

BOOK OF DANIEL
POSTLUDE TO DANIEL'S FOURTH VISION
PART 1-THE GREAT TRIBULATION
DANIEL 12:1, 5-7

Introduction

Daniel 12 wraps up this fourth and final vision of the prophet Daniel which has spans across Daniel 10, 11, and 12. In this final chapter we see a description of the last end time conflict as well as the final victory for Israel given by the hand of God!

The time known as the "**Great Tribulation**" refers to the second half of Daniel's 70th Week.

According to **Matthew 24:15-21**, this begins with "*the abomination of desolations*" or "*the overspreading of abominations*" (**Daniel 9:27b**), and coincides with the events prophesied in **Jeremiah 30:4-11; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, 8-10; Revelation 12:7-17; and 13:4-8**.

I. THE TIME OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION. (vs 1)

The phrase, "*...and at that time...*" connects **Daniel 12:1** with the events of **Daniel 11:36-45**, thereby placing the "**Great Tribulation**" in the time of the end.

II. THE COMBATANTS IN THE GREAT TRIBULATION. (vs 1)

Further details concerning these activities of the archangel Michael are given in **Revelation 12:7-9**.

In this celestial battle, Michael and his hosts will prevail, causing Satan to be cast out into the earth. From Revelation 12 and 13 we see that he will then energize the Antichrist, ushering in his reign of world-wide terror.

III. THE NATURE OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION. (vs 1)

Considering the horrific nature of wars past and present; Daniel's description of what is to come is frightening!
(See also: **Matthew 24:21-22; Zechariah 14:2; Joel 2:1-11; 3:9- 13**)
Every reference to this time uses superlative language!

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Though this is especially Israel's tribulation, it is a time of divine indignation over all the earth as well; so others will suffer!
(Isaiah 26:20; Daniel 11:36; Revelation 16:10)

But, praise God, those who are saved NOW **will not** pass through this great time of God's wrath!

The question is asked time and again, "**Will present-day Christians and true Churches enter into this period of Tribulation?**"

The answer is an emphatic NO for the following eight reasons:

1. **Daniel's 70th Week is specifically concerned with "thy people"—i.e. the Jews—Daniel 9:24-27; 12:1.**
2. **The Great Tribulation is called the "time of Jacob's trouble" in Jeremiah 30:7. (Again, this refers to the Jews)**
3. **The design of the Great Tribulation is to refine and save Israel—(Ezekiel 20:34-38; 22:19-22; Hosea 3:4-5; Zechariah 13:8-9; 12:10; 14:2-3)**
4. **The warnings to the "elect" in Matthew 24 are Jewish in their context—(vs 16, 20, 22)**
5. **Present day believers are "...not appointed... to wrath..." (1 Thessalonians 5:9), but will be kept "from the hour... which shall come upon all the world" (Revelation 3:10).**
6. **After the apostle John is "caught up" (a picture or type of the "rapture") in Revelation 4:1-2, there is no mention of a Church or Churches being involved in any of the events on earth. (Revelation 6 through 19 gives a detailed description of Daniel's 70th Week.)**

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7. **The Antichrist cannot be revealed until the restrainer ("he who now letteth [i.e. hinders]"—2 Thessalonians 2:7) is "taken out of the way."**

According to *1 John 4:3-4*, it is the indwelling Holy Spirit of God Who overcomes the spirit of antichrist in this present age. If the Holy Spirit is to be taken out of the way, then it just stands to reason that those who are permanently indwelt by Him must also be removed from the earth!

8. **The return of Jesus Christ for His saints (the Rapture) is an imminent event.**
No one knows when He shall come—*Matthew 24:42-46; Titus 2:13; Luke 12:35-40*—we must be ready for Him at any time! If present-day believers entered into Daniel's 70th Week, Christ's coming could be figured out from the information given in prophecy (e.g. 42 months or 1,260 days)

- IV. **THE VICTORY OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION. (vs 1)**
There will be a day of national deliverance of the remnant of Israel. This will occur at the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth. (*Zechariah 14:1-5, 9-11; Romans 11:25-27*)

Note that this deliverance will be on the basis of a personal faith in Christ—"...every one that shall be found written in the book." (*See also: Revelation 20:15; Zechariah 12:8-13:1*)

- V. **THE LENGTH OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION. (vs 5-7)**
A. **The Heavenly Spectators Of The Vision . (vs 5)**
"...other two..." , i.e. two angels.

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- B. **The Giver Of The Vision. (vs 6)**
This "man clothed in linen" is the same preincarnate Christ mentioned in *Daniel 10:5-6*.
- C. **The Question. (vs 6)**
"How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?"
- D. **The Answer. (vs 7)**
"...a time, times, and an half..." = 3 ½ years.
- We are now very familiar with this time span—it is the last half of Daniel's 70th Week. (*See: Daniel 7:25; Revelation 11:2; 12:6, 14; 13:5*)
- E. **The Surety. (vs 7)**
The hands raised is a double swearing as to the certainty of these prophecies.