

Daniel 12:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

Analysis

The phrase "at that time" connects this prophecy to preceding visions of conflict and persecution (chapter 11). "Shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people" identifies Michael as Israel's protector, an archangel specially assigned to defend God's covenant people. The verb *amad* (אָמַד, "stand up") suggests rising to action, intervening decisively on Israel's behalf during crisis. Michael's titles—"the great prince" and protector of "thy people"—emphasize his unique role concerning Israel.

"And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation" describes unprecedented tribulation. Jesus directly referenced this verse in Matthew 24:21, applying it to both Jerusalem's destruction (AD 70) and final eschatological crisis. The phrase "such as never was" indicates unparalleled intensity and scope of suffering. However, the promise "thy people shall be delivered" assures that faithful believers will be preserved through judgment. The qualification "every one that shall be found written in the book" introduces the Book of Life concept (Revelation 20:12, 15), indicating that salvation depends on divine election and inscription in God's record.

This verse teaches God's sovereign protection of His elect through history's darkest periods. Though tribulation will be severe, believers won't be abandoned—Michael's intervention ensures their preservation. This doesn't guarantee physical survival but eternal salvation. The reference to the Book emphasizes that salvation is God's work, not human achievement. This points to Christ, whose intercession ensures believers' names remain in the Book of Life, secured by His atoning death.

Historical Context

Daniel 12:1 was received during Cyrus's third year (536 BC) as part of the final vision (chapters 10-12), describing conflicts through the intertestamental period, Roman occupation, and ultimate eschatological consummation. "The time of trouble" had near fulfillment during persecution under Antiochus IV Epiphanes (167-164 BC), who desecrated the temple, outlawed Jewish practice, and martyred thousands. Jesus applied it to Jerusalem's destruction by Rome (AD 70), when over one million Jews died. Many also see ultimate fulfillment in final tribulation preceding Christ's return.

The promise of Michael's intervention encouraged persecuted Jews that angelic protection accompanied them through suffering. Early Christians facing Roman persecution found hope in this assurance—God hadn't abandoned them despite apparent triumph of evil. The Book of Life concept assured believers that those predestined to salvation would be preserved, even if physically martyred, because eternal life transcends physical death.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does understanding Michael's role as Israel's protector inform your prayers for Israel and interpretation of Middle Eastern events?

2. What comfort does the promise of deliverance for "every one that shall be found written in the book" provide during times of intense persecution or suffering?

Interlinear Text

וְבָעֵת	הַיְאָה	בָּעֵמֶד	מִיכָּאֵל	פֶּגֶד	וְלֹא	פָּשָׁר	בָּעֵמֶד
And at that time	H1931	stand up	shall Michael	prince	the great	stand up	
H6256		H5975	H4317	H8269	H1419		H5975
עַל	בְּנֵי	עַמֶּךָ	מִהִי וֹתֶה	וְבָעֵת	אֶחָד	מִהִי וֹתֶה	עַמֶּךָ
H5921	for the children	of thy people	and there shall be	And at that time	of trouble		
	H1121	H5971	H1961	H6256	H6869		
לֹא אָשֶׁר	מִהִי וֹתֶה	מִהִי וֹתֶה					
H834	H3808	and there shall be	and there shall be				
		H1961	H1961				
גַּדְעֹן		עַד		בָּהִיא	וְבָעֵת		
such as never was since there was a nation		H5704	And at that time	H1931			
H1471			H6256				
וְבָעֵת	הַיְאָה	יִמְלָטָה	עַמֶּךָ	כֹּל			
And at that time	H1931	shall be delivered	of thy people	H3605			
H6256		H4422	H5971				
בְּמִמְצָא אֶת		בְּסֻפֶּר:	כְּתָב				
every one that shall be found		written	in the book				
H4672		H3789	H5612				

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 30:7 (Parallel theme): Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

Matthew 24:21 (Sin): For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Mark 13:19 (Parallel theme): For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.

Daniel 10:13 (Parallel theme): But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.

Daniel 10:21 (Parallel theme): But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.

Revelation 12:7 (Parallel theme): And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

Revelation 20:15 (Parallel theme): And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:12 (Parallel theme): And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Revelation 3:5 (Parallel theme): He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Luke 10:20 (Parallel theme): Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.