

“The Time of the End”

Daniel 11:36-12:3

Hello friend and welcome to *Hope for Today*. My name is J. Mark Horst; I’m your friend and Bible teacher. The program you’re listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope, an international Gospel radio and literature ministry.

Each week the Bible teaching broadcasts of *Heralds of Hope* circle the globe in English and 20 other major languages. And our Bible teaching programs in several languages are available all the time and any time at the website, twr360.org.

Not long ago, I received a phone call asking for reliable resources on the subject of biblical prophecy. The caller told me of someone they had contact with who was very fearful and anxious about the end times. There’s no doubt in my mind that the current happenings in our world have heightened people’s interest in prophecy. As they see the world falling apart around them, they’re very fearful of the future. Besides that, many people have more time on their hands to think about these things and study them.

The apostle Paul wrote in Second Thessalonians 2:1 to 12 that the future Day of the Lord would be preceded by the coming of a world ruler, the likes of which has never been seen before. Paul uses several names to describe this ruler: *the man of Sin*, *the Son of Perdition*, and the *Lawless One*. His administration will be characterized by deception.

In fact, Paul says this ruler will operate *...with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason, God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe **the** lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.* I understand the lie, specifically mentioned here, is that people will believe this man is actually God! Notice, they will believe this lie because they’re already predisposed to believe what isn’t true.

Deception is rampant today. Our culture is being conditioned to believe and celebrate things that aren’t true. For example, if a biological male decides he’s a female, then we’re told we must treat him as woman. Truth and biological reality don’t matter; what matters is what he believes about himself. This is absolute delusion and it’s heartbreaking! People are being brainwashed and their lives are being destroyed; physically, socially, mentally, and spiritually.

You’re being asked to suspend logic and blindly believe what you’re told, regardless of what your eyes see! You are being conditioned to believe lies. This deception will only grow worse

according to Second Timothy 3:13; *But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.*

For the past few weeks on *The Voice of Hope* we've been looking at the Daniel chapter 11. We've observed how the heavenly messenger gave Daniel detailed information about several world kingdoms in verses 2 through 35. From Daniel's perspective, those kingdoms were present and future. From our perspective, they're in the past. One thing we highlighted was the incredibly accurate predictions of these kingdoms and how they would play out on the stage of history. God, who knows all things, is able with absolute certainty to predict the future, He doesn't need to guess or change His plans. And that gives me a lot of confidence.

As we continue our study, we'll focus on chapter 11 verse 36 through verse 3 of chapter 12. Most scholars believe the chapter division is unfortunate since the narrative continues into chapter 12. There are three possibilities of interpretation for this section. First, it's an account of Antiochus Epiphanes, the ruler who gets the most coverage in the previous verses. Second, it's fiction or wishful thinking. The final possibility is – it's genuine prophecy yet unfulfilled.

We can immediately reject the second possibility. God doesn't deal in fiction or wishful thinking. But what about the other options? Most scholars, and even those who believe that Daniel is a forgery, agree that what is written in these verses doesn't correspond to the actual events of the reign of Antiochus. The critics contend that Daniel was written after the reign of Antiochus and that's why the record of the earlier verses can be so accurate. So, they deny divine inspiration.

That leaves us with only one choice; this is genuine prophecy yet unfulfilled. And I believe, as we work our way through these verses, we can make a compelling case for that choice. I've titled our study *The Time of the End*.

Let's turn now to the text and read it together. That's **Daniel 11:36 to 12:3**.

In the previous verses of chapter eleven the prophecies concerning the Persian and Greek empires have been fulfilled in minute detail. But from verse 36 onward, no commentator claims to find precise historical fulfilment of what is written.

Notice with me verse 35, *And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, **until the time of the end, because it is still for the appointed time.*** This introduces a sharp break in the narrative. Remember, all of this is future for Daniel, but

some is near future and some is distant future. I believe the time being described by verses 36 to 12:3 is still future for us.

According to Daniel's vision in chapter nine of the seventy weeks, or seventy sevens, the first 69 weeks end with the cutting off of Messiah the prince (verse 26). That leaves the final week, the 70th one, yet to come, according to the last verse of the chapter. This is the final period of time leading up to the establishing of Christ's eternal kingdom. And it is this time period that is the focus of these ending verses of chapter 11 and all of chapter 12.

The early church father, Jerome, who authored a commentary on the book of Daniel stated that "the Jews believe this passage (here in end of chapter 11) is a reference to the Antichrist." Jerome, like many in his day, saw Antiochus as a type of the coming Antichrist.

The first part of our text tells us that this time of the end will be led by a king who will have a very **singular focus**.

So, who is this king of verse 36 who *shall do as he pleases*? Is this the ruler of a revived Roman empire, the *little horn* of Daniel chapter 7, who persecutes the saints of the Most High for 3 and a half years? Or is it *the beast out of the sea* in Rev. 13:1 to 10 who holds sway over all the earth?

CLOSING

But looking at that singular focus will need to wait because we're almost out of time for today's broadcast. And we barely got past the introduction. Lord willing, we'll be back next week to continue this study. In the meantime, if you'd like an audio CD or a printed copy of this complete teaching, just request it by its title, "The Time of the End."

The quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to mail@heraldsofhope.org. That e-mail address is mail@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, "The Time of the End." I'd be happy to send one to you.

Once again, the quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to mail@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember; you can request a free copy of this teaching, "The Time of the End." It's available in print or on an audio CD.

And don't forget our Bible teaching programs are available to you all the time and any time at the website, *twr360.org*. That's *twr360.org*. Thousands are logging on to the site for spiritual nourishment and blessing. You can join them and be blessed too!

Now friend, I urge you to tune in next week as we continue our study, "The Time of the End." And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.