

# Daniel 12:1-7 - Jesus Comforts his Saints in Trouble

TSK, Henry, Young, Leupold, HebrewLexicon, Calvin, JFB, Poole,

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: You can't properly grasp the size of a mountain if you are close to it. The mountain might seem overwhelming. But when you move back 50km you get a better perspective of its size. If you move even farther back, in an airplane for instance, and you see the mountain in the context of earth, then you realize how small the mountain really is.

In a similar way, God wanted to give Judah a proper perspective角度, 观点 of the size of their coming troubles. So he took them 300 years away to get their temporary troubles in perspective. In the grand scheme宏伟计划 of the kingdom, their troubles would be relatively short – about 3 ½ years. This perspective would remind God's people that his kingdom was unstoppable and encourage them to face their coming troubles without fear.

Our headings are: Comforts from Christ - Illustrated, and Comforts from Christ - Preserved.

Our goals are: That you keep your eyes on the big picture of Christ's advancing kingdom so you will be able to face personal troubles.

## Comforts from Christ - Illustrated

1 "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, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Everyone who is found written in the book.

1. Michael, which means "Who is like God," is Jesus. How can we know that?

a. Michael's character and abilities show that he is the Son of God himself. For example, Michael watches over the "sons of Daniel's people" and the angels. This is God's work. One angel said:

Daniel 10:21 "But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.)

Look at another example of the how the Angel of the Lord does what only God does. (Also Rev 12:7-10.)

Exodus 23:20 "Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. 21 "Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke 激怒 Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him.

The angel of Exodus 23, has the ability to forgive sins, something only God can do. Abram called an angel "Jehovah."

b. Apostle Paul confirmed (though it is often missed) that Jesus is the archangel. This was not referring to some other person's voice.

1Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Verse 16 is better translated: "With a shout-with archangelic voice." (Young's Literal Translation.)

2. Michael would save the Jews who were going to insufferably 难以忍受地 suffer at the hand of the abominable 可憎恨的

Antiochus Epiphanes. Michael doesn't hide the truth about the suffering because he wanted the Jews to put it in perspective in the long history of redemption. Suffering would only last a few years...a blip 雷达上的一点 on the radar screen...when viewed from 300 years before. And behind those dark clouds was sunshine again!

Psalms 30:5 For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.

But note the passive language: The people "shall be delivered". The people were not the source of their freedom from Antiochus; they were the recipient of freedom. The people could not deliver themselves.

2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt 耻辱, 蔑视

3. What is the nature of the salvation that God would give his people? Michael would deliver the faithful from sin, death, and hell. Though the Jews were saved from Antiochus, that was not the salvation of which Michael spoke. God does not always save his people from every earthly trouble – even serious trouble. You might lose your job, your spouse or child might die, you might get sick, your house might burn down, but you have, and will always have much more. Your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life. This is true salvation. What great comforts! You may die during persecution, but you will get eternal life. What a difference this is from the error that comes from preachers' mouths today... You have no guarantee 保证 of health and wealth from God!

3 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.

4. **Michael encouraged the Jews to shine under persecution** - knowing the reward that waited for them. The people were not to hide their lights under a bushel. They were to put them on a lamp stand. The Jews were encouraged to shine their lights in 2 ways:

a. **They were to personally shine their lights by faithfully enduring the suffering under Antiochus and continuing to serve the Lord.** How you suffer says much about who you are and what you think of your salvation!

b. **They were to personally shine their lights by faithfully encouraging those who were compromising** 妥协 with Antiochus against God's people to return and faithfully serve the Lord.

Brothers and sisters, this is something to seriously consider...you too must learn to stand in the gap for your children, your pastor, your wife, and your family and friends...pray they might be saved or sanctified...and live faithfully before the Lord! **You don't stand beside them by accepting what they do, but you stand beside them by warning them if they are living in sin and are compromising.** Of course the ultimate "Stander-in-the-Gap" is the Lord Jesus. Messiah would "stand" in the gap for his people before his Father. **You stand for others because he stood for you.**

5. **Michael knew that those who shone their lights would receive a greater reward in heaven.**

**Hebrews 11: 35** Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they **might obtain a better resurrection.**

**Isaiah 4: 3** And it shall come to pass that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy-everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem. 4 When the Lord has washed away the filth 污垢 of the daughters of Zion, and purged 清除, 净化 the blood of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of burning, 5 then the LORD will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night. For over all the glory there will be a covering. 6 **And there will be a tabernacle for shade in the daytime from the heat, for a place of refuge,** and for a shelter from storm and rain.

This is the same language Jesus himself used.

**John 5:28** "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 "and come forth-those who have done good, **to the resurrection of life,** and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

6. **Michael comforted Christians with the knowledge that the Lord will bring the wicked to shame in eternal hell fire.**

**Acts 24:15** "I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.

This knowledge of God's coming judgment on the wicked would serve as a warning to the wicked who would betray 背叛 their faith under Antiochus' persecution. Yes, God described the reward for the godly as they would endure severe hardships and torture and hold their faith even to their death, but he also gave the threat of hell to persuade compromisers to return to God's favor.

## **Comforts from Christ - Preserved**

4 "But you, Daniel, **shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end;** many shall run to and fro 跑来跑去, and knowledge shall increase."

1. **The Lord did not tell Daniel to hide the words of the prophecy from the people of God.** That would have made no sense.

Rather, **God told Daniel to keep the record of what he said in a safe place.** He could make copies and use them, but the main document had to be kept safe. These events were not going to happen for more than 300 years.

Saving the main document in a safe place would not have been strange for the Jews and it is not strange for you today either. You learn to make a back-up copy of your documents - keeping them in a safe place...like on a CD. And that was what God wanted. **He did not want them to lose a record of the comforts he promised.** He wanted future Jews to know that he was the one who continued to work in their lives and would bring Messiah. He wanted each succeeding generation to take that distant look so they would keep perspective. Today, you have that completed sealed up book. Are you using it? Do you see troubles close up and panic? Read the whole story.

5 Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank. 6 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?"

2. **Then 2 angels on either side of the river bank then asked the Lord Jesus (Michael) when these terrible events would take place.** Why two angels? **Two angelic witnesses confirmed the truth of God. Michael the Archangel was the 3<sup>rd</sup> witness.** Did not 3 witnesses appear to Abraham?

3. **But which river was this and what was the significance 意义, 重要性 of this river?** This was most likely the Tigris River, originally called the Hiddekel in Genesis 2:14.) What is the significance of

this? This river points back to Egypt where God showed his dominance 统治地位 over the waters ...turning them to blood and opening up the Red Sea for his people to go free. The waters were death to the Egyptians but life for the Jews. Daniel was in the Persian Empire and did not go to Egypt so God illustrated his work with the river that was nearby and not the Nile River of Egypt. You notice also that **Michael was above the waters, showing his dominance** over the waters. Some nations worshipped their rivers, but Jehovah ruled them all!

Psalms 29:10 The LORD sat enthroned at the Flood, And the LORD sits as King forever.

Job 9:8 He alone spreads out the heavens, And treads on the waves of the sea;

Matthew 14:25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.

7 Then 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, that it shall be for **a time, times, and half a time**; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered 破碎, all these things shall be finished.

4. Michael then swore an answer to the 2 angels, as Daniel listened. It is important to note that he swore with both hands lifted up, while men often swore with one hand. By swearing with two hands the Lord wanted to show that he was absolutely and totally speaking the truth.

5. Michael revealed the time of Judah's great suffering was to be 3 ½ years - (1+2+ ½, time, times, and half a time ). Three and one half years is half of 7...so it is a broken perfect number. It other words, the Lord would break Antiochus and all other enemies of his people before he could fully destroy all of God's people. Yes, God did break Antiochus after he captured Jerusalem with much force for 3 ½ years.

Yes, Jesus' ministry did run for 3 ½ years and then he destroyed the Devil.

Yes, 3 ½ years after Jesus died the Gospel spread - just the time when Stephen was stoned.

Yes, the Roman siege of Jerusalem and the killing of about 1000000 Jews was for 43 months, 3 ½ years, and then the Gospel spread to all parts of the world. Complete destruction as stopped!

Matthew 24:22 "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

The point was that 3 ½ is a broke 7 - a perfect number.

Revelation 12:14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

What blessed comfort God gave to his people.

### **Conclusion:**

1. **God would save his people from death** - not necessarily physical death at the hand of Antiochus, for he killed some - but he certainly saved them from spiritual death. 2. **God would save them some 300 years** later. He told them this so they would not panic. God wanted them to know that his kingdom was unstoppable and that Antiochus persecution was just a blip on the radar. No kingdom could stop him from redeeming mankind.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: 1. Today **you need to act like people of the revealed and preserved Word of God.** This is the only way you will see the big picture of God's advancing kingdom and so be able to put your smaller troubles in perspective and not panic. 2. **You need to be people of productive, persistent prayer**...people who will stand in the gap for those who are straying from the truth and are compromising with sin. Take a look at North America and you will find many reasons to intensely pray.

Finally, salvation of your soul is in Jesus Christ alone. He controls the waters, but he also controls the fires of hell. If you want to be saved from the fires of hell you must know more about Jesus Christ. To know about Jesus you must read the Bible...and ask a Christian for help if you need it.