

**Welcome to the  
Common Ground Café!**



**Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018**

**Soldiers in a Great War, Part 2  
A Study of Daniel 10-12**

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When you've faced hard times, what have people said to you in an effort to cheer you up? What was helpful and unhelpful?

In Daniel 11-12, Daniel is given a detailed revelation meant to encourage him. The last three chapters of the book, Daniel 10-12, form a single unit. Roughly, chapter 10 *introduces* the vision, chapter 11 *recounts* the vision, and chapter 12 *closes* the vision with instruction. We looked at chapter 10 last week. Today we'll look at chapters 11-12.

The revelation that we see in chapters 11-12 came to Daniel when he was discouraged. Read Daniel 10:2-3.

Pastor Tom said that Daniel was troubled over experiences at the end of the Babylonian exile. Answer the following questions:

- ❖ Cyrus allowed the exiles to return to Jerusalem in the first year after Persia conquered Babylon. According to verse 1, how many years had passed since then?
- ❖ What do Nehemiah 1:1-3 and Ezra 4:4-5 say about the experiences of those who returned home to rebuild Jerusalem?

Reports like these must have deeply troubled Daniel. In chapters 10-12, we see a mighty warrior angel appear to Daniel with a revelation to encourage him.

### **God's people will endure tough times in the future and prevail**

You don't have to read 11:2-35, but what was the title Pastor Tom gave for this section of scripture? ("G\_\_\_\_\_ of T\_\_\_\_\_.")

- ❖ Do you remember from the sermon how many years of history are covered in 11:2-35?
- ❖ Half of these verses talk about one horrible leader in history who brought terrible persecution on Jerusalem. Do you remember from the sermon what his name was? (Extra credit: Do you remember from a previous sermon what Jewish holiday celebrates the victory over this ruler?)

In the sermon, how did Pastor Tom entitle 11:36-45? (“The King at the \_\_\_\_\_”) The following New Testament verses describe the same ruler that we’re told about in Daniel 11:36-45. Read the verses and identify the title or the description used to describe this ruler: Matthew 24:15-16; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4; Revelation 13:1 and 5-8; 2 John 1:7.

In the sermon, how did Pastor Tom entitle 12:1-7? (“V \_\_\_\_ at Last”).

- ❖ Read 12:1-2. What is the good news for those who are alive at the defeat of the Antichrist, and what is the good news for believers who are dead and buried at the time of his defeat?
- ❖ Daniel 12:1-2 are about victory for believers alive and dead at the end of the Antichrist’s reign. How does Paul say the same thing in 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17?
- ❖ Read 1 Corinthians 15:20. What does the word “firstfruits” mean? According to this verse, how does the resurrection of Christ that we will celebrate on Easter next week relate to the resurrection of believers in Daniel 12:1-2?
- ❖ Read Daniel 12:5-7. These verses say it is only after “the power of the holy people has been finally broken” that God comes in victory. Does this phrase tell us that things will get better or worse for God’s people as history wraps up? Read 1 Peter 4:12-17 and summarize what advice Simon Peter gives to believers who face hardship for their faith.

**If God’s people will endure tough times  
in the future and prevail,  
I can endure my tough times now**

Read Daniel 12:8-13. Pastor Tom said that “Go your way, Daniel,” didn’t mean, “Go away, Daniel.” So what does “go your way” mean?

Thankfully, we have two resources for endurance.

**First, God’s people endure because of what we know.** Read 12:3-4 and 12:10. God’s word tells us the final fate of God’s people and those who do not belong to God. How does this make you “wise”? How does this knowledge enable you to make “wise” choices?

Read Psalm 73:2-14. Asaph the poet admitted there was a time he grew bitter about life. What was making him bitter?

Read Psalm 73:16-17. How does entering the sanctuary start to make him “wise” (to use the word in Daniel 12)?

Read Psalm 73:24-26. He’s entered the sanctuary and becoming “wise” (to use the word in Daniel 12). So, what was his renewed attitude toward God even though life still wasn’t going well for him?

**Second, God’s people endure because of who knows us.** Read Daniel 12:1 and 12:13 and answer the following questions:

- ❖ Read Revelation 21:9, 10, and 27. What is this “book” that is described in Daniel 12 and Revelation 21?
- ❖ How do you get your name in that book? (Hint: John 6:39-40)
- ❖ How can Daniel 12:13 comfort us as we face our death or the death of a loved one?

What was the most surprising or comforting thing you have learned during our 3 months studying the book of Daniel?



Close with praise reports and prayer requests. ***Include the names of those you intend to invite to our Good Friday and Easter services!***