

Daniel 06-05-28b

Let's pick up our study now in Daniel chapter 12, the final chapter of this great book. The angel Gabriel speaking to Daniel continues with his prediction of what is going to take place at the time of the end. At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people, and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation, and even to that time.

And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Well, before we get to the book, we need to talk about Michael. At that time Michael shall stand up.

The word stand in Hebrew is Amad, A-M-A-D. And so this says, at that time, it's literally in that time, but at this season, this occasion, Michael will stand up. He is the Tsar, the great.

He is the great Tsar. This has come down in later times as the Tsar or Caesar. This is a very ancient word that means a ruling power.

Now, what do we know about Michael? Is he going to be an earthly prince? Is he the pre-incarnate Christ as many have alleged? Who exactly is Michael? He's been mentioned earlier in the book. Could he be Christ? You have some of the, I think it's the Latter-day Saints or somebody think that Michael and Jesus are two different names for the same person and that it's just the time that makes the difference in the name. Well, we know actually quite a bit about Michael because we have abundant scripture to this effect.

Turn with me over to Revelation chapter 10. Six trumpets have sounded. We're in the interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpet.

The sixth trumpet sounded at the end of chapter nine of Revelation. The seventh trumpet is going to sound in the middle of chapter 15. But this is chapter 10.

And after the sixth and before the seventh, sort of like after 6,000 years of human history and before the 7,000 of human history, John says, I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven clothed with a cloud and a rainbow was on his head. His face was like the sun and his feet like pillars of fire. He had a little book open in his hand and he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land.

If you set your foot one place and you set your other foot another place, what do we call that? We call it standing, right? So this is a standing angel. This is an angel who takes a stand, one foot on the sea and another foot on the land. He cried with a loud voice as when a lion roars.

When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. But John isn't allowed to write down what the thunders say because that's classified information. John heard it and those thunders will be heard and that will be revealed at his time.

But obviously John can't write it down now or it wouldn't be a secret. Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered. Do not write them.

The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, but that in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished as he declared to his servants the prophets. Now, what does this mean? What is the mystery of God that was declared to his servants the prophets in the Old Testament? If you were going to sum up the message of God to the prophets of old, what is it? Deliverance. Moses was a prophet and he brought the message of deliverance to the slaves in bondage in Egypt.

Isaiah, the first 39 chapters of his book, detail the problems of sin and of oppression and of failure that plague Israel. And then in the last part of the book, the message of Isaiah is deliverance. Comfort ye my people, speak comfortably to Jerusalem.

Her warfare has ceased, her trials are at an end, here comes the servant of God who is going to deliver. It's a message of deliverance. This angel takes his stand and speaks deliverance.

The time has come for God's deliverance. The mystery that was declared to the prophets of old is fulfilled. It says finished, but this is the idea of completion, fulfillment, something coming into being.

Then the voice spoke and said, take the book which is open in the hand of the angel. So I went to the angel and said to him, give me the little book. The angel, this is Michael, the archangel, the angel of Israel, the prince angel of Israel, speaks to John the apostle and says, take and eat it.

It will make your stomach bitter, but it will be sweet as honey in your mouth. I took the little book and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.

He said to me, you must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues and kings. John is now going to do the same thing that the Old Testament prophets did in this latter three and a half years of the age of Israel. He is going to prophesy that same message.

What are the two witnesses going to declare in chapter 11? These witnesses are two olive trees and two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. If anyone tries to stop them from proclaiming their message, they breathe out fire, then they are devoured. They have power to shut heaven, no rain falls, just like Elijah.

They have power over waters to turn them to blood, just like Moses, to strike the earth with plagues as often as they desire, like Moses and like Elijah. And what does this speak? Elijah and Moses are two great prophets speaking deliverance, deliverance from oppression, deliverance

from evil, deliverance from sin, deliverance of God. And these two witnesses in the latter half of the 70th week of Daniel are going to speak deliverance.

When they finish their testimony, the beast is going to come up and kill them and so on. Well, this is the mighty angel. He is going to take his stand.

Michael will stand up, the great prince. And it says he is the great prince who stands watch over your people or who watches. But notice watch is in italics because it's the very same word.

He's going to stand, Ahmad, the great prince who stands, and this is Omaid. When you take a Hebrew verb that has an A and an A for its vowels, Ahmad, and you want to make it an ING word, an ongoing action word, you say O-E. You change the A-A to O-E.

So instead of Ahmad, it's Omaid. And he is the one standing. He is the one that always stands over the sons of your people.

So it's a beautiful picture in the Hebrew here. Michael, the great prince, will stand, the one who stands over the sons of your people. And there will be an et, a time of trouble.

And the word for trouble is sarah, T-S-A-R-A-H, sarah. This comes from the verb sarar, T-S-A-R-A-R, and it means distress. And it is a time of great distress.

It occurs most often in the Bible in connection with childbirth. This word is found in Jeremiah 4, 31. I have heard a voice as of a woman in sarar, the anguish as of her who brings forth her first child, the voice of the daughter of Zion bewailing herself.

Same thing in Jeremiah 49, 24. Damascus has grown feeble. She turns to flee and fear has seized her.

Anguish and sorrows have taken her like a woman in labor. This is the kind of trouble. It is birth pangs.

Remember when Jesus in Matthew 24 was talking about wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes and famines in diverse places, and he said, this is the beginning of sorrows. These are the birth pangs. That is what this word means.

Sorrow of heart, metaphorically speaking, is used in Jeremiah 48, 41. The mighty men's hearts in Moab on that day shall be like the heart of a woman in birth travail, in birth pangs. I wish we had time to go to Jeremiah 48, 49 because all of this pertains to that area of Jordan that we see over there today.

He shall come up and fly like the eagle, spread his wings over Basra. The heart of the mighty men of Edom in that day shall be like the heart of a woman in birth pangs. Edom, Moab, Ammon, all the same ones that we've been looking at that we saw mentioned in Daniel.

That's what is being set up. That's what is about to occur. All right.

So Michael is going to stand up. He is the prince angel for Israel, and he's going to stand up. And when he stands up, there will be this time of trouble, such as there has never been even unto that time.

You have the word *etx* three different times. And at that time, your people shall be delivered. At that time, your people shall be delivered.

That will be completed. Remember what the mighty angel says with one foot in the water and one foot on the land? Now is the time for it to be finished, for it to be completed. That which God spoke through his prophets to his people.

Well, this is that same event. This is Revelation chapter 10. Now, your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book.

What is the book? Well, this is a good question because, keep reading, many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars, forever and ever. So, what is the meaning of those who are found written in the book? What is the book? Well, you can go back to Exodus chapter 31, verse 18.

God wrote his commandments with his finger in tablets of stone. That's a kind of a book. A chapter later, when God is ready to destroy the people at the foot of Mount Sinai because they've been carousing and making the golden calf and so on, Moses says, please forgive their sin, and if not, blot me out of the book which you have written.

And this is the first reference we have to this very same book that is in Daniel chapter 12. What is Moses saying when he says, if you won't forgive the people, blot me out of your book? This is the book of people who qualify for resurrection. Everyone who is found written in the book is delivered.

Some of these people have a resurrection of shame and contempt. Others have a resurrection to life everlasting, not in the sense of duration, but in the sense of quality. You look at the contrast.

There is shame and contempt at one end of the spectrum. There is everlasting at the other end. This is life that partakes of the eternal, in the sense of quality.

Life that comes from heaven, opposite of shame and contempt. But all of these people are written in the book. As many as those, everyone who is found written in the book.

So these are the saved. There is a book of those who are delivered by God, and if you're written in the book, you're delivered. Many who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.

Now, is this book, is this list everybody? It's not the Hittites, it's not the Hivites, or the Archites,

or the Jebusites, or any of the other ites that inhabited the land. It's not the Philistines. It is the people of Israel.

It tells us in Romans, all Israel shall be saved. Romans 11, 26. All Israel will be delivered.

The word saved, we tend to think, oh that's go to heaven, don't go to hell. But saved just means delivered. There's all kinds of deliverance in the Bible.

So, who is it that is delivered? Everyone found written in the book. Delivered from what? Delivered from death, delivered from oppression, delivered from slavery, delivered from being under the thumb and under the rule of the Gentiles, trodden underfoot. So these people from the age of Israel, all the way up until the day of Pentecost, who died, and who were believers in God, are delivered.

They're written in the book. Moses says, if you're not going to deliver these people, then don't deliver me either. It's a package deal.

If you're going to blot them out of your book, blot me out of your book. Which is a pretty bold statement, because God could have just said, okay, and gone he would be. But, Moses is a picture of Christ in that episode.

And the Lord Jesus stands in for us and says, forgive them, they know not what they do. Into thy hands I commend my spirit. And he paid the penalty that we deserved.

And it is a substitutionary thing. And in fact, Jesus is delivered from the power of death. He's the first fruits of resurrection.

And through his deliverance, we too are delivered. And through God sparing Moses, the whole nation was spared. So there is a picture there.

And a foreshadowing. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake. Now, wait a minute.

I thought that when people died, they went to be with Jesus. Or they went into some sort of disembodied state. I was taught that ever since I was a child.

Well, when you die, you're absent from the body, face to face with the Lord. So, Moses and Abraham and Lazarus the beggar are all kind of floating around, gazing at God and watching the planets circle their stars and so on. What does the Bible say? They sleep in the dust of the earth.

Old Testament, New Testament pictures the death of a believer as a sleep. Now, think about what happened last night. A lot of us were tired last night.

I can vouch for that. You fall asleep. And when you wake up, did you have a loss of existence? Did you cease to exist between when you fell asleep last night and when you woke up this

morning? No.

But what is your perception of the time that intervened? I have no consciousness and no memory of the six hours that passed between the time I went to sleep and the time I woke up. None whatsoever. I fell asleep and the next thing I knew I was waking up and an entire night had passed without my knowledge.

It is as though I time traveled from late last night to early this morning and did not experience any of the intervening time. I didn't cease to exist. I just didn't experience it.

I wasn't around for it. Well, this is how the Bible uniformly pictures and talks about death for believers. Paul says, don't worry, we will not precede those who are asleep.

The dead in Christ will rise. And, of course, they're not sleeping. There's not vast cots and racks and beds and pillows and blankets of sleeping souls.

God doesn't have to store them somewhere because God is outside of time and time is where living people are confined. You just exit a door of time and enter another door. You don't cease to exist.

It's not annihilation. It's not being recreated. You just take a shortcut out of time.

I like to think of it, time is like a vacuum cleaner hose and when you're born it's like rolling a golf ball in one end of that hose and as you go through life you're just rolling along through that hose and you can make progress in one direction because the hose is tipped so that you roll in one direction. You can't go back in time. You go forward at a steady rate.

Well, if that is time and at the point of your death there's, you know, it's a very, very long hose. Well, you don't have to roll through the rest of it or you don't have to roll on top of it. If you think of just bending that hose around, you cut a little hole in one place, cut a little hole in the other and the golf ball just rolls from one part of the hose to another and skips this big long loop that everybody else has to live through.

When Stephen the martyr died back in 30-something AD, what happened? It says in Acts he fell asleep and he did go from his body to being face-to-face with the Lord Jesus who stood to receive him. He saw the heavens opened and that's like a little hole being cut in the tube and Stephen just rolled from the point of his death to the rapture of the church and he didn't cease to exist. But from our standpoint, where is he? If we're in the rest of this big long loop and Stephen went to the future, Paul the Apostle and Peter and John and all the other Christians who have gone before us have jumped to the future.

They didn't cease to exist. They didn't stop. They just don't have to roll through the rest of the tube like we do.

If we die, that's what happens to us. We go directly to the rapture. And Old Testament saints, it

was the same way.

From a human perspective, their remains are sleeping in the dust of the earth. But when their deliverance is accomplished and fulfilled, many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake. And for them, it's like a blink of an eye.

Samuel, David, Joseph, Moses, Noah, Enoch, all of these Old Testament parties are going to find themselves back on the earth, resuscitated. And they're going to pick up where they left off. And here's going to be the Millennial Kingdom.

Now there's going to be a two-fold division. Some of them are going to inherit everlasting life. What does this mean? They are going to be set up with longevity, with prosperity, with opportunity, with provision, with prosperity in the Millennial Kingdom.

God says in another place, remember when he says, I will cause you to pass under the rod. And it's like the measuring of the sheep. And you sort the good sheep and the unproductive sheep.

And you put the good sheep in one place and you put the other sheep in another. You put the goats in another place and you sort them out and cause them to pass under the rod. When Old Testament Israel awakes, it's going to be kind of like our resurrection where there is a discernment.

Do you have gold, silver, precious stones, or do you have wood, hay, and stubble? Those who are faithful and obedient, who trusted God, are going to have a resurrection, a resuscitation to life, life that partakes of the eternal, life that partakes of the everlasting. And they are going to be qualified to sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the Millennial Kingdom and to see King David offering the sacrifices at the temple, to move about in the land of promise that was promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The others who are turned away at the rod, this is going to be a shameful thing.

Many of the Pharisees are going to come waddling up to the Lord with his rod and are going to smile and beam and say, Lord, Lord, in your name I did many wonderful things. He's going to turn them away at the door and say, I don't know you. You have no relationship with me.

You're a worker of iniquity. Depart. Go away.

I have no property reserved in your name. I have no everlasting life reserved for you. Now it doesn't mean that he's not saved.

It doesn't mean that he's going to go to hell. It means that that great promise of life and prosperity and blessing in the Millennial Kingdom is denied. Why? What does Abraham tell the rich man? You chose your good things in this life and you didn't open your hand to poor Lazarus out there being licked by the dogs.

He suffered in this life. You comforted yourself. Now it's his turn to be comforted and it's your

turn to suffer.

And the last shall be first and the first should be last. So that's what this is talking about. All of these people are raised, but there's going to be those who are in and those who are out.

This is why people have often speculated, oh, if you resurrect all of the believers from history, why they would never fit in a little postage stamp like the nation of Israel. Jesus said, you remember our memory verse narrow is the way and straight is the gate that leads to life and few there be that find it. How many faithful, obedient, mature Old Testament believers are there? Well, however many they are, they're going to fit comfortably in the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

It's not going to be overcrowded. It's not going to be like the mall on Memorial Day. It's going to be spacious and beautiful and it's going to be so desirable.

The people outside who have been denied entrance are going to cry. They're going to wail. They're going to prostrate themselves.

They're going to go down and do the dying cockroach. I can't believe you're not letting me in. They're going to be deeply disappointed, weeping, wailing, gnashing of teeth because they fail to understand.

They are not raised glorified. We've talked many times. I just reviewed a lesson from back in January when we were in Ezekiel talking about the resurrection for us is to a glorified state.

It is a resuscitation for Israel. There will be death. They need to grow crops.

They need to have children. They need to manage herds. They will sweat.

They have all kinds of human bodily needs and functions. The man who dies at the age of 100, people will say, well, he was just a kid. There will not be any such thing as an infant of days.

Nobody will say, well, he was an infant for this many days and now he's a toddler. Infancy will be measured in years. Childhood will be measured in years.

You die and you're a hundred years old. You're still just a youth because of that great longevity, just like before the flood. Well, those who are wise, what is the determination? Who is in and who is out? Who inherits eternal life? Who has the shame and contempt? Those who are wise.

Those who are wise. Wisdom has been an issue ever since the Garden of Eden. Why did Eve eat the fruit? What does the Garden of Eden say about the fruit? She saw that it was desirable to make one wise.

Desirable to make one wise. There are different kinds of wisdom, aren't there? There's the wisdom of the knowledge of good and evil. There's the wisdom of God that we have in Proverbs chapter 2. If you seek it as for treasure and search for it as for silver and gold.

So this is the wisdom of God. Now, does it say those who have converted many to the faith? Does it say those who have many notches on their belt for evangelism? Does it say those who have climbed mountains and suffered for God? Does it say those who have given huge quantities of money? Does it say those who have fearlessly handed out tracts at the airport? What does it say about those who inherit everlasting life? They're wise. Just like Jesus says in John 14 and 15, the one who has my word and keeps it.

He's the one that loves me. He's the one that's wise. It's wisdom that qualifies us.

It's our study of and memory of and faith in God's word. That is wisdom. Not the word of Satan.

That was Eve's mistake. He said, oh, disobey God. That's wisdom.

You'll be really smart if you disobey God. And it isn't at all, is it? That is the knowledge of evil that got Adam and Eve expelled from the garden. It's the knowledge of evil that got Satan kicked out of heaven.

They have become like one out from us, knowing good and evil. They become like old Satan, who we had to expel because he introduced evil. So those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the firmament.

Where will the light come from? It's the reflected glory of God, isn't it? The more we learn of God's word and God's plan, the more we implement it in our life, it makes us a bigger and bigger reflector. And our life reflects God's glory. You think about Daniel.

You think about Joseph. You think about the faithful believers in the Old Testament. You think about Caleb, the son of Jephunneh, one of my favorite Old Testament characters.

What's great about him? Even though he was one of the oldest men in Israel, his trust in God was so implicit. He said, I hear that there's a mountain that needs climbing and there are enemies that need killing up there. That's what I want.

Why could he say that? Do we say, well, boy, that Caleb, he was a real piece of work, wasn't he? It's his faith in God. He knows that his age and whatever the ravages of the years had done to him were nothing compared to the power of God. And it's his faith that makes him admirable.

It's his implicit trust in God. He just assumes that as the oldest man in Israel, he can climb the mountain, slay the enemies, and take it for himself. And he's going to eventually pass it along to his descendants.

Reflect the glory of God. They will shine like the brightness of the firmament. It's the reflected glory of God.

It is the work of God. It's the grace of God. It's the power of God that manifests in their lives.

That's what wisdom does. Why would somebody want to be wise? What's the point of being

smart in this life? Do you want to have financial wisdom and be a stocks and bonds and mutual funds wizard and make a big pile of cash? Do you want to be a socially wise person and wow people and have charisma and stop conversation every time you enter a room? Do you want to have educational wisdom and be able to dazzle people with your command of ancient history or politics or of some other area? Lots of people want to be wise. What is the only kind of wisdom that really lasts and really matters? How much is that kind of wisdom going to do when we're raised, when Jesus comes back for us? Is our personal charisma and ability to hold an audience enthralled going to make any difference? Is our financial manipulation wisdom going to do any good? Is our professional wisdom, oh, I can make a computer sit up on its hind legs and beg? I can fix any car that's ever broken.

I even understand all the modern electronic ignition and fuel injection. I can speak words and the car will change its own tires. I know so much about it.

None of that wisdom is going to matter when Jesus comes back, is it? When we take on a heavenly existence. The Bible says, lay up for yourselves. Jesus said, lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven.

That wisdom that we gain from God's word and as we seek to understand it and apply it in our life on a daily basis, this is our future. This is what makes us a big reflector of God's glory and that's the only thing worth being and worth doing. If you're not reflecting God's glory, why are you here? What is the point? Because everything else is ashes and dust.

You have J. Paul Getty, you have the Vanderbilts, you have all the people that was big money back in the early days of the United States in furs. People were trapping furs and that's how a lot of the Northwest got explored. People were looking for fresh places to trap and there was huge wealth for hats made out of beaver skins and coats made out of it and otters and trapping and huge money.

A lot of people made their fortune and went on to be big magnates. Well, where are they now? They are just as dead as the lowliest soldier that got killed in the Civil War. All of their hats and their coats and their financial holdings are dust in the wind.

So when they get raised, what are they going to do? Well, I hope my banker got raised because I want to go see what's left in my account. I mean, they can't do that. All the people that were popular, there were people they called them raconteurs who were hugely popular.

They were kind of like Mark Twain. They would travel around and tell stories and draw an audience. Are those people going to do that when they're resurrected? What's the only good you can do when you're raised? It is to shine like the brightness of the firmament.

Those who turn many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever and ever. The stars in Scripture are often compared to the angels, the unfallen angels. You know, the dragon sweeps a third of the stars out of heaven with his tail and now they're not stars anymore.

When they hit the ground, anything shining in the sky, we can say, oh, look, shooting star. It's a falling star. It's a real star.

The ancient Greeks called the planets wanderers. They said, well, these are stars, but they're wandering stars. Well, if you slam something down to the ground, do you still call it a star? It's not a star anymore.

The things that shine in the heavens, those are the stars. And the unfallen angels reflect God's glory. The cherubim that surround his throne, the angels who say, holy, holy, holy.

They owe their glory and their grandeur and their greatness and their fame and their power to the God whose glory they reflect. And we can be like that. These Old Testament saints can be like that.

What does it mean to turn many to righteousness? Oh, this is a favorite passage. Now, see, if you go get people saved, if you give them the gospel and tell them to ask Jesus in their heart and pray after me and so on, while you're turning many to righteousness, they'll come and quote this verse to you. What does it mean to turn many to righteousness? Well, first of all, we have to understand what is righteousness? What is righteousness? How do you get righteousness? Theme of the book of Romans.

Righteousness comes by faith, right? Now, righteousness doesn't come at the point of salvation. That's our deliverance from the penalty. That's the erasing of our guilt and our debt.

Where does righteousness come from? If somebody gets saved and steps out in the street and gets hit by a train, I guess they'd have to step on the tracks to get hit by a train, wouldn't they? So they step on the tracks and get hit by a train right after they accept Christ as their savior. Do they have righteousness? Do they have gold and silver and precious stones? What is righteousness? That is living faith. That's what you get as you live your life as a believer.

So who turns many to righteousness? People who promote, through fellowship, through speaking the truth to one another in love, God's word. We speak the truth in love. We encourage one another.

Why does scripture say that we should forsake not the assembling of ourselves together, as the habit of some is? We encourage one another to love and what? Good works. It's an encouragement to see fellow believers. And turning many to righteousness, that's what it means.

We fellowship. Your fellowship is important. Your presence in Bible class is important because it is what helps to turn many to righteousness.

It turns our attention to it. It reminds us of it. It encourages us in it.

And you may not ever say a word. It's just your faithfulness and your consistency and your

presence and the extent to which your life reflects God's glory. That is righteousness and it attracts others.

Be ready always to give an answer to every man who does what? Say it out loud. Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason for the hope that is in you. Our hope ought to be evident.

And somebody's going to ask, you know, you've got these problems. You've faced these challenges. You seem to be at peace.

You seem to have a stability and a contentment and an enjoyment and appreciation for life that I don't have. Why do you have that and I don't? You're turning many to righteousness because you're living a life of faith. You're speaking the truth in love.

You don't have to be a pastor. You don't have to be an evangelist. You don't ever have to share the gospel of Christ explicitly.

Doesn't mean you're not turning many to righteousness. Paul says there are women who can win their husbands to Christ and win them into a faithful life of obedience and righteousness without a word. It's just their example.

It's just their the reflection of God's glory in their life turns others and you shine like the stars forever and ever. Well, Gabriel goes on to say that you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall increase.

Notice he doesn't say wisdom shall increase. He says knowledge shall increase. What's the difference between wisdom and knowledge? The Internet is knowledge.

Bible class is wisdom. That make sense? There's a lot of knowledge to be had today. We're in the information age.

Do you think this is a good description of our times? Many running to and fro? Even Shakespeare said it hundreds of years ago. Man struts and frets his hour on the stage, sound and fury signifying nothing. He's a poor player strutting and fretting his hour on the stage, flinging his arms, giving his soliloquies and it means nothing.

Many will run to and fro. Knowledge will increase. But it's a different word than the word for wisdom.

Those who are wise will shine like the sun, not those who have knowledge. Now he says shut up the words and seal the book until the time of the end. What does this mean? It means this prophecy is finished.

When you seal something, that preserves it, even today. You've got your mason jars, your curry jars, you put a seal on them, you put paraffin in the top or you use their little special lids and it seals it. What does that do for the contents? It's preserved.

It doesn't go bad, it doesn't change, it doesn't corrupt. And so God, through the angel Gabriel, tells Daniel, okay, you're finished. I've given you everything you need.

Remember Daniel now is well up in his 80s or 90s. And when Gabriel says Daniel, seal up the book. He's been given revelation ever since he was a young man.

He's been interpreting dreams since he was a young man. Gabriel says, this is the last one. You've been writing this stuff down, well, this is the last chapter.

Finish the book. To seal up doesn't mean put it away so that nobody can read it. When you finished a letter or you finished a scroll, you finished a book in the ancient world, when it was finished, you put a seal on it.

That means I'm all done. If I'm going to write something else, it has to be a new book. And you get the idea that this is Gabriel telling Daniel, you know, you have fought the good fight.

You've run your race. You've completed the course. And you're in your chapter 12 here of your book.

Of course, he didn't have chapter divisions back then. But he says, this is the last vision. This is the last revelation.

So you can finish the book. Full stop. You can deliver this to the faithful men that you've been training, your protégés, the ones that you've been training and teaching in the word of God who are going to become the core of the Chaldeans, who will eventually hand down that knowledge from generation to generation and come and look for the Lord Jesus 500 years later.

Seal it up until the time of the end. Now notice in our punctuation, it says seal the book until the time of the end. What would happen if you moved that semicolon after the word book? Then how would this read? Shut up the words and seal the book.

Until the time of the end, many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase. Once the time of the end comes, the running to and fro is going to stop. And this burgeoning of knowledge, these are going to be characteristics.

The to and fro and the constant increase in knowledge is going to go on until the time of the end. That's the last thing that Gabriel says as a part of that message. Then in verse 5, I Daniel looked and there stood two others, one on this river bank and the other on that river bank.

And one said to the man clothed in linen who was above the waters of the river, how long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be? I heard the man clothed in linen who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven and swore by him who lives forever and ever that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time. Keep your finger here and turn back to Revelation chapter 10. We looked at it earlier.

The mighty angel comes down from heaven, set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the

land, and he cried with a loud voice. He had the seven thunders. Then what does he do in verse 5? He raised up his hand to heaven and swore by him who lives forever and ever.

What does this angel do? Held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven and swore by him who lives forever and ever. Is the mighty angel Michael? Absolutely. There is no question.

All you have to do is compare Daniel 11 and 12 with Revelation chapter 10. Time, times, and half a time. And when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.

Just when things look darkest, that's when deliverance comes. When all human hope is lost, God says in your weakness, my strength is made manifest. And when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, Antichrist has set up his pavilion between the holy mountain and the sea, all of these forces are gathering up and down that long valley.

One end of it is just west of Jerusalem and it extends northward all the way up through Lebanon, 180 something miles, to and through and well past Megiddo. Well, Daniel, naturally from his perspective, 500 odd years before Christ, says, although I heard, I did not understand. I said, my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? He said, go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

It's a lot easier to make sense of the prophetic portions of Daniel now than it was in Daniel's day or even in Christ's day, isn't it? Because now we can look back at Antiochus Epiphanes and we can see the near-term fulfillment. We can look at the place where the historic fulfillment leaves off and the future fulfillment is yet to be revealed, yet to be accomplished. But in fact, it is revealed.

And there's never been a time like today to see how the prophecy of Daniel is going to be fulfilled. Management of information, all of the things we've learned from Revelation about the mark of the beast and controlling commerce and the way Antichrist is going to fulfill these things in Daniel chapter 11. Go your way, Daniel.

What's the application of this for you and me? Do you and I understand everything in the scripture? Do we have it all figured out? Do we have all the answers? We don't, do we? But what does God tell us? Go your way. You have sufficient information for your way. A lot of this information is going to be for people in the future and it will be revealed to them in their time and in their day.

You go your way. You have the understanding you need to accomplish your life. We don't have to wait till we have everything figured out in God's word to apply and to live by the things that we do understand and that we do know.

Go your way. Remember Psalm 1? The man who is like the tree planted by the rivers of water, what does he do? He brings forth his fruit in his time, his season. He doesn't bring forth everybody's fruit in everybody's season.

His fruit, his season. Daniel, go your way. You have what you need for now and you have written down and recorded what other people are going to need for their time.

Go your way. The words are closed and sealed until the time of the end. Many shall be purified.

Many shall be made white. Many shall be refined. This message, when it's revealed, is going to be the object of faith and the source of righteousness so that people will shine like the sun.

The wicked are going to continue to do wickedly. There's no amount of the word of God that's going to change their minds.