

## ***A Biblical View of the Future: 5 Key End-time Trends (Dan. 11-12)***

### **I. JESUS DIRECTED HIS PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND THE VISION IN DANIEL 11-12**

- A. There is only one Old Testament vision about the end times that Jesus *directly* called His people to understand, and that is the vision of the prophet Daniel, recorded in Daniel 11 and 12. Jesus pointed us to this vision in Matthew 24:15; therefore, we should take time to understand it.

*<sup>15</sup>“When you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet...whoever reads, let him understand... <sup>21</sup>For then there will be great tribulation...” (Mt. 24:15, 21)*

In Matthew 24:15 Jesus made one of the most important statements about the end times, a very important declaration about the generation in which He would return. He made this statement as a Shepherd to help prepare His people spiritually with right understanding. Jesus taught His people to pay attention that they might “see” the abomination of desolation as spoken of by the prophet Daniel. We are exhorted to make it a priority to “understand” this vision. One generation will see this event and the trends leading up to it, and they must understand the implications of associated with it.

Therefore our focus is on seeking to understand the main trends of occurring at that time so that God’s people can have confidence and courage and not be overcome with fear. In other words, our focus is to see people prepared spiritually (in contrast to some groups who are focused on people preparing physically). We want to be part of the solution and not a part of the confusion.

So in Matthew 24:15 Jesus pointed us to see and understand the key elements in the vision Daniel had in Daniel 11-12. As we understand this event and the **trends leading to it**, then we understand where things are going in society. We will not be confused or overwhelmed with fear, but will grasp where things are going and that God is in control.

Daniel 11-12 is the only Old Testament vision that Jesus emphasized. The other biblical visions are valid and important. However, Jesus wants His people to make sure they know this one. I want to alert you to the significance of this vision. Jesus was saying that this vision would help people to prepare spiritually by gaining understanding.

- B. Daniel 11-12 is one of the most important passages in the Bible about the end times. A mighty angel gave Daniel an unusual amount of detail about what will happen in the generation of Jesus’ return. It will be the most unique, powerful, glorious, violent, difficult, important generation in history. The angel assured Daniel of the ultimate triumph of God’s people related to the Great Tribulation.

I believe that there are people who are alive on the earth right now—maybe the two year olds, I do not know—who will actually see the fullness of this in their lifetime. This is not a prophecy but my personal opinion.

- C. There is coming a time of unprecedented trouble that will result in an unprecedented victory for God’s people. The greatest victory for God’s people comes in context to their greatest persecution.

One of the key themes of this vision of Daniel 11-12 is the ultimate triumph of the people of God. They will be victorious. Now the enemy wants the people of God to draw back in fear so that we contribute to the confusion and not to the solution of people responding rightly.

- D. A great revival and harvest of new souls will occur at the same time as the end-time falling away. The wheat and the tares will mature together at the end of the age. (Mt. 13:30).

<sup>30</sup>***“Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say... ‘First gather the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”***  
***(Mt. 13:30)***

People often ask, “Will things get better or will things get worse?” There are three main positions on this in the Body of Christ today. The first says that it is mostly going to **get better**. The second says that it is mostly going to **get worse**. The third says the answer is **both**, that it will get better and worse simultaneously. I agree with this position. The Bible makes it clear that both the light and the darkness will increase simultaneously. The wheat and the tares mature together at the end of the age.

Will it get worse *everywhere*? No. It will get much worse in *some* places and in *some* people, but in *some* places the advancements of the kingdom will surpass the increase of darkness. Darkness will not increase in every place or in everyone. Make sure that it does not increase in you! In *some* geographic areas there will be far greater light and in *some* far greater darkness. One determining factor will be praying, obedient people who honor Jesus’ leadership and purpose.

*The balance of what happens in various parts of the earth is in the hands of godly faithful intercessors.*

- E. Thinking about the end times causes some to be fearful, but it is because they do not understand the full picture that Scripture sets forth. In this vision in Daniel 11-12, we find much good news such as the assurance that many will know God, experience the miracle-working power of the Spirit, gain understanding of what God is doing, and effectively share that understanding with many others.

<sup>31</sup>***...shall...place the abomination of desolation<sup>32</sup>...the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits...<sup>33</sup> And those of the people who understand shall instruct many...***  
***(Dan 11:31-33)***

The angel introduced the theme of the abomination of desolation (11:31), then immediately gave the assurance that the people who know their God will be strong (11:32). They are not going to retreat or draw back in isolation. They will be strong and will do great exploits or miracles, walking in the power of God and ministering in power.

The angel continued by assuring us that God’s people will have understanding of what is occurring (Dan. 11:32). They will grasp what is happening in the earth. They will grasp where things are going. They will have confidence and clarity because they will have understood what the Scripture says about that hour of history.

These people with understanding will impact and influence *many* in the nations (11:33). The multitudes in the nations will be confused, wondering where things are going and what they mean—are they from God or the devil or both? This is good news—the people who know their God will do great miracles and have clear understanding of God’s end-time plan and they will effectively impact many in the nations. They will be a source of God’s light to many confused people in the nations. We must be resolved to be people who grow in our relationship with God and in understanding of His end-time plan.

Since nobody knows the day or the hour of His return, you cannot be sure that all of these trends will come to fullness in your life time, but what about the life of your children or grandchildren? It is not too early for any of us to prepare ourselves with understanding so that we can prepare others to understand what the Scripture says God’s end-time plan. The people of understanding will progressively grow in understanding throughout the

years leading up to the Lord's return because they will have taken Jesus' exhortation to "see" the abomination of desolation as well as the trends and events related to it. When they "see" these escalating, they will understand where things are going.

- F. Details of God's end-time plan were shown to Daniel so that His people would prepare themselves spiritually. The truths of Daniel 11-12 will give God's people confidence and courage to stand for truth and to live godly, instead of yielding to *fear, offense, confusion, deception, and compromise*.

Jesus pointed His people to Daniel 11-12 because if they understand the main trends of what will be happening they will be able to process them with confidence as the intensity of negative activity increases. I have identified five main trends. One is negative, and four are positive. If we understand these five trends, we will have courage and confidence to stand for truth and to live godly lives in a very perverse and seductive culture.

Those with understanding will be braced to stand fast as persecution for righteousness increases. They will be able to stand with boldness and courage, knowing that God's people and plan will triumph. People who do not have understanding of what is happening will be more vulnerable to being overcome with fear, which causes people to make bad decisions in the midst of pressure. The people without understanding will be far more prone to be offended at Jesus' leadership. They will not understand how a God of love would allow such negative things to happen on the earth. Without understanding, many will yield to deception, confusion, and many other wrong responses. Even many believers will not understand what is happening because they did not take seriously the exhortation of Jesus to understand this vision was given to Daniel and the events related to the abomination of desolation.

We must "see" trends and events related to the abomination of desolation. Without understanding it will be like being in a storm in the middle of the ocean without a "compass" or navigational instruments.

- G. Daniel 12 emphasizes God's sovereign power over all and that history is heading towards a glorious future in which His people will prevail in victory. Our God knows the end from the beginning. Jesus is leading history and the nations into a time that will result in God's glory filling the earth. It will be the greatest hour in history and will be a great privilege for believers living at that time.

I have good news for you, God is sovereign, and He is leading the nations in such a way that He will fill the earth with His glory. Many look at the current crisis in society and think of it as being out of control, like "a train running off the tracks." I have good news for you. It is not out of control. It is moving in a redemptive direction. Jesus will manifest His glory, and He will purify His people. They will walk in triumph, love, power, and righteousness.

- H. ***Optimum environment:*** We must see the big picture—the negative and positive aspects—knowing that God is establishing the optimum environment for His people to walk in love, power, and purity. What the devil means for evil, God will use for good to train His people and cause them to mature. *God uses the least severe means to bring the greatest number of people to the deepest level of love.*

God is establishing the optimum situation in the cultures of the earth where darkness, violence, and perversion will reach their greatest measure at the same time that godliness and the power of God will be expressed also at the greatest measure. The greatest darkness and the greatest light will occur at the same time, creating the optimum environment for God to bring the most people to the deepest levels of love without violating their free will.

Compromise has become the acceptable norm in much of the Church in the nations, but the Lord will have an optimum environment where hundreds of millions will get saved and His Church will repent and be radically

committed to Him. I assure you this will happen before Jesus returns. The Lord will not violate the free will of the peoples of the nations as He brings the greatest revival and greatest harvest of history.

## II. THE ABOMINATION THAT CAUSES DESOLATION

- A. Jesus drew attention to one phrase that Daniel emphasized twice—*the abomination of desolation* (Dan. 11:31; 12:11). By understanding this phrase we can understand some of the major themes of end-time prophecy. The abomination of desolation is the only political and religious event that Jesus gave to let His people identify when they were in the generation of His return.

*“When you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet...” (Mt. 24:15)*

Jesus spoke of the time when God’s people would see the “abomination of desolation” as well as the trends and events leading up to it over some decades. I believe some of those trends are increasing now. The abomination of desolation is an unusual term. What does mean? The concept of the abomination of desolation is pretty straightforward—it is not difficult to understand. I will not spend a lot of time on this as I have a handout on this subject on my website combined with a video of me teaching on this for nearly an hour.

When God’s people see the “abomination of desolation” and the trends leading up to it, then they can know that they are in that final generation of natural history. Jesus went on to say, “Look up”—be encouraged—“your redemption draws near”—your salvation is so close at hand. The ultimate breakthrough from heaven is close.

- B. *“The abomination”* speaks of a *great evil*—one that will cause “*desolation*,” or *great destruction*. In other words, it speaks of a future evil event that will result in great destruction in the nations. Two main components of the abomination are the *image* and the *mark* of the Beast (Rev. 13:15-18).

When Jesus says, *the abomination* He means something *really evil*. There is something so evil about it that it is named in heaven as “the abomination.” This abomination will be the greatest evil that man has ever committed. Again heaven itself has a title for this level of evil because it is unique.

It is a great evil related to the Antichrist. That abomination will lead to the desolation of the nations. In other words, it is an evil that leads to destruction or an abomination that leads to desolation. So what is this great evil that will be embraced by hundreds of millions and that will lead to desolation? There are two main components to it—the image of the beast and the mark of the beast. Many of you are familiar with that term. Again on our website I have an one hour teaching on this with notes on the abomination of desolation if you want more clarity on it. (<http://mikebickle.org/resources/resource/3638>)

- C. This event concerns the Antichrist entering the temple in Jerusalem and declaring himself to be God, then demanding on pain of death that the whole world worship him as God (2 Thes. 2:3-4). Paul and John give more information about the abomination of desolation (2 Thes. 2; Rev. 13).

## III. DANIEL 11-12

- A. Daniel 11-12 describes one vision reporting a long conversation which Daniel had with a mighty angel who mentioned abomination of desolation *twice* (11:31; 12:11). This vision is the *only* other place in the Scripture that used the exact phrase that Jesus used— the “abomination of desolation.” See [mikebickle.org](http://mikebickle.org) for more on the abomination of desolation.

There is no doubt that Daniel 11-12 is the vision to which Jesus was referring in Matthew 24:15 because it is the only time in the Bible where the term the *abomination of desolation* is used outside of the words of Jesus. It is only used twice else in the whole Bible—both times in this vision. So it is clear this is the vision to which Jesus was referring.

B. The “abomination of desolation section” of Daniel 11-12

The vision in Daniel 11-12 is too long to cover in this teaching. The longest vision in the Bible with a focus on the end times is Jeremiah 50-51 (110 verses). Daniel 11-12 is the second longest (57 verses), Isaiah 13-14 the third (49 verses), and the fourth is Revelation 17-18 (42 verses).

The vision of Daniel 11-12 has several sections, though there are different ways to organize this vision. The final section is what I call the “***abomination of desolation section***” with 26 verses (11:31-12:11). In this section an angel gave two descriptions of the key trends occurring in the end times—the first description consists of 5 verses (11:31-35) and the second description has 11 verses (12:1-11). Between these two descriptions he spoke of the Antichrist for 10 verses (11:36-45). Prior to this the angel spoke about the Persian and Greek empires (11:2-4), conflicts between Egypt and Syria (11:5-20) and Antiochus Epiphanes as foreshadowing the Antichrist (11:21-30):

Dan. 11:2-4 the Persian and Greek empires

Dan. 11:5-20 conflicts between Egypt and Syria

Dan. 11:21-30 Antiochus Epiphanes as foreshadowing the Antichrist

Dan. 11:31-12:11 ***the abomination of desolation section*** (26 verses)

11:31-35 the first description of five end-time trends (5 verses)

11:36-45 a description of the Antichrist’s activities (10 verses)

12:1-11 the second description of five end-time trends (11 verses)

Dan. 12:11-13 Participating in the Millennium (with natural bodies [v. 12] or resurrected bodies [v. 13])

The section of Daniel’s vision that Jesus emphasized was the abomination of desolation section. Therefore, we will briefly consider it. The book of Daniel only uses the term *the abomination of desolation* twice, bookending this section of Daniel’s prophecy, which describes some of the most important trends indicating the coming of the end times. The first time was in Daniel 11:31, where it was immediately followed by a description of five main trends that will occur in the end times. Then 25 verses later, the same angel in the same conversation with Daniel again used the term *abomination of desolation*.

Twice the angel described these five trends that will occur in the end times, sometimes using different terminology, so we get a different perspective or more information. In essence this angel says that when you see the abomination of desolation, know that there will some very important trends occurring at that time. Of the five trends I identify, one is negative and four are positive.

- C. In Daniel 11-12, an angel described five key trends occurring on the earth when Jesus returns. This angel described the trends *twice* in one vision, mentioning the abomination of desolation both times (11:31; 12:11). The two descriptions cover the same five themes using different terminology. Some of these events were partially fulfilled in the time of Antiochus Epiphanes in 175-163 BC.

1. ***The first description*** (Dan 11:31-35): connects the *abomination of desolation* (11:31) to five key themes—knowing God and understanding His plans (11:32-33), doing miracles (11:32b), reaching “many”—both saved and unsaved—who will be purified (11:33b, 35), God’s people facing martyrdom (11:34a), and receiving God’s help in persecution (11:34).

<sup>31</sup>“Then they shall...place there [the temple in Jerusalem] the abomination of desolation...  
<sup>32</sup>The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits [miracles].  
<sup>33</sup>And those of the people who understand shall instruct many...<sup>34</sup>When they fall [martyrs],  
they shall be aided with a little help...<sup>35</sup>Some of those of understanding shall fall [martyrs],  
to refine them, purify them...until the time of the end.” (Dan. 11:31-35)

I have identified five trends here that will be happening in the nations among the people of God. **Number one**, many people will know both God and His heart and plans. The angel assured Daniel that believers will grow in their knowledge of God and in understanding of His end-time plans (11:32-33). God will raise up “people of understanding” who will impact many (11:33).

**Number two**, God’s people will do great exploits or mighty miracles (11:32).

**Number three**, many people will be instructed and grow in purity—a revival in the Church and a harvest among unbelievers coming to Jesus—many will turn from their sin to walk in purity (11:33, 35). The people of understanding will bring understanding to many who will be confused. The people of understanding will be vessels of clarity and light to many believers in the church and to unbelievers who will be converted.

**Number four**, martyrdom will increase. There will be more martyrs than at any time in history. I do not believe the majority of the Church will be martyred, but the number will be high enough that every believer will be paying attention. Only people who are for real about Jesus will be proclaiming His name openly.

**Number five**, God will help *some* of the people. In other words, there will be miracles in the midst of the persecution, but not everybody will be supernaturally delivered from persecution. In verse 34, the angel wants Daniel to know that people will fall or that there will be martyrs. (*To fall* in this context does not mean to “fall in sin”). Only those who are genuine and wholehearted in their faith will stand. They shall be “aided with a little help”—this phrase implies that only some will be delivered from persecution before the Lord returns—it may be many thousands of believers, but not all hundreds of millions. For example, an angel opened the prison door for Peter so that he walked out a free man, but his fellow apostle James was put to death. That is, James died but an angel opened the prison door for Peter. Does that mean that God loved Peter more than He loved James? Or did He love James more than He loved Peter? Does He love you more if you are martyred and taken home to heaven or does He love you more if He delivers you and thus keeps you down here longer? Which is which? Neither of them is the right answer. God in His wisdom chooses based on His sovereign plan. Remember, martyrdom is not the last word because there is a resurrection.

So in verse 35, some of the people of understanding, or some of the most faithful dedicated people with the greatest impact, will fall or be martyred. The net result is to purify God’s people. In other words, martyrdom will have a sanctifying effect. Purity will increase when believers see some of the most faithful and some of the best-known messengers stand boldly in the face of death. It will give courage to multitudes of believers around the world. They will conclude that if those people of understanding were not afraid to die, then they need not be afraid. It will have a sanctifying effect. It says that it will cause purity to increase across the nations.

Remember that the goal of our life is not to escape physical death. The primary goal of our life is not to avoid dying physically. Our goal is to live in faithfulness to Jesus. Beloved, at physical death, when you cross that line being ushered into the glory of God, you will be in the presence of God and will receive a resurrected body.

2. **The second description** (Dan 12:1-11): connects the *abomination of desolation* (12:11) to five themes—increased angelic activity (12:1a), great trouble (12:1b), the deliverance of God’s people (12:2), embracing righteousness (12:3, 10), and receiving understanding (12:10)

***<sup>1</sup>“At that time Michael shall stand up...there shall be a time of trouble [Great Tribulation] ...your people shall be delivered...<sup>3</sup>and...turn many to righteousness ...<sup>10</sup>Many shall be purified ...but the wise shall understand...<sup>11</sup>and the abomination of desolation is set up...” (Dan. 12:1-11)***

Let’s look as the second description of the end-time trends in this vision. Remember this is one vision, or one long conversation between Daniel and a mighty angel. The angel identified basically the same five themes but using different terms in three of the five trends. The angel spoke again of the power of God, but this time he spoke in terms an increase of *angelic activity* (12:1) instead of doing great miracles (11:32). He spoke of *great trouble* (12:1) instead of falling to martyrdom (11:33-35). This time he spoke of God’s people being *delivered*—their ultimate deliverance at the resurrection (12:1), instead of being “aided with a little help” (11:34). This time he spoke of *many turning to righteousness and being purified* (12:3, 10); he had previously spoken of people being purified (11:35). This time he assured Daniel that the *wise shall understand* (12:10) where he had previously spoken of people knowing God as people of understanding (11:32-33). In other words, some will have much wisdom or clarity of understanding, and they will help others to know God and His end-time plans while also turning many to righteousness and purity.

I again draw your attention to the fact that the angel mentioned the abomination of desolation just before his first description of these five trends and immediately again after he gave a second description of those five trends. In other words, he bookended the two descriptions with the term, “*the abomination of desolation.*”

Let’s look briefly at various phases used the angel in his second description of these five end-time trends.

In Daniel 12:1, we see that *Michael the archangel will arise*. Michael the archangel arising describes him being actively involved in the natural affairs occurring on earth. The implication is that there will be an increase of angelic activity. He and his angels will be deeply involved and very active. In other words, there will be angelic manifestations and angelic activity beyond any other time in history.

In Daniel 12:1 the angel told Daniel, there will be a time of *great trouble*. But trouble is not the last word.

Again in Daniel 12:1 we learn the God will *deliver His people*. The King of kings will come from heaven to orchestrate the ultimate deliverance for all of the people of God throughout history. This speaks of a full and final eternal deliverance. Everything that was lost in persecution will be returned back to them in the resurrection, everything, 100-fold plus.

Daniel 12:3, *many will turn to righteousness*. Beloved, righteousness will seem wise and powerful. The Body of Christ will cast off the “Laodicean spirit of compromise” that is so predominant in the Western Church and beyond. Love-based righteousness will be restored as the norm in the Church before the Lord returns. Many will turn to righteousness as believers repent from compromise and unbelievers repent to turn to Jesus. They will say “Yes” to righteousness and commit to Jesus’ leadership. Their lives will be transformed gloriously and they will be delivered from the bondages in their life.

“Many” will be purified, not just a few. The liberating power of the gospel will work even in a pornified culture. There will be hundreds of millions of young believers walking in the liberty of purity in the face of a seductive culture wooing them to partake. They will find the liberty in the love of God and see the wisdom of righteousness in their life.

Then the angel went on to say, in verse 10 that *the wise will have understanding*. The angel emphasized this in both descriptions: that the people will know their God and will understand what He is doing. This is not speaking of general understanding of natural things of life, though that is good. That is what the book of Proverbs is all about. When it says here that they will understand, it means they will understand what is happening in that hour of history from a biblical perspective. They will know and understand what the Bible says about that hour that they are living in.

A lie that is prominent today is that we cannot understand what the Bible says about the end-time themes. That lie will be seen as a lie as God gives fresh understanding to millions of people in the coming days. That lie is rooted in the enemy's plan to cause the Body of Christ to be intimidated about the end-time passages. They reason that they will not understand them, so why bother trying? The angel told Daniel just the opposite; he said that the wise will understand (12:10). We will not understand all the small details and every nuance. But we can understand the main trends and events. The people who do not understand will be far more vulnerable to fear, confusion, compromise, offense, and all kinds of deception because they will not understand what is happening on earth.

#### **IV. FIVE KEY END-TIME TRENDS: SUMMARY OF BOTH DESCRIPTIONS (DAN. 11:31-12:11)**

- A. **Premise:** The trends that will *come in fullness* at the time of Jesus' return are *occurring now* and will *continue to increase* until He comes. Thus we believe that God will release the greatest revival in the Church and the greatest harvest of the lost in the midst of the escalating darkness.

Let's look at the five trends again by putting together the two descriptions. My premise is that the things that will happen in fullness in those final years will be happening in part in those final decades and will be continually increasing in their intensity— both the negative and the positive. In other words, the trends that will happen in fullness in the final two and three years leading up to the Lord's return will be happening in part in the final three, four, five, six decades leading up to the Lord's return. Those trends that Jesus said would happen, and what the Old Testament prophets and the New Testament apostles said would happen will be happening in part and continually increasing.

Here is my point: most of those signs in the Bible are *happening right now in part* and they are *increasing on a global level for the first time in history*. In ten years they will be much stronger than they are now. I believe that they will be even more evident in another ten years.

So let's look at these five trends again as I combine the two descriptions together. We will take the words of the angel given in the two descriptions and put them together here. Only one trend is negative. The other four are positive.

- B. **#1 Time of trouble:** Jesus referred to Daniel 12:1 when referring to the tribulation (Mt. 24:21).  
<sup>1</sup>“...there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation...” (Dan. 12:1)  
<sup>15</sup>“When you see the ‘abomination of desolation’...<sup>21</sup>there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.”(Mt. 24:15, 21)

Trend number one, Daniel 12, the mighty angel told Daniel *there shall be a time of trouble*. The angel qualified what he said because there have always been troubles on the earth. He was talking about something unique and totally unprecedented. The angel said the trouble would be such as never was, trouble beyond any time in history. Do not be mistaken. The reason I emphasize this is because some sincere and godly scholars in the

Body of Christ dismiss this future trouble as simply describing the normal trouble seen throughout history. The angel qualified it as trouble, *such as never was*. So do not allow some well-meaning scholar to convince you to dismiss this passage. Jesus also added this qualifier in Matthew 24:21 where He made a reference to Daniel 12:1. He said, “When you see the abomination,” in Mt. 24:15, a moment later he said in v. 21, “there will be great tribulation or trouble, *such as has not been* since the beginning of the world, *nor even shall be*.” In other words, it is a time of trouble in which the intensiveness of the trouble will be unprecedented or unique.

So beloved, the earth is heading to a unique time of trouble. It is my opinion, but I believe it is an informed opinion—it is not a prophecy but it is an informed opinion from the Bible—that we are in the early days of that timeframe of that generation. Now a biblical generation can be as long as 100 years. In Genesis 15:13 God spoke to Abraham about a timeframe of 400 years and in Gen. 15:16 He clarified that those 400 years were the same as four generations. So I do not know what time we are at right now, but I believe we are in the early days of that generation. Maybe we are further along than we know. Things could escalate very, very rapidly. I do not know.

<sup>13</sup>*Then He said to Abram: “Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years...<sup>16</sup>But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.” (Gen. 15:13-16)*

1. ***Distress of nations (Lk. 21:25)***: This will include terrorism, racial clashes, violent weather, war, financial crisis, etc. The intensity of the distress will cause men’s hearts to fail from fear.  
<sup>25</sup>*“There will be...on the earth distress of nations...<sup>26</sup>men’s hearts failing them from fear...” (Lk. 21:25-26)*
2. ***Falling away***: Scripture describes many people falling away from the faith in the end times (Mt. 24:9-13; 2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:1-7; 4:3-5; 2 Pet. 2:1-3).  
<sup>1</sup>*Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons...<sup>3</sup>forbidding to marry... (1 Tim. 4:1-3)*

In the midst of this time of trouble, there will be a great falling away. I do not think most believers will fall away, but I believe there will be millions. The number will be so big, though I do not believe it will be the majority of the Church. But the trend is clear and distinct enough, and the numbers big enough, that it will be easily recognizable in that generation. I believe that the end-time falling away has already begun.

I look back over the last ten years, I know too many people who were on fire for the Lord ten years ago, but right now they are grappling with liberal, compromising views about the Word of God. Some have walked away from their faith, while others are steeped in a life of compromise. I mean ten years ago they were on fire for the Lord, committed to revival, committed to prayer, committed to holiness, but today they have no interest in those subjects. And they started by embracing some of the cultural definitions of love and justice that are contrary to the biblical definitions of love, grace, and justice.

Today many young people are being swept into this mindset. Beloved, the great falling away has already begun in my opinion. It will escalate. In 1 Timothy 4, Paul said that the Holy Spirit “expressly said” or emphasized that in the latter days some will depart from the faith. Again it will not be the majority, but it will be millions. It will be a large enough number that Paul highlighted it under the urgency of the Holy Spirit; it will be recognizable and distinct.

They will give heed to deceitful spirits or doctrines of demons. A doctrine of demons does not appear to be the doctrine of demons to the people that embrace them. Many false teachers will put demonic twists of darkness on old familiar truths and familiar terminologies like love, grace, justice, etc. They will use biblical terms, but without upholding their biblical meanings.

The most significant deception today in my opinion is the *distorted grace message* that is going across the world with great energy, using biblical terminology but not with corresponding biblical meaning. They promote half-truths, so, yes there is a kernel of truth in what they say. They put a spin and a twist on powerful biblical truths, giving them new modern definitions that support their lifestyles of compromise. The net result is deception. As I said, biblical words that people are putting a negative spin on include words like grace, love, and justice. They do not mean what the Bible means by those terms. There is a demonic distortion to what they represent by these terms.

Notice what Paul said 2,000 years ago, “That in the end times some will *forbid marriage*.” Ten years ago I was talking about this with our leadership team. I remember one of the leaders asked me what do I think *to forbid marriage* meant? I told them that I did not know what this would look like. It refers to there being places where marriage will be illegal. I could not fathom that ten years ago. Beloved, things have escalated so rapidly in the last two or three years. Now there are political groups talking about making marriage illegal so we do not have any discrimination, so we do not give the economic benefits of marriage to some and not to others involved in the gay agenda. They are proposing that we do away with marriage as an institution.

In essence Paul was saying that when you see marriage being forbidden, then know you are in the end-time generation where darkness will escalate. The catalytic moment on this subject was on June 26, 2015 when the Supreme Court legalized gay marriage. This institutionalized and normalized immorality in our nation. This one Supreme Court decision will lead to immorality being presented systematically through the public school curriculum to the second and third graders, to give them the “option” to choose a gay lifestyle. Beloved, there is coming a great increase of the measure of immorality that will be broadcast through media outlets, on the Internet, and in school education. Paul linked this together with an end-time falling away. Some will depart from the faith.

3. **Martyrdom (11:33):** There will many martyrs in the end times. I do not believe the majority of believers will be martyred, but each will face the possibility and have to decide whether they will stand for Jesus. This will have a sanctifying effect, causing others to be refined.

<sup>33</sup>“*They shall fall by sword...<sup>35</sup> Some of those of understanding shall fall [martyrdom], to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end.*” (Dan. 11:33-35)

- C. **#2 Supernatural ministry:** There will be great miracles or exploits (11:32), including much angelic activity by Michael and his angels (Rev. 12:7-9) and a global outpouring of the Spirit (Joel 2:28).

<sup>32</sup>“*But the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits [miracles].*” (Dan. 11:32)

<sup>1</sup>“*At that time Michael shall stand up...and there shall be a time of trouble...*” (Dan. 12:1)

Let’s look at the second trend, supernatural ministry. Beloved, the angel first told Daniel that they would do great exploits. It will be characteristic in the Church to see great miracles. Jesus spoke about greater works than these will they do (Jn. 14:12). That promise has not been fulfilled yet. Yes, there have been a great miracle here

or there throughout history, but great miracles will be seen often. I believe we will see the miracle ministry of Jesus through the Church in a whole other level.

1. **Michael:** Michael standing up (12:1) and Michael and his angels fighting Satan (Rev. 12:7) indicate that an increase of angelic activity will be manifested in the end times. Angels intervened to help the saints in Acts (Acts 1:10; 5:19; 8:26; 10:3; 12:7-10, 23; 27:23).

***<sup>7</sup>And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon...<sup>9</sup>The great dragon was cast out...the Devil...he was cast to the earth... (Rev. 12:7-9)***

In the second description of this timeframe the same angel did not say great exploits; he said that at that time, meaning in that final hour, Michael would arise. It does not mean he is going to arise in heaven; he is already in heaven. It means his activity in the natural realm is going to be released and discernible. Michael is going to be involved in an observable, dramatic way in the nations with an increase of angelic activity.

John the apostle comes along about 500 years after Daniel. John elaborates on this idea of Michael's involvement in the end-time drama. He said, in effect, "Well, let me tell you what the angel was talking about when he was talking about Michael. Daniel probably did not get it. Let me elaborate 500 years later about how Michael is going to arise. Look at this, Daniel!" Revelation 12:7 says that there will be a war—this is yet future—that will break out in the heavenly realm. Michael and his angels will come into an open conflict with Satan and the whole demonic realm. How many angels are with Michael? I do not know. Millions? I do not know. Millions and millions? Satan and the demonic realm will be cast to the earth from their position. Their superior position of influence is in the heavens. Angels are in the heavenly realm, and demons are in the heavenly realm. When they are cast to earth, they are being thrust from their position of superiority, their position of influence. Now they are on the earth in demonic activity, but angels are going to be involved in a whole other way. There will be an open heaven. There will be no demonic interference in the coming and go of the angels. There will be an open heaven—tremendous demonic activity yes, but angelic activity as well.

2. **Outpouring of the Spirit:** God will pour out His Spirit in fullness that touches "all flesh."  
***<sup>28</sup>"...I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions." (Joel 2:28)***

Well, number two, we know of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all flesh. Now that prophecy, "I will pour out my spirit on all flesh," is a very famous prophecy. It was only a down payment in the book of Acts. In Acts 2, it was on only 120 people. That is not all flesh. There is coming an hour when all flesh—that means every believer, every believer on the planet—will have dreams and visions. It will not be just that one guy over there at that one conference.

Joel said, in effect, "I tell you thus says the Lord, the hour is coming where dreams and visions will be the norm." The power of the prophetic, the Holy Spirit, signs and wonders, because you are going to need it, you are going to need it in that day. It will not be business as usual.

- D. **#3 God's people delivered:** God's people will be fully delivered *physically* (from persecution) and *politically* (from oppressive governments) by Jesus' return and the resurrection (12:1-2). In the resurrection they will recover all that was lost in the persecution (12:3). Some of God's people "shall be aided" in the face of persecution with a supernatural deliverance (11:34), just as angels twice opened prison doors for Peter (Acts 5:19; 12:7-11), while others were not delivered.

<sup>1</sup>“...***your people shall be delivered...***<sup>2</sup>***those who sleep in the dust...shall awake [resurrection]...***  
<sup>3</sup>***and those who turn many to righteousness [shall shine] like the stars forever.***” (Dan. 12:1-3)

<sup>34</sup>“***When they fall [martyrdom], they shall be aided with a little help.***” (Dan. 11:34)

The third trend, the people of God will be delivered. The full deliverance is at the resurrection when Jesus returns, at the return of Jesus and then the resurrection. I already mentioned there would be some who are aided during the time of great distress. It says that there will be a little aid because there will be hundreds of millions of believers. I believe there are going to be a billion new believers in the great harvest. When the angel says *a little help*, it does not mean one here and there. I believe it means millions, but there will still be millions who will not be delivered with a supernatural breakthrough. So deliverance in part in this age, but in fullness ultimately with resurrected bodies.

Can you imagine having a resurrected body when Jesus returns and He is going to bring heaven down to the earth? The New Jerusalem is coming to the earth. You are going to live on this earth with a physical, material, resurrected body. Everything you have lost in the persecution will be returned 100 fold plus to you in that time. You will have a physical, material body on this earth. That is what the resurrection is.

- E. **#4 Many walking in righteousness:** This includes “many” *believers* repenting of compromise to walk in righteousness and purity as well as “many” *unbelievers* turning to Jesus from every tribe and tongue to be strengthened to walk in purity (Dan. 11:35; 12:3, 10; Rev. 7:9, 14). The Lord will release a *great revival* in the church and a *great harvest* among the lost in all the nations.

<sup>3</sup>“...***those who turn many to righteousness...***”<sup>10</sup>“...***many shall be purified...***” (Dan. 12:3, 10)

<sup>35</sup>“...***to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end.***” (Dan. 11:35)

<sup>9</sup>“...***behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne...***”<sup>14</sup>“...***These...come out of the great tribulation.***” (Rev. 7:9-14)

Number four trend, “many”—oh, I love the word many! Look at Daniel 12—“many will turn to righteousness, many will be purified.” I have heard over the last couple of years that young adults in this generation are so into social media that they cannot stay focused for ninety seconds. I’ve heard that if you have a Bible teaching, you have to make it ninety seconds or shorter or you will lose them. I said, “I do not buy that. I do not buy that at all.”

And they said, “Well, you know there is so much sin on the campuses and so much immorality that it is normal that most of the young adults are living in immorality in the Church, that worship teams are getting drunk, immorality and preachers, and all kinds of things.”

I say, “Well, I got good news for you. Many are going to choose righteousness and purity.” The great harvest will be mostly young people. The great harvest is not mostly old people; it is not people sixty—my age—and older. There will be a few of us getting saved. Most of the earth is young people, just the demographics of the earth, just the numbers. The harvest is young people, and the majority are young people. They will be focused, they will be dedicated, they will be radical, and they will live in purity.

I do not believe this idea that the young adults cannot do it or cannot pay attention. That they have got, you know, six phones and three of these, that they do not ever know what God is saying, and they do not have time for the Bible. They do not do prayer; they do not do holiness. I say that I do not believe any of that. We have a

testimony of young people in our own midst who are choosing this radical lifestyle, this kingdom lifestyle, and more and more choosing it.

It is happening all around the nations, by the way. I am talking to friends—pastors—some with very large ministries. They say that there are young adults choosing purity, and they are going deep in God, and they are turning stuff off and turning things away. They are spending time with God, and they are walking in humility and purity. I say, “That is what the angel told Daniel, and I buy it.” There will be a great harvest among the lost and a great revival among the Church.

- F. **#5 Increased understanding to know God and His plans:** The Lord will raise up “people of understanding” who will *know God* and make His heart and plans known to “many” (11:32-33). Daniel also described these faithful messengers as “wise” (12:3, 10). Their wisdom will be related to understanding more of Jesus’ glory and beauty, as well as His plans, including what the Bible says about the unique events and trends that will occur on the earth in His end-time plan.

<sup>32</sup>“...**but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.**

<sup>33</sup>**And those of the people who understand shall instruct many.” (Dan. 11:32-33)**

<sup>10</sup>“...**and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.” (Dan. 12:10)**

1. **Many:** The fact that they teach *many* indicates that *many* will be hungry for understanding. Someone without a public teaching ministry could teach many through social media.
2. **Know God:** As people encounter the heart of the Father and the beauty of Jesus, they will call young people to a righteous lifestyle through a lens of love that sees the beauty, liberty, and excellence of “love-based” righteousness, which is obedience (Jn. 14:15, 21).
3. **People of understanding:** The Lord will release understanding of what the Word says about His end-time plans. There are 150 chapters in the Bible focusing on end-times. We must not neglect these since they come from the same Bible, reveal the same Jesus, and are inspired by the same Spirit as the gospels. *See mikebickle.org for a list of 150 chapters on the end times.*

<sup>20</sup>**The anger of the LORD will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. (Jer. 23:20)**

Number five, the angel spoke of those who understand in both descriptions. He used similar terminology twice. He said that they will have understanding, they will have greater understanding of God, and they will know God. Intimacy with God, they will know His heart, the tender Father and the beauty of the Bridegroom King Jesus. They will know God like no time in history, but they will not just know God, they will know His plans.

In this vision when it says again that they will understand, it is not talking about just general understanding of life. He is talking about understanding of the crisis, the unique dynamics, unique because the greatest evil, the greatest darkness, unique because the greatest righteousness and the greatest power are all coming together. That generation will be unique. There will only be one group of people on the planet who grasp it. They will be all over the earth, millions and millions of them, but it will be those in the Body of Christ who have been seeking the Lord, reading His Word. They will know where this is going. They will not be confused. God says, they will be teaching many in the nations.

You may ask how you are going to teach many in the nations. Not everybody will teach many, but collectively they will. Understand that in this hour of social media you can be an eighty-year-old grandma at home or a twelve-year-old in your bedroom and you can get a dream from the Lord, you can get understanding of the Scripture just in the community of believers you are a part of, and with that you can reach many with social media. You might send out something that ten million people read. You may have never taught on a microphone, you may never led a Bible study in your life, but you may send out something and with the social media dynamics and the technology getting more sophisticated, you may have ten million people read your blog or whatever they will be called in five and ten and twenty years from now. You do not know. Some Grandma or junior high girl might be the one. It might be somebody in between, but do not say, “I will not touch many.” How do you know you will not touch many? You may write the song, you may write the blog, you may be in the drama, you may be in the prayer meetings. Who knows?

Angels are going to be visiting, and understanding of the Word of God is going to grow in clarity. I particularly mean clarity about these topics. Again, away with this idea that it is so confusing, nobody will get it. That is not what the Word of God says. The Word of God says that the people of understanding will impact many. Many that are in darkness and confusion will see what is going on and receive the understanding from the faithful Body of Christ.

Beloved, I am going to end with this. This is an hour to determine, “I am going to go deep. I am going to get with radical believers, a community of believers who are radical, who are going radical.” I do not mean their expression. I am talking about their resolve to obey, to stay steady, to live in humility, to live in obedience, to study the Word, to turn away some of the things that so many other people are spending all of their time and money on.

Let’s just stand before the Lord and speak to the Lord to renew our commitment to Him or maybe make a new commitment that “I am going to be a man or woman of understanding.” This may not happen in your day. Again I am sixty years old, I might not see this, or I might. I believe my children and grandchildren, their children, will see it. I do not believe it is too early to get clarity on these subjects. Things are escalating rapidly right now the last couple years. They are really picking up.

*So, Father we come before You and we ask You, Lord, for understanding. Lord, we say we want to know God, the Bridegroom King, the tender Father, the majesty, the Majestic One. We want to know Your heart. We want to know Your ways. We want to make Your ways known to people. We love who You are. We love what You do.*

I want to invite people forward who feel one of two responses. One, first response you are saying, I want to be one of those people of understanding. I may never talk on a microphone or never at a Bible study but I might touch a lot of people through a blog someday. I do not know, but I am going to understand it, and I am going to make it known. Maybe to twos and threes, I do not know, but I am going to make it known. I want to increase my understanding in these next months and years.

Second, I want to invite others forward. The Lord is saying that many will choose righteousness, and many will be purified. You are saying, I have got some issues, and I want to settle some issues in my life. I do not want to be among those entrenched in darkness in this hour of history. It is the greatest hour to be alive. I want to be a man or a woman of righteousness when I am twenty, not wait until I am sixty; I want to do it now.

Beloved, there is grace to walk in righteousness and purity now. You may say, “I am really stuck.” Well, I tell you there is One that has more power than the power of the sin that is binding your mind and heart. He is glorious, and He is powerful, and He is committed to you. I invite a bunch of you to come if you would. The Lord wants you to be a man of understanding, a woman of understanding in your youth even.

*Father, we thank You in the name of Jesus, we thank You in the name of Jesus for Your power, Your presence. Lord, release Your glory now. Lord, I ask for a spirit of power, I ask for a spirit of grace to touch the hearts.*

Beloved, we are never going back to business as usual, never going back.

*Lord, I ask You for dreams, for visions. I ask You for the signs of the times and miracles to take place. Lord, we say we want to be those who know our God.*

Little by little, step-by-step is how we go forward.

*I am hungry for You, God. I want to know You like they did in the days of old. Lord, I want my heart to burn for You like the apostles in the days of old. Lord, release the prophetic anointing, release dreams and visions even in the night for people in this room. Lord, we say yes in our weakness.*

There is a new beginning for whoever wants it. Every day is a new beginning with the Lord.

*Lord, I ask for the fire of God, the fire of the Holy Spirit tonight.*

The Lord says there is no sin that is too great that you cannot get a new beginning. There is no sin that is so powerful that you cannot get free. There is no dullness or darkness so strong that your own heart cannot be set aflame.

*Lord, I do not want to be swept away in delusion. I want to know You, Lord. Lord, I want to know the storyline. I want to be involved in the drama of that generation, I pray, Lord.*