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## Light at the End of the Tunnel

Daniel 12



### Background:

As we emerge from the Omicron wave of Covid and mark two years since PBCC closed its campus at the beginning of the pandemic, the light at the end of the tunnel looms large. But for Russia's war in Ukraine there is as yet no light at the end of the tunnel; the train is still heading further into the darkness. Daniel asked how long it would be till the end of the time of distress. He is given different answers: a time, times and half a time; 1,290 days; and 1,335 days. How far away is the light and what does the light bring?

### Sermon Text (NIV): Daniel 12

12 "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. 2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 Those who are wise[a] will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. 4 But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."

5 Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank. 6 One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?" 7 The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted

his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, "It will be for a time, times and half a time.[b] When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed." 8 I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, "My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?" 9 He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because the words are rolled up and sealed until the time of the end. 10 Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand. 11 "From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. 12 Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days. 13 "As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance."

### Discussion Questions:

1. Preparation
  - a. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
  - b. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
2. Sermon Questions
  - a. As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you the most?
  - b. Bernard discussed both retributive justice (punishment of oppressor) and restorative justice (healing of oppressed, and ideally of oppressor as well).
    - i. What are "everyday" examples of these types of justice?
    - ii. Do you have any examples of these types of justice that have impacted/affected your life? How/why?
  - c. How do you see retributive and restorative justice in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ?
  - d. How does the final verse of the Book of Daniel encourage you in whatever challenges you may be facing right now?
    - i. Daniel 12:13: As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance.
  - e. Each day, we have the choice to live a self-exalting or God-exalting life. In what ways can you choose to live out the latter?