

LESSON 13

Concluding events

Objective: To learn that people of God live a life of glorious hope and do wonderful things for the Lord while the nations of the world grope in darkness without any certainty about their future.

Bible References: Dan. 11:40 – 12:13

Memory verses: (NKJV) Dan. 12:2-3

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

Introduction

What is the future of this world? How are things going to end? We live at a time when these questions are agitating people's minds. Word of God gives clear answers to these questions. Bible reveals how this earth and the whole mankind defiled by sin can be redeemed from that miserable condition through Jesus Christ. Prophet Daniel learnt that the righteous will be rewarded, and unrighteousness will come to an end. He died with great hope in the Lord. In today's adverse circumstances, we must stand steadfast in our hope and do mighty works for our Lord because we have the revelation of end times through the Word of God.

1. The end of Antichrist

i) Covenants:

We have already learnt that Antichrist will establish his autocratic rule for one week or 7 years in the world after the rapture of the church. He will have false prophet as his most important aide (Rev. 19:20). He will enter into covenants with many at the beginning of his rule (Dan. 9:27). His first covenant will be with the ten nations that join him (Rev. 17:12-13). As the head of the ten-nations' federation, he will enter into a covenant with Israel. Israel will be under the mistaken impression that Antichrist is the promised Messiah. Moreover, the nominal Christians who remain on earth after the rapture of the Church will unite under one leader and also enter into a covenant with Antichrist. The harlot described in Rev. 17:1-18 is this union. Its headquarters will be Rome, the great city which is established on ten hills and has power over kings of the earth.

ii) Breaking of covenant:

After three and a half years of the reign of Antichrist, Satan will be thrown on to the earth by Michael, the archangel. Satan will make his dwelling inside Antichrist and give him all his power and authority (Rev. 12:7-12, 13:2-5). Then Antichrist (the beast) will break his covenant with Israel and start persecution. He will enter Jerusalem with his army and establish his throne there and say 'unheard of' things against God (Dan. 11:36). Israel will realize their mistake and resist Antichrist.

As a result, and as Jesus foretold, “there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now — and never to be equaled again” (Matt. 24:15-21-NIV). For a time, they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered (Dan. 11:33). It is shown in Revelation that many Jews will flee to the desert and will be protected there (Rev. 12:14). Thus, Israel will have to pass through great tribulation. It is revealed in the Bible that Israel will repent of their sin at this time and believe in Jesus Christ (Rev. 12:13-17, 12:5). Two witnesses who are “the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord” will minister to Israel during this period (Rev. 11:3-12).

Antichrist will break his covenant with the union of nominal Christians (harlot). “The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire” (Rev. 17:15-16-NIV). He will also break his covenant with other nations of the world.

iii) Battle of Armageddon:

When Antichrist will be marching triumphantly to Egypt, “reports from the east and the north will alarm him” (Dan. 11:44). Jesus Christ, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, will descend to earth in all His glory with His saints and heavenly host to establish His kingdom (Jude 15;

2Thes. 1:6). “Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem” (Zech. 14:3-4). “Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him” (Zech. 14:5). It is this news that will alarm Antichrist. “He will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many. He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain” (Dan. 11:44,45). His army will engage in a war with the heavenly host in the valley **of Megiddo**. “Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations” (Rev. 19:15). “And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming” (2Thes. 2:8). “This is the plague with which the Lord will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths” (Zech. 14:12-13). Read Ezek. 38:21-23, 39:1-20; Rev. 19:11-21: The destruction coming upon Antichrist and his army is described in these passages. Antichrist and his chief aide false prophet will be captured alive and thrown in the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20). No one will be able to save them. The battle of

Armageddon will thus come to an end. Satan will be chained and thrown into the bottomless pit. Then the Millennium rule will begin.

2. Services of Michael, the great prince:

Daniel 12 begins with a reference to Michael, the great prince who protects the nation of Israel. At the rapture of the Church, the sound of the archangel is heard and the principalities and powers of darkness which prevent the resurrection of saints are thrown out from heavenly places (1Thes. 4:16). Such a role for Michael is implied as we read about Michael arguing with the devil for the body of Moses in Jude (v.9). Michael has a part to play in protecting Israel during the great tribulation and in defeating Antichrist and his army in the battle of Armageddon. “Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?” (Heb. 1:14).

3. Resurrection of the dead:

It can be clearly understood from the book of Daniel that the resurrection of the dead is a certainty. Read Dan. 12:2-3, 12:13. Although it is mentioned in one sentence that those “who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt”, other references in the Bible explain that both groups do not resurrect at the same time. At the first phase of the second coming of our Lord, those who die in Christ will resurrect and those who are alive will be transformed and together they will meet the lord in the clouds (1Thes. 4:16-17). The saints who become martyrs during the great tribulation will also resurrect before the ‘Millennial rule’ (Rev. 20:4-6). These resurrections together are called ‘the first resurrection’. Blessed are those who are part of the first resurrection, and they will rule with Christ for a thousand years. There will be a resurrection of the unsaved people after the ‘Millennial rule’ which is described in Rev. 20:12-15. Each person will be judged according to what he has done and thrown into eternal fire.

4. The Book is sealed:

Daniel is ordered by God to seal his book of prophecy (Dan. 12:4). On the other hand, God asks John not to seal the book of Revelation. The prophecies in Daniel’s book have been understood only in the last age (church age) with the help of the Holy Spirit. The book of Revelation confirms the importance of the book of Daniel. Let us praise God for revealing His plans through the study of the book of Daniel.

