



God's Plan *For The End...*

Text: Daniel 12:1-3 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: On **December 7, 1941**, *Pearl Harbor was the victim of a surprise military strike by the Air Service of the Imperial Japanese Navy.* That day was HORRIBLE because **the attack was unexpected and the military personnel in Pearl Harbor were unprepared.**

In this sermon, we focus on the words of God the Father, *as they were written down by Daniel.* He was moved by the Holy Spirit, *about 2,600 years ago*, to write down **God's plan for the end of the world.** Since **God's final plan will certainly come to pass** and **we may be living in it now**, it is vital for us to **expect Jesus' return and be prepared** for His coming!

- Great Distress:** ¹ **“Now at that time Michael [that is, our Lord Jesus Christ], the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of **distress** such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time...”**

- a. How great will the distress be? It will be the **GREATEST** ever since nations have existed. So, when did nations first come into existence? *After the worldwide flood.* In other words, only one event – *the worldwide flood, which included the drowning of multitudes* – caused greater distress than the time surrounding the return of Jesus.
 - b. Why the great distress? “...the Antichrist will lash out in desperate fury to seduce the people of God and to undermine their faith in Christ.”¹ *Those things are certainly happening now: “...the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8).*
2. **God’s Rescue:** “...and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.”
- a. What time? *When Jesus returns!*
 - b. What people? The ones whom God has **chosen** before creation, **washed** in the blood of the Lamb, and **kept** in the one true faith!
 - c. What does the Bible say about the book of life?
 - i. **Revelation 3:5** [Jesus said:] **He who overcomes** [that is, he who, by God’s grace, continues to believe in Me to the end] ... **I will never erase his name from the book of life** [also, see Matthew 10:22].
 - ii. **Revelation 21:27** “...nothing unclean, and no one who practices **abomination** [things

¹ John C. Jeske, People’s Bible Commentary, Daniel (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1992, 2005), 218.

*extremely disgusting] and lying, shall ever come into [the New Jerusalem], but only those whose names are written in the **Lamb's book of life.**" // Remember, only in Jesus are we clean; now, being clean, let us say YES to God's will for our lives!*

3. **Life or Disgrace:** ² "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting **life**, but the others to **disgrace** [*shame*] and everlasting **contempt** [*disapproval*]."
- a. Who are sleeping? *All who have died.* But, when Jesus comes, we will see His victory over death when all are raised. The Bible says: "The last enemy that will be abolished is death (1 Cor. 15:26). Also: "...there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked" (Acts 24:15).
 - b. Who will be raised to **life**? *Those who continued in Christ to the end! We will finally experience the fullness of God's salvation and rejoice forever!*
 - c. Who will be raised to **disgrace**? *All who refused to repent! "This idea goes down hard for many people who picture God as a lovable but spineless being who wouldn't do anything worse to a person than a slap on the wrist. But that is not the picture the Bible paints of God. The same God who at the time of Noah threw oceans of water over the mountain tops, drowning a whole world of screaming people, the same God who once scorched Sodom and Gomorrah in a hurricane of fire, the same God who fed wicked*

Queen Jezebel to the dogs—that same God still reigns in heaven. And he has told us that what has done before, he will do again.”²

4. **Eternal Blessings:**³ “Those who have insight [understanding] 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.”
- a. What should we understand? *That only those who know Jesus will be welcomed into heaven.*
 - b. What is natural for believers? *To care about the salvation of others.*
 - c. What are the results of such caring?
 - i. We equip ourselves with God’s truth!
 - ii. We pray for the salvation of others!
 - iii. We share the Bible with others!
 - iv. We invite others to church!
 - v. We invite others to Bible class!
 - vi. We learn to answer concerns!
 - vii. We rejoice with all who believe!

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, we know You are coming at the appointed time; so, *between now and then*, ✦keep us close to You, ✦grow us in the Bible, and ✦move us – *with love, courage, and conviction* – to be an eternal blessing to others!

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² Ibid., 220.