

LESSON SEVEN

THE TIME OF THE END

TEXT: Daniel Chapters Ten, Eleven & Twelve.

A. CHAPTER TEN:

1. GOD ANSWERS PRAYER:

The tenth chapter is an interlude between chapters nine and eleven. As far as time is concerned chapter eleven should follow chapter nine. However, this chapter is very important for it shows again that God answers prayer.

Daniel was fasting and praying for three weeks. An angel of great beauty and power appeared to him. Undoubtedly he was an archangel. His description is similar to that of our Lord's in Revelation chapter one.

Although Daniel prayed and fasted for twenty-one days, the answer was sent on the first day. The prince of Persia hindering the angel caused the delay. Sometimes the answer to our prayers may be hindered by demon powers but we may be assured that God's answer is always on the way.

It should also be noted that Daniel was told the second time that he was greatly beloved by God (Daniel 10:11).

2. MICHAEL, DANIEL'S PRINCE:

Apparently, Michael was especially commissioned to take care of Daniel's needs. He is called Daniel's prince (Daniel 10:21). When the prince of Persia hindered the angel, Michael went to his aid. Michael is an archangel (Jude 9) and one time he rebuked the devil.

3. MINISTRY OF FASTING:

Scriptural Reference:

"Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting" (Matthew 17:21).

In the spiritual battle with demon forces, prayer alone is not sufficient. Prayer alone will accomplish much but it takes prayer with fasting to defeat the power of demons. Daniel fasted for twenty-one days. It apparently was not a total fast but rather a partial fast, which meant that Daniel, abstained from eating meat or pastry. He very likely ate only some fruit and drank fruit juices. At any rate, it was a fast, which gave his prayer power with God.

4. MINISTRY OF ANGELS:

We must never underestimate the ministry of angels (Hebrews 1:14). Angels have great power. They watch over and protect the saints.

B. CHAPTER ELEVEN:

Chapter eleven deals with the Kingdom of Greece under Alexander the Great, the division of the empire and the conflicts that resulted between Egypt and Syria. The prophecies of this chapter were fulfilled in exact detail as given.

We shall examine carefully certain statements given here:

1. VERSE TWO:

The three kings of Persia were Ahasuerus, Artaxerxes and Darius (not Darius the Mede). The fourth and most powerful was Xerxes. He was very wealthy and powerful.

2. VERSE THREE:

The mighty king mentioned here is Alexander the Great, the He Goad seen in chapter eight.

3. VERSE FOUR:

Alexander died young and his kingdom was divided into four parts. It was divided between four generals, but not to Alexander's posterity, not to his children.

Little is mentioned about two of these divisions but emphasis is placed upon Egypt and Syria. These two countries greatly influenced the history of Palestine and the Jews. In this prophecy, the King of the South refers to Egypt and the King of the North refers to Syria.

4. VERSE SIX:

An alliance was brought about by the marriage of the Egyptian Princess Berenice, daughter of Ptolemy II to Antiochus Theos, King of the North. This alliance failed for when Ptolemy died, Antiochus called back his former wife and had Berenice poisoned. The brother of Berenice avenged her death by conquering Syria and carried back to Egypt the silver and gold which previously had been plundered from Egypt.

No attempt will be made to develop further the historical fulfillment of the prophecies of chapter eleven. However, it would be profitable for a student to do the research necessary to see just how accurately this chapter was fulfilled.

C. ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES: (Daniel 11:21-45).

He is the little horn of chapter eight and a type of the Antichrist of the end times.

He was a younger son of Antiochus the Great. He is described in considerable detail: 1) vile; 2) He will come peaceably and with flatteries; 3) He will exalt and deify himself (verse 36); 4) He is an atheist (verse 37 "*desire of women.*" This is Jesus Christ); 5) He is materialistic (verse 38) and 6) He will desecrate the temple (verse 31).

D. PRESENT DAY CONFLICT:

The present struggle and tension in the eastern Mediterranean is shown somewhat in this chapter. It is possible to see Egypt, Syria and possibly Russia, in the prophecy here. Although this chapter was literally fulfilled in prophecy, yet it is largely a forerunner of what is about to happen.

The Antichrist will come to power, even as Antiochus, deceitfully and with flatteries. In the beginning Israel will be deceived and make a treaty with him. When her eyes are opened to his

real character she breaks the covenant and fierce persecution is the result. Antichrist will be the consummation of all ungodliness, atheism and lawlessness.

E. CHAPTER TWELVE:

The conjunction "and" links this chapter with chapter eleven. The latter part of chapter eleven was describing "Antichrist." This means that the phrase "at that time" is speaking of the time of Antichrist.

The Jews will accept him after the rapture of the church. Jesus spoke of this in John 5:43, *"If another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive."*

He will make a covenant with the Jews but will break it in the middle of the week (Daniel 9:27).

F. BOOK OF LIFE:

Special notice should be taken of the important place the Book of Life has in the judgment (Revelation 20:15).

Also special attention should be given to the statement concerning the resurrection and the rewards given to the wise and to soulwinners (verse three).

G. SIGNS OF THE TIME OF THE END:

1. TIME OF TROUBLE:

This is the Great Tribulation spoken of by our Lord. *"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matthew 24:21).*

There is promise of deliverance for the Jews at this time. *"... And at that time Thy people shall be delivered" (Daniel 12:1).*

2. THE PROPHECY OF DANIEL UNSEALED:

The Book of Daniel was to remain a sealed book until this time (verse 9). The fact that only within the last hundred years has this prophecy been understood is a clear and definite sign that we are living in the time of the end.

3. INCREASE IN TRAVEL:

The tremendous increase in the amount of travel and the speed of travel (verse 4) is a definite sign of the time of the end. Much of this increase has taken place in the twentieth century. Almost overnight man has been brought out of the horse & buggy age to travel in supersonic jets. In the United States some 485,000,000 passengers travel the air routes annually.

4. KNOWLEDGE:

Knowledge is increasing in the ratio as to the population explosion. This explosion of knowledge is another certain sign of the time of the end.

5. INCREASE OF WICKEDNESS:

Verse 10 gives us another sign. The wicked shall do more wickedness and shall have no understanding.

There has always been sin in this world but never the corruption and perversion of the present time. This verse brings out a clear contrast between light and darkness, delusion and understanding, wickedness and righteousness.

6. THREE PERIODS OF TIMES: (verses 11 & 12).

- a. Verse 7: Time, Times and a half. This is 3 1/2 years or 42 months.

In Revelation 11:3, we find mentioned 1260 days which undoubtedly is the last half of the Tribulation period which closes with the Battle of Armageddon.

- b. Verse 11: 1,290 days.

The extra thirty days could easily refer to the length of the battle, from the time Jesus appears until all resistance ceases. Some have taught that it could be a period of grace but that is doubtful. The length of time for the great battle would seem to be the more reasonable interpretation.

- c. Verse 12: 1,335 days.

This extra forty-five days undoubtedly has to do with the time necessary for Christ to establish His Kingdom following the Battle of Armageddon. At any rate he that waiteth and seeth this time come to pass is blessed by God.

LESSON SEVEN

SELF HELP TEST

- A. Quote the Scriptural references that refers to Michael as being Daniel's prince.

- B. Describe what kind of man was Antiochus Epiphanes.

- C. Write out the verse that joins Daniel chapter 12 with chapter 11.

- D. List five signs of the end times.