

God's glorious future for His suffering people

Main points – God's comfort and counsel for last days people

1. God will rescue. V. 1
2. God will resurrect. v. 2.
3. God will reward. V. 3

Setting of last days: Israel in great distress Daniel 12:1

“distress” – used in [Gen. 42:21](#) of the cries of distress of Joseph to his brothers when abandoned; used of the distress of Christ on the cross in [Ps. 22:2](#)

Through out Israel's history, God had brought nations aginsty them to discipline for their idolatry and bring them back to Himself. The Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks and Romans had all invaded Israel. Yet they, as a whole and as a nation had continued in idolatry or unbelief, even when their Messiah, Jesus had come, they rejected Him. But God is faithful. He had promised their forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that their descendants would forever be in the land of Irasel and of forever be his people. In the last Days, a final invasion will take place. A time of distress unparalleled in history. A time when according to Daniel 11:44, the Antichrist seeks to completely annihilate the nation. This is a time in which Jesus will return to earth and rescue them from certain destruction and they, as a nation will finally, truly repent and enter into the Kingdom of God promised to their forefathers. A kingdom in which they once again will be back in their ancient homeland.

Through the bible sent prophets to warn His people of this final time of distress on earth before He returns:

Daniel 7

- The antichrist is **waging war** with the saints v. 21
- He is **overpowering** them. V. 21
- He **wears down** the saints. V. 25
- God permits it. The saints will be given into the hand of the Antichrist. V. 7:25

Daniel 9:27 – The Antichrist will stop sacrifice and Jewish religion in Jerusalem, and **make them desolate** until a complete destruction is poured out on him.

Daniel 11:44 - He will go in great wrath to **destroy and annihilate** many, . . yet he will come to his end and no one will help him.

Daniel 12:7 He **will shatter** god’s people. The word “shatter” meant to be fragmented, blasted apart. The word was used of a war club. This means the Jews as Well as Christians during the last 3.5 years of the Tribulation before Jesus returns, will have no home, no refuge. Revelation 7 describes millions upon millions in heaven having been killed during this time. Jesus promises them ‘the sun will not beat down on them, nor will thy be any longer thirsty. This indicates they have no homes, nor access to food or drink during this final persecution by the Antichrist. In Matthews 25:34-40 Jesus says the evidence of those who come to faith in him during this time will be their helping fleeing Israelites and believers. He says, I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; thirsty and you gave me to drink; a stranger and you invited me in; naked and you clothed me; sick and you visited Me; in prison and you came to me”

Dt. 4:27-30 – The lord will scatter you among the nations, there you will serve gods, but from there you will seek the Lord. . . when you are in distress and all these things have come upon you in the latter days you will return to the Lord your God and listen to His voice, for the Lord your God is a compassionate God; He will not fail you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant with you fathers which He swore to them.

Jer. 30:3-7 - For behold, days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will restore the fortunes of My people Israel and Judah.’ The Lord says, ‘I will also bring them back to the land that I gave to their forefathers, and they shall take possession of it.’” I have heard a sound of terror, Of fear, and there is no peace. ⁶ Ask now, and see If a male can give birth. Why do I see every man *With* his hands on his waist, as a woman in childbirth? And *why* have all faces turned pale? ⁷ Woe, for that day is great, There is none like it; And it is the time of Jacob’s distress, Yet he will be saved from it.

Matt . 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 *again*. ²² And if those days had not been cut short, no ^[a]life would have been saved; but for the sake of the ^[b]elect those days will be cut short.

Revelation 13

- It was given to him (the Antichrist) to make **war** with the saints v. 7
- It was given to him to **overcome** the saints v. 7
- Only 1/3 of Israel survives. **Zech. 13:8-9**

God will rescue! Daniel 12:1

Who? Those written in the book - ie. the saved.

“If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire” (**Rev 20:15**)

How?

Providentially through Michael the Arch angel waring against Satan and prohibiting the physical destruction of Israel by intervening in nature. This is described in **Rev. 12:7-12**.

Jesus delivers Israel when He returns by causing an earthquake giving them a place to retreat to safety (**Zechariah 14:2-5**).

Directly through the coming and power of Christ.

All nations will come and lay siege against Jerusalem and Judah and yet God says, “**In that day** I will strike every horse with bewilderment and his rider with madness. But I will watch over Judah while I strike every horse of the nations with blindness . . . **In that day** the Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem . . I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem (**Zechariah 12:2-5,8-9**)

Spiritually. God delivers Israel by giving them a repentant, believing heart when He returns. In **Zechariah 12:10** He says, “I will pour out Israel a spirit of grace so they will look on Me who they have pierced and mourn.”

Zech. 13:8-9 “two thirds (of Israel) will be cut off (killed) but a third will come through and be **refined and they will call on my name.**

- God uses the tribulation and his intervention to bring Israel to faith. 4,000 years ago he made Israel promises and he keeps them. They will be in their ancient land, his believing people, along with all other believers. Individual Jews missed out by not believing, but those who believe receive the promises God made to them as a nation.
- God also rescues believing Gentiles during the tribulation. How? Many of them survive and live through it, and the millions who die, are preserved in their faith, peace and testimony even to their death. **Revelation 14:12-13** says, ***“Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. . . blessed (happy) are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!”***

God will resurrect!

1. **Resurrection refers to the body not the soul.** The soul never dies: E.g. Rich man and Lazarus, Thief on the cross; Jesus transfiguration they saw Moses and Elijah. Mt 17; Phil. 1:21; I am the god of the living not the dead, the god of Abraham Isaac and Jacob.

2. **They will be raised after the time of tribulation. Many will awake to everlasting life. Rev. 10:5-7**

And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of ^[b]their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their foreheads and on their hands; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

⁵ The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Him for a thousand years

Some believers will be raised at the rapture before the trib. 1 Thess. 4; 1 Cor. 15 They are all a part of the ‘first resurrection’

- [Isa. 26:19](#) your dead will live your corpses will rise. . .
- [Psalm 17:15](#) I will awake to thy likeness and I will not be ashamed.

3. God will resurrect the wicked.

Many will awake to disgrace and everlasting contempt

Hebrew *dērā’ôn* (“contempt”) refers to “an object of aversion” or “abhorrence.”

- ***In [Isa 66:24](#), the only other instance of this word in the Old Testament, it also concerns the eternal state: “And they will go out and look upon the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; their worm will not die, nor will their fire be quenched, and they will be loathsome [dērā’ôn] to all mankind.”***

So shocking will be the fate of the lost that onlookers must turn their faces away in horror (or disgust). This “contempt” will be “everlasting,” that is, it will endure for eternity.

When will the wicked be raised? [Rev. 20:5-8](#) They will be raised after the 1000 years