

“THE END OF DAYS”

1. When you are engrossed in a book or TV movie and it says, "To be continued", how do you feel? What do you do?

2. How do you see verses 36-45: (a) Continuing the description of Antiochus? (b) Daniel is now prophesying about the coming antichrist (of which Antiochus is a prototype)? (c) This is a "both-and" situation? Support your view from the text.

3. In what will this antichrist trust (vv.38-39)? What fierce conflicts does this evil figure wage (vv.40-45)?

4. To what extent will he succeed? How will he meet his demise?

5. Verses 1-4 sound almost like a "Good news / Bad news" joke if the subject matter weren't so serious. (Which do you want to hear first?) For Daniel and his readers, what is the good news? What is the bad news?

6. This is the first and only use of the term "everlasting life" in the Old Testament. What does that tell you about what most Jews in Daniel's day believed (or didn't believe) about life after death?

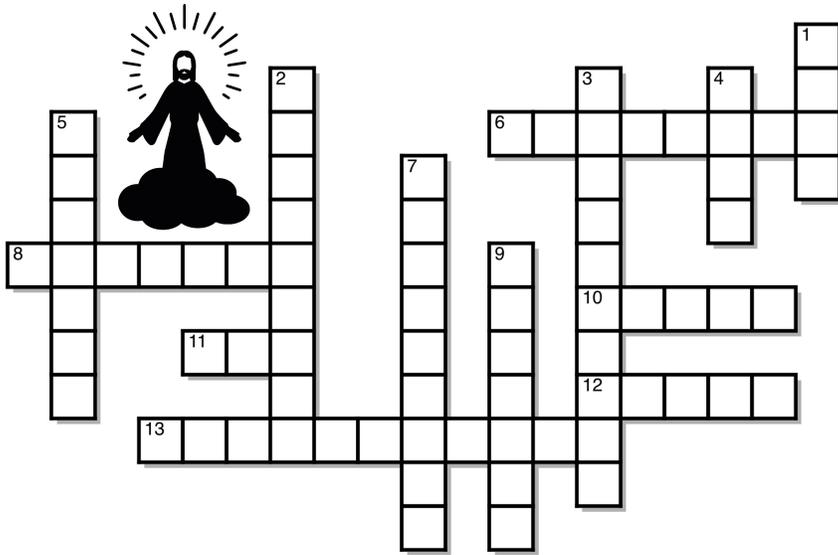
7. Pretend this was the first time you have ever heard such a doctrine: What questions would you have? Imagine, too, you are one of those who lose their life in the "distress" or coming persecution. What comfort do you find here?

8. How does Daniel's embryonic doctrine of the resurrection compare with the New Testament view that we are saved "by grace alone"? In this regard, what does it mean to be "wise"? To "lead many to righteousness" (V.3)?

9. Verses 1-4 imply that the kingdom of God is assured to the faithful and wise, but that destiny is born out of tribulation and soul-searching. How does that relate to the faith of Jesus (see Mk 13; Mt 24:8; Rev.12:1-6)? How does Daniel's view compare with Jesus' view of the resurrection of the righteous and the wicked (see Jn 5:24-30)?

10. Do you expect to find your name "written in the Book"? On what page? Why? What else do you suppose is written next to your name? 3. Judging from the oppressive conditions you see around you, for what groups of people would you especially recommend this book of Daniel? Why this book for them? 4. Daniel was told to go on with life even if he didn't understand. When have you had to cope with life and faith in the midst of perplexity?

11. The bottom line for Daniel is that the royal power of the Most High God always triumphs over the kingdoms of men (7:11,26-27; 8:25; 9:27; 10:13; 11:45; 12:13). How is that evident for Daniel personally? For the kings and subjects he treats? For the readers he comforts? For you and our church?

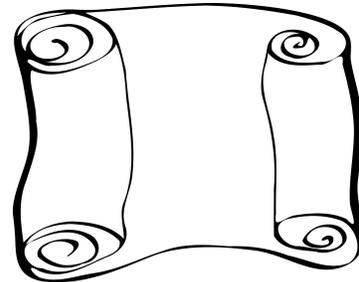


Down

- 1 "Many who sleep in the _____ of the earth will awake". (12:2)
- 2 "Many will roam about, and _____ will increase". (12:4)
- 3 The Antichrist "shall honor a god of _____". (11:38)
- 4 Those people whose names are written in the _____ will escape. (12:1)
- 5 "Many will purified, cleansed, and _____". (12:10)
- 7 The people who will escape the Antichrist are Edom, Moab and the prominent people of the _____. (11:41)
- 9 "Those who have insight will shine like the bright _____ of the heavens". (12:3)

Across

- 6 The Antichrist "shall also enter the _____ Land". (11:41)
- 8 This great angel will "rise up". (12:1)
- 10 "He will extend his powers against the countries, and not even the land of _____ will escape. (11:42)
- 11 The king shall exalt and magnify himself above every _____. (11:36)
- 12 "Those...who lead many to righteousness" will shine like the _____. (12:3)
- 13 "you will rise to receive your allotted _____". (12:13)



WORD SEARCH:

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| Exalt | Submission |
| Magnify | Annihilate |
| Wrath | Tents |
| Women | Sea |
| Ancestors | Mountain |
| Gold | Life |
| Silver | Shine |
| Stones | Righteousness |
| Riches | River |
| South | Times |
| North | Daniel |
| Chariots | Sealed |
| Horsemen | Sacrifice |
| Ships | Abomination |
| Treasures | Rest |
| Libyans | Rise |
| Cushites | |

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