

Your Time is Short

Daniel 12:1-13

Introduction:

- When your earthly life comes to an end
 1. It will not matter how _____ you lived
 2. It will matter _____ you lived
- The aged Daniel is told in verse 13
 1. That he will d_____ (enter rest)
 2. That he will r_____
 3. That he will receive a r_____ related to his service to God (lot, allotted portion, allotted inheritance)
- Your time on this earth is short; what should you do with it?

Let the Lord Refine You (5-12)

- God's refining work stated
 1. Verse 7 – it will take “times, time, and half a time” (an idiom for 3 ½ times) for the power of the h_____ people to be shattered
 - a. Saint literally means “holy one”
 - b. Rev 13:7 – the final empire will have power to war against the saints and _____ them for a duration of _____ months or 3 ½ years.
 2. Verse 10 – many will be purged, purified and refined
 - a. This is necessary to r_____ the true believers
 - ♦ Before Christ comes and gathers believers to Him, the “apostasy” will occur and the man of lawlessness (Antichrist) will be revealed (2 Thess 2:1-3)
 - ♦ “Apostasy” literally means “a standing a _____ from” and refers to many Christians (by name or religion only) standing away from the faith to avoid persecution and then follow the Antichrist.
 - b. Jesus alluded to verse 11 – the abomination of desolation – to warn believers when to flee to the m_____ (Matt 24:15; Mk 13:14)
 - ♦ The Greek translation of Daniel has three references to the abomination of desolation, but only one matches the Greek of Matthew and Mark – circle the match

	<u>the abomination of desolation</u>
Matt 24:15 & Mk 13:14	to bdelugma tēs erēmōseōs
Daniel 12:11	to bdelugma tēs erēmōseōs
Daniel 11:31	bdelugma erēmōseōs
Daniel 9:27	bdelugma tōn erēmōseōn

- ♦ 68 A.D. – m_____ abominations were set up as testified by the High Priest (Josephus, *Wars Book IV Chap 3:10*) – the apostles and believers fled to the mountains (did they remain in hiding for 1290 or 1335 days because of Dan 12:11,12 bringing them to 72 A.D.?)
- ♦ 70 A.D. – the temple and Jerusalem were completely d_____, leaving it desolate for almost 1900 years! By 72 A.D. only one stronghold existed for the Romans to shatter – Masada, which fell in 73 A.D.
- ♦ It is possible that 1290 and 1335 days had double fulfillment

- 1) For the apostles and believers of 68 A.D.
- 2) For the believers of the 42 month persecution by the Antichrist (42 months = 1277 or 1278 days) – won't know until the time of f_____)

●God's refining work upon you – James 1:2-4 (every adversity is a t_____ designed to show that your faith is real)

1. A common question Christians ask God – *why did you allow this to happen to me?* – what is the answer?
2. Another common question – *how long will I have to endure this adversity?* – sometimes the time frame will be revealed, but many times it will not be.
3. Does Christ really make a difference in your life?

Let the Lord Assign You (4)

●Daniel served God all his days

1. He did not d_____ up what he was going to do for God.
2. He let God assign him his service
 - a. He was ordered to *conceal* (KJV – *shut up*; NIV – *roll up*) the words he was writing
 - ♦The Hebrew word means “to s_____” often used to “stop up” a well by filling it in (e.g. Gen 26:15)
 - ♦Daniel had been adding to this scroll, vision after vision, and it was time to s_____. This was the last vision.
 - b. He was ordered to s_____ the scroll – this was a w_____ seal
 - ♦This preserved the scroll from d_____ due to exposure to the elements
 - ♦This promoted the scroll to be handled with c_____ to benefit future generations.
 - c. _____ to benefit future generations.

●Well-intentioned Christians dream up things to do for God

1. General assignment – Gal 5:22,23 (reflect the character of C_____ in every aspect of your life)
2. Specific assignment – becomes obvious as you decide to render un_____ service each day (was it not obvious for Daniel to interpret dreams, record visions, advise kings, etc?)

Let the Lord Shine You (3)

●Those that will shine forever

1. Those who have insight (KJV – wise) – more literally, “wise instructors”
2. Those that lead the many to r_____ - that is a right standing with God.

●Application

1. Salvation is a g_____ we do not deserve – it is free.
2. Shining like the stars is a r_____ based upon our service here on earth
3. As you let the Lord refine your Christian character, and as you complete the Lord's assignments, He will use you to lead people to righteousness (i.e. to Christ).
 - a. You may not even realize whom you lead to Christ
 - b. You will eventually know – on the l_____ day (I Cor 3:13,14) and will be rewarded.

How you spend eternity will directly correlate with how you spent your time on earth. Your time is short! What will you do with it?