

Daniel.15. Chapter 12

This morning, we conclude the series on the Book of Daniel looking at chapter 12

- This chapter culminates the revelation given to Daniel that began in chapter 10 by focusing on the end of the age, which is identified as “*the time of the end*” (12:4) when “*all these things will be finished*” or completed (12:7)

There are numerous topics that are woven through this chapter that are referred to in various of places in the New Testament

(1) The Spiritual Warfare and Protection of the Archangel Michael

- **Daniel 12:1a** = *At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people.*

- Michael has already been spoken of in Daniel 10 in reference to him waging spiritual war against Satanic territorial ruling spirits, most probably along with his angelic hosts

- **Daniel 10:13** = *The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia*

- **Daniel 10:21** = *But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.*

This statement in Daniel 12:1a is the background for Revelation 12:7-8

- **Revelation 12:7-8** = *Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸ but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.*

- While many interpret these verses in Revelation 12:7-8 to have already been fulfilled at some unknown time in the past, Daniel 12:1 states that Michael will “*arise*” is “*at that time,*” which the verse says will be “*the time of tribulation*” thus, indicating this is to take place at the time of “*the Great Tribulation,*” *the time of the end*” (12:4) when “*all these things will be finished*” (12:7)

➔ **The assurance of God’s care for His people by angelic intervention and protection comes before the revelation concerning “*the time of tribulation*”**

(2) The Time of Trouble, The Great Tribulation

- **Daniel 12:1b, 6-7** = *And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time... ⁶And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, “How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?” ⁷ And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.*

This “*time of trouble*” was prophetically spoken of previously in the prophets

- **Jeremiah 30:7-9** = *Alas! That day is so great there is none like it; it is a time of distress for Jacob; yet he shall be saved out of it. ⁸ “And it shall come to pass in that day, declares the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off your neck, and I will burst your bonds, and foreigners shall no more make a servant of him. ⁹ But they shall serve the LORD their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.*

This “time” is explicitly quoted by Jesus in his discourse about the end of the age and His 2nd Coming, and in the book of Revelation when it is referred to as “the great tribulation”

- **Matthew 24:21–22** = *For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.* ²² *And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.*
 - **Revelation 7:13-14** = *Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?”* ¹⁴ *I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

It will be a period of intense persecution for “a time, times, and half a time,” meaning 3 ½ years or 42 months, and will culminate at the end of the age when “all these things would be finished” (v. 7)

- **Daniel 7:25** = *He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.*

- **Revelation 12:13–17** = *And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.* ¹⁴ *But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.* ¹⁵ *The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood.* ¹⁶ *But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth.* ¹⁷ *Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.*

- **Revelation 13:4-7** = *And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?”* ⁵ *And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.* ⁶ *It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.* ⁷ *Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation*

The power of Satan working through this persecution will result in “the shattering of the power of the holy people” (v.7)

- God’s sovereign purpose in allowing this is for His people to turn to and trust in Him alone

This “wisdom” of the sovereign purpose of God has been ultimately demonstrated in the cross, resurrection, and ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ

- As a human being, He was “tested” to the fullest possible extent so that, as a human he died but was then raised to never die again and ascended to heaven to rule over all His enemies (Ps.110:1)
 - **Acts 2:23-38** = *This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.* ²⁴ *God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.* ²⁵ *For David says concerning him, “ ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;”* ²⁶ *therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope.* ²⁷ *For you*

will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

(3) The Book of Life

- **Daniel 12:1** = *But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.*
- This would be the book which is called in the Book of Revelation "The Book of Life"
- **Revelation 13:8** = *and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.*
- **Revelation 17:8** = *The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.*
- **Revelation 20:12–15** = *And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*
- **Revelation 21:27** = *But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

(4) The General Resurrection of the Dead

- **Daniel 12:2-3, 13** = *And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever... ¹³ But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."*

"Sleep" is a metaphor for physical death and "awake" a metaphor for the resurrection

- **1 Thessalonians 4:14-16** = *For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.*

The reference to "the dust of the earth" comes from Genesis 3:19 in the sentence of God's judgment releasing the curse of death upon all those "in Adam"

- **Genesis 3:19** = *"By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*
- **Isaiah 26:19** = *Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.*

There are only two eternal destinies for all people: “everlasting life” or “everlasting contempt”

- **Matthew 25:46** = *And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.*”

- **John 3:36** = *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*

- **John 5:28-29** = *Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice²⁹ and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.*

Those who are raised to eternal life “shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever” (v. 3)

- Those who will be raised to eternal life will be like the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ

- **Philippians 3:20-21** = *But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.*

- In the words of John Newton’s “Amazing Grace:” “When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we first begun”

(5) The Words are Sealed Until the Time of the End

- **Daniel 12:4, 8-9** = *But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end...⁸ I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, “O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?”⁹ He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end...*

- The words are “sealed,” meaning the understanding of them will not be “unsealed” or revealed until the time of the end of the age when they begin to take place

- It is for this reason that, when Jesus quoted Daniel concerning “the abomination that causes desolation” of the temple, He spoke the word of “unsealing” of the meaning of this word

- **Matthew 24:15** = *“So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand)*

(6) At that time, the “Wise” will understand but the “Wicked” will not

- **Daniel 12:3** = *And those who are wise shall... shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness...¹⁰ And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand.*

When these explicit prophetic words are being fulfilled “right before our eyes,” why don’t “the wicked” believe or “understand” them?

- The reasons are (a) they love “wickedness,” (b) Satan has blinded their minds, and (c) God turned them over to the curse of their sin so their hearts are “hardened” against God

- **John 3:20** = *For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.*

- **John 12:37-40** = *Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him,³⁸ so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”³⁹ Therefore they*

could not believe. For again Isaiah said, ⁴⁰ “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.”

- **2 Corinthians 4:3-4** = *And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

- **2 Thessalonians 2:9-12** = *The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹ Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, ¹² in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

(7) The Increase of Travel and Knowledge are Signs of the End of the Age

- **Daniel 12:4** = *... until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase*

- Since the time of the Industrial Revolution, there has been an exponential growth in the ability of people to travel, with the inventions of the steam engine (1712), the railroad (1823), the automobile (1885), the airplane (1903), and even travel to the moon

- Then, also, there has been an exponential increase in knowledge, from the time of writing on manuscripts, the invention of the printing press (1440), and the computer (1945), and Artificial Intelligence

(8) The purpose of “the time of trouble” is to test and prove who is “righteous” and who is “wicked,” and to “purify” and “refine” the righteous to “make themselves white,” which means to be “made holy” like Christ

- **Daniel 12:10** = *Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly.*

- **Revelation 13:10** = *If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.*

- **Revelation 22:11** = *Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.”*

Those who are true believers in Jesus will “make themselves white”

- **Revelation 3:5** = *The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.*

- **Revelation 3:18** = *I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.*

- **Revelation 6:9-11** = *When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. ¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” ¹¹ Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.*

- **Revelation 7:9** = *After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands*

- **Revelation 7:13-14** = *Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

- **Revelation 19:14** = *And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.*

(9) "The abomination that makes desolate" will be "set up"

- **Daniel 12:11** = *And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days.*

This was already revealed to Daniel

- **Daniel 9:27** = *And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator."*

Jesus said that after the accomplishment of God's sovereign purpose to "preach the gospel of the kingdom to every ethnic group," this will be the foremost sign of the end of the age

- **Matthew 24:14-15** = *And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. ¹⁵ "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place*

- "The end" does not mean that, literally, this age is completely concluded, but that the "time of the end of the age" will begin, meaning it is "the beginning of the end"

It will be "set up" in the "holy place," which is the temple of God

- **2 Thessalonians 2:4** = *who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.*

- **Revelation 13:14-15** = *and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. ¹⁵ And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.*

(10) At the time of the resurrection at the end of the age, each person will receive their reward, or "allotted place"

- **Daniel 12:13** = *But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."*

- **Revelation 11:18** = *The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.*

- **Revelation 22:12** = *"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done."*

**Last Words of Famous Unbelievers
Who Will “Awake to Shame and Everlasting Contempt”**

Charles IX, the French king who, urged on by his mother, gave the order for the massacre of the French Huguenots in which 15,000 souls were slaughtered in Paris alone and 100,000 in other sections of France, for no other reason than that they loved Christ. The guilty king suffered miserably for years after that event. He finally died, bathed in blood bursting from his veins. To his physicians he said in his last hours: "Asleep or awake, I see the mangled forms of the Huguenots passing before me. They drop with blood. They point at their open wounds. Oh! That I had spared at least the little infants at the bosom! What blood! I know not where I am. How will all this end? What shall I do? I am lost forever! I know it. Oh, I have done wrong." (May 30, 1574)

Sir Thomas Scott, Chancellor of England: "Until this moment I thought there was neither a God nor a hell. Now I know and feel that there are both, and I am doomed to perdition by the just judgment of the Almighty." (December 30, 1594)

Thomas Hobbes, political philosopher: "I say again, if I had the whole world at my disposal, I would give it to live one day. I am about to take a leap into the dark." (Dec. 4, 1679)

Sir Francis Newport, the head of an English Atheist club to those gathered around his deathbed: "You need not tell me there is no God for I know there is one, and that I am in His presence! You need not tell me there is no hell. I feel myself already slipping. Wretches, cease your idle talk about there being hope for me! I know I am lost forever! Oh, that fire! Oh, the insufferable pangs of hell! ...Oh, that I could lie for a thousand years upon the fire that is never quenched, to purchase the favor of God and be united to Him again. But it is a fruitless wish. Millions and millions of years will bring me no nearer the end of my torments than one poor hour. Oh, eternity, eternity forever and forever! Oh, the insufferable pangs of Hell!" (September 19, 1708)

David Hume, atheist philosopher famous for his philosophy of empiricism and skepticism of religion, he cried loud on his death bed: "I am in flames!" It is said his "desperation was a horrible scene." (August 25, 1776)

Voltaire, famous Anti-Christian atheist: "I am abandoned by God and man; I will give you half of what I am worth if you will give me six months' life." (He said this to Dr. Fochin, who told him it could not be done.) "Then I shall die and go to hell!" (His nurse said: "For all the money in Europe I wouldn't want to see another unbeliever die! All night long he cried for forgiveness." (May 30, 1778)

Thomas Payne, Author of “Common Sense”: "Stay with me, for God's sake; I cannot bear to be left alone, O Lord, help me! O God, what have I done to suffer so much? What will become of me hereafter? "I would give worlds if I had them, that The Age of Reason had never been published. O Lord, help me! Christ, help me! ...No, don't leave; stay with me! Send even a child to stay with me; for I am on the edge of Hell here alone. If ever the Devil had an agent, I have been that one." (Jun 8, 1809)

Napoleon Bonaparte, the French emperor, and who brought death to millions to satisfy his greedy, power-mad, selfish ambitions for world conquest: "I die before my time, and my body will be given back to the earth. Such is the fate of him who has been called the great Napoleon. What an abyss between my deep misery and the eternal kingdom of Christ!" (May 5, 1821)

David Strauss, leading representative of German rationalism, after spending a lifetime seeking to erase belief in God from the minds of others: "My philosophy leaves me utterly forlorn! I feel like one caught in the merciless jaws of an automatic machine, not knowing at what time one of its great hammers may crush me!" (February 8, 1874)

Robert Ingersoll, nicknamed "The Great Agnostic": "O God, if there be a God, save my soul, if I have a soul!" Some say it was this way: "Oh God, if there be a God, save my soul if I have a soul, from hell, if there be a hell!" (July 22, 1899)

In a Newsweek interview with Svetlana Stalin, the daughter of Josef Stalin, she told of her father's death: "My father died a difficult and terrible death. . . God grants an easy death only to the just. . . At what seemed the very last moment he suddenly opened his eyes and cast a glance over everyone in the room. It was a terrible glance, insane or perhaps angry. . . His left hand was raised, as though he were pointing to something above and bringing down a curse on us all. The gesture was full of menace. . . The next moment he was dead." (March 5, 1953)

Anton LeVey, author of the Satanic Bible and high priest of the religion dedicated to the worship of Satan. Some of his famous quotes are "There is a beast in man that needs to be exercised, not exorcised": His dying words were "Oh my, oh my, what have I done, there is something very wrong...there is something very wrong...." (October 29, 1997)

The Last Words of Believers Who Will "Awake to Everlasting Life"

Anthony of Padua, Portuguese Catholic priest and Franciscan friar: "I see my God. He calls me to Him." (June, 13 1231)

Girolamo Savonarola, Italian Dominican friar, when asked before his execution if he was resigned to death: "My Lord died innocent of all crimes, for my sins; and shall not I willingly give my soul for the love of Him." (May 23, 1498)

James Bainham, English lawyer and Protestant reformer while burning at the stake for heresy: "O ye papists: behold, ye look for miracles, and here now ye may see a miracle, for in this fire I feel no more pain than if I were in a bed of down, but it is to me as sweet as a bed of roses." (April 30, 1532)

William Warham, Archbishop of Canterbury, when a servant told him he had thirty pounds left: "That is enough to last till I get to Heaven." (August 22, 1532)

William Tyndale, English scholar and Bible translator, before being strangled and burned at the stake for heresy: "Lord, open the King of England's eye." (October 6, 1536)

John Lamber, English Protestant martyr, while being burned at the stake: "None but Christ! None but Christ!" (November 22, 1538)

Robert Barnes, English reformer and Protestant martyr while being burned at the stake for heresy: "Blessed are they who suffer persecution for righteousness' sake." (July 30, 1540)

Margaret Pole, Countess of Salisbury, while an incompetent executioner attempted to behead her: "Now, O Lord, set thy servant free." (May 27, 1541)

George Wishart, Scottish Protestant reformer and martyr kissing one of his executioners on the cheek after the man asked for his forgiveness: "I came not hither to deny my Lord and Master." (March 1, 1546),

John Rogers, English clergyman, Bible translator and commentator, prior to burning at the stake for heresy: "Welcome the cross of Christ! Welcome everlasting life!" (February 4, 1555)

Rowland Taylor, English Protestant martyr, while being burned at the stake for heresy: "I am not afraid. Lord, Lord, Lord, receive my spirit!" (February 9, 1555)

William Hunter, English silk-weaver and Protestant martyr, while being burned at the stake for heresy: "Be of good comfort, brother, for we shall have a merry supper with the Lord this night: if there be any way to heaven on horseback or in fiery chariots, this is it. (March 27, 1555)

John Bradford, English Reformer and Protestant martyr, to John Leaf, a fellow martyr, prior to being burned at the stake: "Let the flames come near me. I cannot burn! I cannot burn!" (July 1, 1555)

Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London, while burning at the stake for heresy, only his lower limbs burned away: "Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man; we shall this day light such a candle by God's grace in England as (I trust) shall never be put out." (October 16, 1555).

Hugh Latimer, former Bishop of Worcester, to Nicholas Ridley while they were burning at the stake for heresy: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit... I see the heavens open and Jesus standing at the right hand of God." (October 16, 1555)

Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, alluding to Acts 7:56 prior to execution by burning: "Nothing else but heaven." (March 21, 1556)

John Calvin, French theologian and Protestant reformer, principal developer of Reformed Theology: "Victory! Victory!" (*Vittoria! Vittoria!*) (May 27, 1564)

John Knox, founder of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland: "Lord God, into Thy Holy Hands I commit my spirit." (*Herre Gud, uti dina heliga händer antvardar jag min anda.*) (24 November 1572)

William Whitaker, Calvinistic Anglican churchman, academic and theologian: "I die a martyr and willingly - my soul shall mount up to heaven in this chariot of smoke." (December 4, 1595)

Richard Hooker, English priest and theologian: "I begin to perceive and feel the joys of eternal life. I shall soon behold Him, who was sacrificed for men; I long for the blessed sight. All else is to me as dross: there is nothing that could make me wish to live one hour longer." (November 3, 1600)

Robert Cecil, 1st Earl of Salisbury, English statesman: "Now I have overcome." (May 24, 1612)

John Preston, Anglican minister, master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge: "Now, God be with you, my dear children; I have breakfasted with you, and shall sup with my Lord Jesus Christ this night." (July 20, 1628)

Robert Bruce of Kinnaird, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland: "I have kept the faith once given to the saints; for the which cause I have also suffered these things; but I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed to Him against that day." (July 27, 1631)