

The modern world is eager
to embrace 3 great follies.

1.
There is
no God.

2.
We all are
Gods.

3.
We believe in God
but think WE could
do a better job of
running things.

The great commandment
is to show God's love

The great commission
is to spread God's word

The great covenant
is to share God's life

The great challenge
is to let God be God.

DANIEL 12

vs.1-3
The future hope

vs.4-13
Concluding remarks

The ultimate
hope of God's
people is
resurrection not
restoration.

the end?

Daniel 12

"¹ Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands *guard* over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time;"

✓ This sounds like the "**great tribulation**" of Matt.24.

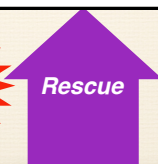
Matthew 24

"²¹ For then there will be a **great tribulation**, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. ²² Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short."

Jesus' teaching
about end of time events.

Matthew's Gospel

Beginning of birth pangs	Great Tribulation	2nd Coming of Christ	Final Judgment
24:4-14	24:15-28	24:29-31	24:32-25:30
			25:31-46



Daniel 12

"and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued."

✓ The meaning of "**the book of life**" is best understood as the role of those who are citizens of the Kingdom of God.

✓ Your people (the people of God) will be "**rescued**". They are not revolutionary liberators.

2 Thessalonians 2:8

"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."

Daniel 12

“² Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace *and* everlasting contempt.”

- ✓ This is the first mention of “**everlasting life**” in the O.T.
- ✓ This is the clearest notation of a “**resurrection**” to eternal life in the O.T.
- ✓ We have some ability and responsibility in renewing and restoring ourselves and our culture but **we have no ability or responsibility when it comes to resurrection stuff.**

Daniel 12

“³ Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

- ✓ Those who understand the **implications** of this prophetic narrative will lead many to life.
- ✓ This insight can be reduced to a few points.
 1. **Be aware.** In this life, things will **get worse** before they get better for God’s people.
 2. **Be hopeful.** God’s people will ultimately have eternal life through the **resurrection**.
 3. **Be peaceful.** God’s people will be **spectators** to these events as God rescues them.

Daniel 12

“³ Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

- ✓ **Three false expectations are challenged.**
 1. **We expect things to improve** as we obey God and transform our culture.
 2. **We expect to be delivered (in this life) from our circumstances** not through them unto the resurrection.
 3. **We expect to be able and responsible to do something that will save us.**

Next Week

- ✓ 1 & 2 Peter were written during the rule of Nero (an antichrist figure).
- ✓ Rom.8-11, 1 Cor.15, 2 Thess.2 were written during the same period.
- ✓ As we read these letters we should ask -
 1. How do they view **suffering** in this life?
 2. How do they understand the nature of Christian **hope** (especially the resurrection)?
 3. What are the boundaries of personal and social moral **responsibilities** for God’s people?

1 Corinthians 15:19

“If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.”

1 Corinthians 15:50

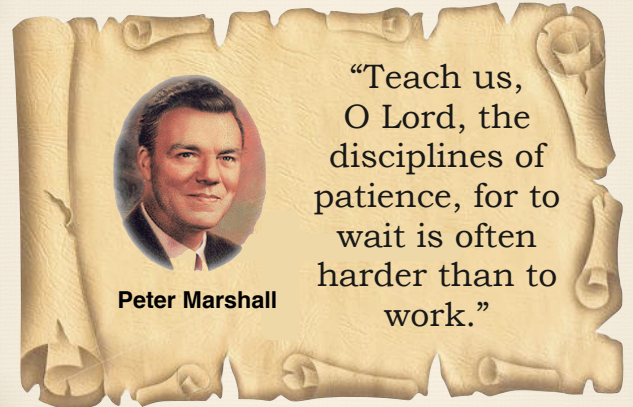
“Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.”

What does this mean for us?

- ✓ We are to not be **surprised** by the cultural and spiritual conflicts in this age.
- ✓ We are not to be **disheartened** by setbacks in this struggle. We cannot save ourselves.
- ✓ We are not to feel **responsible** to reverse what has been decreed by God’s prophetic word.
- ✓ We are to be people of **peace, hope, love, and courage** so as to stand out as bright stars in a world of darkness.

Dare to be a Daniel.
(faithful, courageous, peaceful, long suffering)

*Four spiritual postures
in response to Daniel's prophecies
concerning the end times.*



A fundamental principle of the Christian Gospel -

It is about what God does for us not
about what we do for ourselves!

Christ is our Surrogate
(Savior)!
The Holy Spirit is our Paraclete
(Helper)!

Matthew 11

"²⁸ Come to Me, all who are
weary and heavy-laden, and I
will give you rest. ²⁹ **Take My
yoke upon you**, and learn from
Me, for I am gentle and humble
in heart; and *you shall find rest
for your souls.* ³⁰ For **My yoke
is easy, and My load is light.**"

To share Christ's yoke is to
allow him to both lead
and do the heavy
pulling.



Knowing the nature and
limits of your responsibility
is key to power
and peace.



The spiritually neurotic are driven by unrealistic expectations of their own responsibility.



**"A wise man
seeks to know God.**

**A foolish man
says there is no God.**

**A psychotic man
thinks he is God.**

**A neurotic man
tries to be God."**

Recovery strategies for the spiritually neurotic

✓ **Diagnostic symptoms:**

- ➡ **Perfectionism** - never satisfied.
- ➡ **Shame and Blame** - critical spirit.
- ➡ **Fear, anxiety, anger** - lack of inner peace.

✓ **Owning up to the problem.**

- ➡ Repentance starts with a **desire** to change.
- ➡ Confess and seek **support** from a friend.

✓ **Steps in the process of change:**

- ➡ Recognize "**triggers**".
- ➡ **Plan** a proper response.
- ➡ **Audit** your day's behavior.
- ➡ Disciplined prayers of **thankful worship**.
- ➡ Take a **sabbatical rest** from worry work.
- ➡ Start a study of **Luke 10:38-41**.