picture. Jesus tried to help them. Early in His ministry He said,

"Marvel not at this," John 5:28, "for the hour is coming in which all that are in the grave shall hear His voice and shall come forth; they that have done good unto the resurrection of life, they that have done evil to the resurrection of damnation."

Jesus said everybody's going to come out of the grave, all bodies will be resurrected...some to life and some to death. That's the choice...life or death. That's exactly what the angel said to Daniel is the hope of Israel. In the midst of a time of terrible distress, in the darkness of suffering under the Antichrist, in the horror of Armageddon, the over-running power of demons shall stand a special defender, Michael and through the instrumentality of Michael, God shall bring a special deliverance that promises to all who believe a special destiny.

Finally, for those who believe and preserved, they are promised a special dividend, verse 3.

"And they that be wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever."

Oh, this is so rich. Stunning verse, marvellous! It doesn't mention anything about the punishment of the wicked, it just drops that subject. The message here is hope. The angel announces to Daniel that after the special deliverance and destiny, there is still more to come. Surely this just emphasis what a bountiful giver God is. The angel announces that God will give rewards, the time of dividends. You will not only receive everlasting life but the wise, those who believed, were purged, and were the faithful, the redeemed, they are going to receive a beautiful award and will shine like the stars for eternity. Proverbs 11:30 says,

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.”

Beloved, we must be aware of the personal implications here. Are we going to shine like stars? What is the faithfulness of our witness? By this I mean the following –

- Our witness regarding to our relationship with Christ
- Our witness regarding our fellowship with other believers and church members
- Our witness regarding how we tell others about Jesus and their need for Salvation and finally
- Our witness in our daily living, do other recognise that there is something different about you, not your uniqueness of personality but spiritually, your reasoning, your actions

When you think back and look at your life, what have you done to contribute to your eternal future? We know that for the believer, according to many Scriptures that not only will we be rewarded for things we have done, but also for our motives.

Galatians 6:9-10

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

The Lord wants us to be faithful to preach the Word and share the gospel. In Philippians 2:15 he says,

“We are to be blameless, harmless children of God without rebuke in the midst of a crooked perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding forth the Word of life.”

I’m sure we can agree as I end this, that in these verses Daniel was given a great hope, Israel has been given this hope and we dear family of God, we too have an amazing this feeling of expectation and trusting God to fulfil His promises, we too have Hope!

I just want to end by reading you all a short poem that I recently read about Hope and its called Hope In God, by Cindy Wyatt

Hope In God

by Cindy Wyatt

How wonderful it is to have an unshakable hope
When going through trials and tribulations it is our life-saving rope
Without hope in God where would our lives be?
They would be like a wandering ship lost out at sea

When our heart is aching amidst the darkest night
hope comes shining forth like a bright and glorious light
Without hope we would be lost in an ocean of despair
But God gives us his Word and assures us he is always there

When trouble is all around and our dreams seem to shatter
It is then we find that love, faith, and hope are the things that really matter
God will never fail us no matter what we face
He will always meet our need with his sustaining grace

Our hope comes from God's word, that's where it is found
We can meditate upon it and put our feet on solid ground
Hope is the only thing to cling to when we don't understand
Jesus is always there to take us by the hand

Without hope we would have no place to go
But resting on God's promises, we rejoice in the blessings that flow
How wonderful to rest in the promises in His wonderful book
If you ever get discouraged, just open it up and take a look!

Amen.