**STAND FIRM, WAIT, AND BE BLESSED**

**Daniel 12:1-13**

**YOU CAN REST IN GOD’S PROMISE OF RESCUE**

* *“At that time Michael, the great prince who stands watch over your people, will rise up. There will be a time of distress such as never has occurred since nations came into being until that time. But at that time all your people who are found written in the book will escape.”* (Daniel 12:1)
* **The God we serve is a deliverer and promise keeper, and He has promised that when the time is right He will rescue all of His children.**

**THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD INTO ETERNITY IS A REALITY FOR ALL**

* *“Many who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, some to eternal life, and some to disgrace and eternal contempt.”* (Daniel 12:2)
* **The reality of eternal life for everyone is good news for those who are in Christ, but horrible news for those who reject Jesus.**
* Jesus - *“And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”* (Matthew 25:46)
* **The question is not IF everyone will live forever in the next life, but WHERE they will spend their eternity.**

**MAKE WISE USE OF YOUR TIME TO BE A WITNESS FOR CHRIST**

* *“Those who have insight will shine like the bright expanse of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”* (Daniel 12:3)
* **How we shine the light of Christ in our world will have a direct impact on others turning to Jesus for salvation.**
* *“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.”* (Ephesians 5:8)

**TRUST IN GOD’S SOVEREIGN PLANS AND TIMING**

* *“4 ‘But you, Daniel, keep these words secret and seal the book until the time of the end. Many will roam about, and knowledge will increase.’*

*5 Then I, Daniel, looked, and two others were standing there, one on this bank of the river and one on the other. 6 One of them said to the man dressed in linen, who was above the water of the river, ‘How long until the end of these wondrous things?’ 7 Then I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the water of the river. He raised both his hands toward heaven and swore by him who lives eternally that it would be for a time, times, and half a time. When the power of the holy people is shattered, all these things will be completed.*

*8 I heard but did not understand. So I asked, ‘My lord, what will be the outcome of these things?’ 9 He said, ‘Go on your way, Daniel, for the words are secret and sealed until the time of the end.”* (Daniel 12:4-9)

* **Life can be difficult and the challenges may seem unbearable, but we serve a God who is greater than any challenge we face and promises to be with us through it all!**
* *“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the whole earth. He never becomes faint or weary; there is no limit to his understanding. 29 He gives strength to the faint and strengthens the powerless. 30 Youths may become faint and weary, and young men stumble and fall, 31 but those who trust in the Lord will* ***renew*** *their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not become weary, they will walk and not faint.”* (Isaiah 40:28-30)
* **Learning to surrender to God’s timetable is one of the most freeing things we can ever experience.**
* *“Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart be courageous. Wait for the LORD.”* (Psalm 27:14)

**KEEP STANDING FIRM IN DEFIANT FAITH UNTIL YOU RECEIVE YOUR INHERITANCE FROM THE LORD**

* *“Many will be purified, cleansed, and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand. 11 From the time the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. 12 Happy is the one who waits for and reaches 1,335 days. 13 But as for you, go on your way to the end; you will rest, and then you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance at the end of the days.’”* (Daniel 12:10-13*)*
* **A defiant faith is one that embraces God’s refining process while holding firmly to the Lord no matter what pressures one faces from evil forces in this world.**
* **Your commitment to Christ is not in vain; He will bless you when the time comes for your eternal inheritance!**
* *“The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God’s children, 17 and if children, also heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.”* (Romans 8:16-17)

**Connect Group Discussion**

**Understanding:**

* What does Daniel 12:1-13 teach us about God/Jesus?
* What is a key message in Daniel 12? There may be more than one.
* What does Daniel 12:2 and Matthew 25:46 say about the afterlife?
* What is the “inheritance” spoken of in Daniel 12:13?

**Digging Deeper:**

* What are some ways God protects His people even during suffering? Share about a time you experienced God’s protection.
* What is the responsibility of every Christian according to Daniel 12:3? (See Matthew 28 also)
* How do you handle waiting on God’s timing? Be specific and honest. How can we help one another endure the “waiting”?
* God calls us to live righteously according to His word. How do we know that our eternal inheritance (being with God forever in heaven) is guaranteed even though we still sin (fall short) in this life?
* What has been your biggest takeaway from this complete study of the Book of Daniel? (All 12 chapters)

**Loving Outward:**

* Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
* Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
* Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?