***Daniel 12:7-13 Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished. 8Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, “My lord, what shall be the end of these things?” 9And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. 10Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand. 11“And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days. 12Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days. 13“But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.”***

 In our last evening service, we met the pre-incarnate Jesus again, the Man in Linen that we encounter here in verse 7. We are back by the river with Daniel, two angelic beings, one on one bank and the other on the other bank. We have no reason to believe that Gabriel has departed. He instructed Daniel to seal the book in verse 4. So tonight, we finish the book of Daniel. Daniel started in chapter 1 Fearless, Focused, and Faithful, requesting to have food that would not defile him and his friends. He’s remained so throughout, and we will see that he finishes in the way he started… Fearless, Focused, and Faithful unto the end.

 Verse 7 - *Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.* The Man in linen, the preincarnate Christ, who was above the waters of the river. *Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river.* As in Matthew 14, Jesus again is on or just above the water, standing and speaking. *When he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven –* The custom of swearing was to hold up one hand as in Genesis 14:22. Here Christ holds both hands. This demonstrates that what is about to be said is of great importance. *And swore by Him who lives forever –* swore by God, the Alpha and Omega, Who was, is, and is to come. *That it shall be for a time, times, and half a time –* This represents 3 ½ years. Some confuse this to apply to Antiochus and the 3 ½ years of his forbidding sacrifices. But this applies the Antichrist at the end of time. Revelation 12:14 says *But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. and half a time.* Then shall come a miraculous event. The Jewish Nation will be restored in the last days -*and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.* These 3 ½ years will be a time of persecution by the little horn that is speaking blasphemous words. This time will be a time of scattering by false teachings, confusion, and truth being denied. The Roman calendar recognized a year as 360 days. Anywhere we see 1260 days, this is 3 ½ years as in Revelation 11:3 *And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.*

Verses 8-9 *Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, “My lord, what shall be the end of these things?”9And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.**Although I heard, I did not understand –* Daniel heard, but he did not understand. As is often the case with prophecy, he didn’t immediately understand what he was told about the Jewish nation being restored. There is an old saying that hindsight is 20/20 vision. What is not understood looking forward into time can be clearly understood looking backward. Daniel does not understand the Antichrist and the persecution of Christians because in his day there are no Christians. 1 Peter 1:10-12 says *Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into*. Just because a Prophet received a prophecy, it doesn’t mean he received the interpretation. What looks clear to us today would have been hidden then. *And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.* Daniel is told that this is all he’ll be shown. Be at peace and have faith. No more will be given. As in verse 6, the things has been sealed. God owes Daniel, nor you and me, any explanation of what He brings upon our hearts. We must be at peace and have faith. It will all be revealed at the appointed time.

Verse 10 - *Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand. Many shall be purified, made white, and refined –* This is similar language to Daniel 11:35. Many will be purified by trials, tribulations, afflictions, and persecutions. Salvation will come to many in the time of Tribulation. Zechariah 13 says 1/3 will be refined, and 2/3’s cut off. One theologian pointed out that purified has the idea of separating wheat from the chaff, made white has the idea of cleansing cloth, and refined has the idea of refining gold and silver, all of which are found in the Gospels. Believers will be cleansed. *And none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.* But the wicked shall be blinded by their wickedness. Revelation 22:11 says *He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.”* Those that pursue wickedness will be allowed to be deluded in their wickedness.

Verses 11-12 *“And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days. 12Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.*

*And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away –* This time of calamities and disaster will run the full 1260 days and then an additional 30 days. During this time, daily sacrifices will be taken away. The Antichrist will have allowed sacrifices to resume for the first 3 ½ years, then stopped them and set up idols in the Temple and on the altar, desecrating the Temple, an abomination of desolation, the falling away, the revealing of the man of sin, as in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4. *Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.* Blessed in the one that waits, endures whatever events happen between the end of the 1290 days and the start of the 1335 days, a period of 45 days. Several theologians suggest that this refers to events that happen as Christ establishes His Kingdom after the shattering and calamities of the Jewish Nation draws to an end. We’re not given vision through Daniel of these 45 days. Suffice it to say that Blessed will be he that endures this time. These will be they who find salvation during the Great Tribulation.

 Verse 13 -*“But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.”* Daniel is now told to go his way in peace. His time is drawing to a close. He is dismissed with encouragement - *for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.* Daniel is now well into his eighties and some estimate him to be into his nineties. He’s assured of his resurrection and the inheritance that he will receive as a Fearless, Focused, and Faithful servant of Almighty God.

 Likewise, we must go our way until the end, spreading the seeds of the Gospel, watering and harvesting in the fields as Christ instructs. We must Go and Make disciples, trusting that we will one day stand in the presence of God and receive the reward we justly deserve. Let us go in Peace and be about our Father’s business until our time comes to Rest in Peace.

 Daniel proved to be Fearless, Focused, and Faithful through multiple kings and multiple kingdoms, multiple tests, multiple challenges. He, Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego stood firm in the face of wickedness and fiery resistance. We too must stand through persecution, trial, and tribulation. It is not our job to change the world, but it is our calling to be a witness for how the world and the wicked can be changed. Let us be Fearless, Focused, and Faithful until our time comes to go and be with our Savior.