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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

The Exiled Prophet, Part 14: Awake to Everlasting Life (Daniel 12)

TEACHING SUMMARY

This teaching completes Daniel's vision by examining chapter 12 and its continuation from the events of chapter 11. It focuses on what can be established from history and on the moral lessons of the chapter rather than speculation about the end of the world.

Daniel 12 describes a time of trouble connected with Antiochus Epiphanes and promises deliverance for God's people. Michael is presented as intervening on behalf of Israel, while the Maccabees remain faithful, turn many to righteousness, and resist Greek oppression.

The chapter speaks of those sleeping in the dust awakening to everlasting life or to shame and contempt. The teaching distinguishes the historical time of the Maccabees from the future resurrection, which has not yet occurred.

The wise who shine like the sky are connected with those who turn many to righteousness. The Hebrew word *zahar* can mean both shine and warn, linking shining with warning people to keep God's commandments.

Daniel is told to seal the vision until the time of the end. The teaching interprets this as the end of the indignation, when the persecution associated with Antiochus ended, rather than automatically meaning the end of the world.

The closing verses emphasize that Daniel's prophecy was fulfilled in its historical setting and points forward to resurrection. The historical events surrounding Antiochus provide a pattern with future significance. Yeshua also warned of a later abomination of desolation, so the historical fulfillment does not remove the need to remain watchful. The teaching calls believers to faithfulness, warning, wisdom, and trust in God's eventual deliverance.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Daniel 12 continues the vision from chapter 11.
- The time of trouble is connected with Antiochus Epiphanes.

- Michael is described as arising for Israel's deliverance.
- The book refers to the book of life.
- The resurrection includes everlasting life and shame.
- The Maccabees turned many people to righteousness.
- Zahar can mean both shine and warn.
- The wise are associated with teaching righteousness.
- The time of the end is linked to the end of indignation.
- The chapter motivates faithfulness through the hope of resurrection.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. Daniel 12 continues the vision from chapter _____.
2. The angelic prince who arises for Israel is _____.
3. The faithful are promised resurrection to everlasting _____.
4. The Maccabees turned many to _____.
5. The Hebrew word zahar can mean shine or _____.
6. Daniel is told to seal the _____.

Challenging

1. The Greek king connected with the time of trouble was Antiochus _____.
2. Those whose names are written in the book are associated with the book of _____.
3. Daniel 12 distinguishes the historical Maccabean period from the future _____.
4. The Maccabees were zealous for God's _____.
5. The phrase time of the end is connected with the end of the _____.
6. The wise shine like the brightness of the _____.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the teaching connect Daniel 12 with the historical persecution under Antiochus Epiphanes?

2. What role does Michael play in the teaching's understanding of Israel's deliverance?
3. Why does the teaching distinguish the Maccabean period from the future resurrection?
4. How does the double meaning of zahar shape the teaching's explanation of the wise?
5. Why does the teaching interpret the time of the end as the end of indignation?
6. What moral motivation does the promise of resurrection provide for faithfulness?

ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. 11
2. Michael
3. life
4. righteousness
5. warn
6. book

Challenging

1. Epiphanes
2. life
3. resurrection
4. law
5. indignation
6. sky