

Continuing our study of the final chapter of Daniel, we notice that in verses 4 and 9, Daniel is commanded to seal up the words of the prophecy that he has been actively transcribing, until the **Time of the End**. These two verses are as bookends, framing events that occur between the two verses, and followed by events that will occur at the *Time of the End*. With this understanding, we begin our study in verse five, where we find Daniel lifting his eyes to see a wondrous vision while standing by the river Hiddekel [Tigris] (see Daniel 10:4). The prophetic narrative spanning Chapters 10 thru 12, spoken to Daniel by the angel Gabriel, meets its conclusion as the prophet perceives two heavenly beings [angels] standing on opposite sides of the river. The same glorious *One* of Daniel 10:5, 6, clothed in *fine white linen*, is seen above the waters of the river.



Q: *Who is the One standing upon the river? Consider His actions in Daniel 12:7 then read the following:*

- Matthew 5:33-37
- Matthew 24:35
- Revelation 10:1-6
- Deuteronomy 32:39, 40
- Hebrews 6:13
- Jeremiah 22:5

A: *Michael, the One Who lives forever and can fulfill all of His promises, is the One standing above the waters of the Hiddekel conveying a message to His servant Daniel. The message being given is in response to a question by one of the two angels on the sides of the river, asking "How long [shall it be to] the end of these wonders?" (Daniel 12:6)*

Q: *Consider Jesus' response regarding the duration of the incredible vision and what shall befall the "holy people" (sons of God). Compare Christ's response to the statement in Daniel 8:24, 25. To who are these references made and what events are being noted?*

A: *Jesus gave reference to the **Dark Ages**, the 1,260-year time of spiritual darkness when God's people were **scattered** by the Papal Roman system. The conclusion of this period, A.D.1798, would commence the **Time of the End**.*

The words of Jesus give reference to several parallels in prophecy for consideration. First, the culmination of the war against ("scatter") God's people for 1,260 years by the papacy, the *King of the North*, marking the *Time of the End* (v7, 9). Secondly, the opening of the portions of the closed book of Daniel through an "*increase of knowledge*" as men ran "*to and fro*" through the Bible, also marking the *Time of the End* (v4). Lastly, Jesus' statement, "*he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people*" draws the reader's attention to another fulfilled prophecy occurring at the *Time of the End*. The date A.D.1798 marks the conclusion of the first of two time-prophecies denoted by **God's Indignation**. The **2,520-year** scattering of the Northern Kingdom of Israel (Samaria), begun in 723B.C. by the Assyrians, concluded in the year A.D.1798 [see Lessons [10](#), [11](#), and [21](#) for details of the scattering].

Daniel was neither to experience nor fully understand the accounts in the portion of the closed narrative, for

knowledge of these truths was reserved for those living in our day, the *Time of the End* (1 Peter 1:9-12). Nonetheless, the prophet still inquired of the Lord, "*O my Lord, what [shall be] the end of these [things]?*", in other words, what will be the outcome of these events.

In Daniel 12:10, Jesus spoke to Daniel using *Hebrew Parallelism* to describe the "end" of the conflict, specifically, the development of two classes of people and their characters at the *Time of the End*. The parallels are as follows:

<i>"Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried"</i>	-	<i>"but the wise shall understand"</i>
<i>"but the wicked shall do wickedly"</i>	-	<i>"and none of the wicked shall understand"</i>

The **Wise** [marginally written as *teachers*] are they who are tried, purified, and made white. The **Wicked**, however, will do wickedly and shall not understand. Let us consider each type separately. In analyzing the wise we must interpret what makes this class wise, what makes them pure, the trials involved in making them white, and lastly, when do these things occur. Let us consider the following verses in our analysis:

- John 15:1-5, 3:1-8
- Luke 11:5-13
- Malachi 3:1-5
- Matthew 25:1-10
- James 1:2-8
- James 3:13
- 1 John 5:19, 20
- Revelation 3:5
- Revelation 14:6-12

Q: *What is it that makes the "wise" wise?*

A: *The wise bear the **Seal of God** and have **oil** of the Holy Spirit; a character fashioned and molded by Christ's righteousness, preparing them to meet Him in peace. The presence of oil allows them to keep their lamps burning while others' lamps have gone out. Through perseverance in trial and trusting in God's Word, they are made wise.*

Q: *Who performs the work of making the wise pure, white, and refining them through trials? See Psalm 138:8*

A: *The **Messenger of the [Everlasting] Covenant** is He who purifies the wise, the **sons of Levi**, making them white by His own righteousness (Col 2:12; Ezek 36:26-29; Num 3:5-15).*

The wise understand their spiritual poverty and their need to be born again of God. Recognizing their own sinful, unconsecrated state, they prayerfully plead without ceasing for a new heart, for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Through self-denial and trusting in God's promises, the Holy Spirit performs the work of *purifying* - refining through trials of rejection, derision, and persecution - all making *white* the wise. Thus, they are fitted to proclaim the **Three Angel's Messages**: to proclaim the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ; to declare an urgent message of God's judgment; to preach faithfulness to all of God's commandments (including the fourth), and lastly, to flee the false systems of worship of Babylon, enforced by the Beast, its Image, and its Mark. Through diligent study and untiring prayer, the wise understand and embrace the combined messages of salvation and judgment. These have the Father's name written in their foreheads, they follow the Lamb

wherever He leads, and they are redeemed from among men (Revelation 14:1-5). This process commenced when God the Father's **Messenger of the Covenant** came suddenly [unexpectedly] to His temple.

Q: Who is the Messenger of the Covenant and when does He come to His temple? Consider the following verses: Malachi 3:1-5; 1 Cor 6:19; Titus 2:11-14; Daniel 8:14, 7:9, 10, 13, 14

A: The purification of the wise commences when Jesus enters their heart temples to cleanse it at conversion. This work is being perfected as of October 22, 1844, the **Antitypical Day of Atonement** when Jesus, the **Messenger of the Covenant**, entered the Most Holy Place in heaven to cleanse it through the **Investigative Judgment**.

Now that we have understood the character and fate of the **wise**, let us analyze the **wicked**. Review the following verses when discussing the character and fate of this class.

- 1 Corinthians 2:12-16
- James 1:13-15
- Revelation 13:4, 8, 14-17
- John 3:3-8; 5:38-40
- Isaiah 27:10, 11, 8:15
- Matt 25:1-12, 13:18-22
- Jeremiah 6:16-19
- Isaiah 58:1-5, 28:15
- Revelation 14:9-11
- Hosea 4:6, 7

Q: What are some characteristics of the wicked?

A: The wicked are they who do not discern spiritual things because they lack spiritual life, not being born again (Eph 2:2, 3; 2 Tim 2:25, 26). They are as foolish virgins, spurning the opportunity to have a relationship with Jesus Christ, and to embrace the wisdom provided in His Word. They are

profane as Esau, forsaking sacred things of eternal importance for mere temporal trifles (Hebrews 12:16). The wicked will therefore, be forsaken of God and destroyed.

Q: Of what do the wicked lack an understanding and why?

A: The wicked lack knowledge of God and of His ways because they have hardened their hearts to reject that knowledge. Their deeds are evil, and they forsake the Holy Spirit's counsels regarding *sin, righteousness, and judgment*. They fail to make true repentance of their unconsecrated condition, but rather, are led to trust, through self-righteous pride, in a false security. The wicked are self-deceived and thus make shipwreck of their own salvation.

Q: What will be the fate of the wicked?

A: The wicked will be blind to their spiritual condition and the imminent events before them – drawing to the decisive battle between good and evil. They will eventually follow the apostate religious powers in the end, causing them to lose the crown of life that God intended for them. Ultimately, they will be destroyed with the enemy of souls.

The wicked therefore, are they who hear the gospel message, but lack faith, perseverance, and the will to seek after it and its requirements. Their lack of prayerful persistence in seeking Christ's righteousness leaves them in a guilty, spiritually uncovered [naked] condition; like Adam and Eve at the fall (Genesis 3:7-13; Revelation 16:15). In time, their personal ambitions, lusts, and selfish desires overtake any motivation towards consecration and

faithfulness to God, until they are overthrown.

Our lesson closes solemnly, where the two classes of people on earth at the *Time of the End* are clearly identified. God has made provision that none should perish, but that all should come to repentance and be saved by grace through *faith of Jesus Christ*. Further, God, through His Holy Spirit, has opened the once closed book of Daniel for all to read, understand, and “eat” – internalize intellectually and spiritually. Our prayer is that you **Taste and See that the Lord is Good!** May we all be counted among the wise while the *Messenger of the Covenant*, Jesus Christ- **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**, tries us, purifies us, and makes us white (Jeremiah 23:5, 6; Zechariah 3:1-5)!

Key Thought:

“In every age there is a new development of truth, a message of God to the people of that generation. The old truths are all essential; new truth is not independent of the old, but an unfolding of it. It is only as the old truths are understood that we can comprehend the new. When Christ desired to open to His disciples the truth of His resurrection, He began “at Moses and all the prophets” and “expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself.” Luke 24:27. But it is the light which shines in the fresh unfolding of truth that glorifies the old. He who rejects or neglects the new does not really possess the old. For him it loses its vital power and becomes but a lifeless form.”

Christ's Object Lessons, pg 127.4, by E.G. White

For additional Bible studies or if you have questions, please write or contact: Life More Abundant
PO Box 334 * Goshen, VA 24439 * www.lifemoreabundantpa.com * biblestudies@lifemoreabundantpa.com

The Conflict's Conclusion: The Wise & The Wicked

Daniel Chapter 12 – Part 2

[Based on verses 3, 7-10]



Lesson 58