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If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world - he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom one earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this, by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *“Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..” Acts 16:31a* And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *“That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord”, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” Romans 10:9,10* *“For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13* *“Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1*

Pitfalls in the Last Days

To begin with, just a short definition on the terms used here. **The Last Days** is that period of time preceding the Tribulation Age and the Tribulation Age itself. **The Elect**, those individuals who have been chosen by the sovereign grace of God and taken out of the Babylonian System to bring them to faith in Christ. **The Remnant** is a reference to those believers who have resisted the pull of the World, stayed positive to the Word of God, and not joined the rest of the other believers in the Apostasy. **Their Role** is what they are to be doing, what they can expect to see going on and the problems and pitfalls of being alive in the Last Days.

Christ and his Apostles taught that before Christ's return to earth there will be two great phenomena taking place: the apostasy of the Church, and the rise of the anti-christ to world power. Both are taking place right now. The *apostasia* is the falling away, or the departure of the people of God from their walk with God. Believers will no longer desire the sound doctrinal teaching of God's Word replacing it with a variety of things. Faith living and grace attitudes, along with this rejection of doctrine will be the norm for the Church of Christ on the world before he returns at his 2nd Coming.

Approximately half of the Christians in America have been incorrectly indoctrinated that the Church will be removed from the earth in a pre-tribulation rapture. This is not only incorrect but it's dangerous, for it will be setting them up to be devoured by the Beast Empire, which is presently occurring around the world. What they have got to see is that the Church will not be raptured before the Tribulation, but toward the end of the Tribulation! The sequence of events will be as follows: 1) Christ will come down from Heaven to earth with his mighty army of angels, 2) He will stop in the skies above, 3) He will then raise all the Old Testament believers from the dead giving them new bodies, 4) He will raise the New Testament believers from the dead giving them new bodies, 5) He will send his angels out unto all the world to gather these resurrected OT and NT believers and take them from all over the world to Jesus Christ who will be at one place in the skies. The **rapture**, *harpazo*, is not believers rising into the air, **but being taken up into the air, that is, being snatched up into the air by angels**, just the same as an eagle would swoop down and carry off its prey. The rapture doctrine as taught today is incorrect, for there will be the return of Christ, the raising of the dead by him, our being taken up into the air by his angels, and finally our being gathered together unto one place where he is at.

The purpose of this study is not to teach the doctrine, for that has been sufficiently done many times, nor to debate the point, but **to show what the role of remnant believers will be in those days and the problems and pitfalls that will await them**. Those days are coming. In fact, they are already here upon us! So we need to know what to expect, what to do and why! What this study shows is that there will be one group of Christians who are ignorant of what is really going on, and a very small minority of believers who will know the truth and communicate it to the rest.

The Wise in the Last Days

“Those who are **wise** will instruct many, though for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered.” Daniel 11:33.

וּמְשִׁפִּילֵי עַם, יִבְיִנוּ לְרַבִּים; וְנִקְשְׁלוּ בְּחָרָב וּבְלֶהָבָה, בְּשָׂבִי וּבְבִזָּה--יָמִים.

1. “Those who are **wise** will instruct many” - hiphil participle of *sakal*.

This is generally held to be a prophetic reference to the time when Antiochus Epiphanes would be persecuting Israel in the period of 168 BC, when the standard of revolt would come under Matthias the priest. When Rome issued a decree for idolatrous worship to be set up in Israel, Matthias killed the enforcing officer and then fled into the hills with his five sons and began a guerrilla band to war against Rome; there he was joined by Israel’s patriots from all over the land. After Matthias died his son John Maccabeus took over the leadership of the “rebel” army and successfully stood against Rome. Referred in history as the Maccabean Revolt.

What we have here in principle, (and most have concluded it to be, a double reference in prophecy, where the same would hold true for two different events), is a passage that is to be applied to the Last Days, the final age of the Tribulation, and the years directly preceding it. This refers to the time of the Tribulation Age when the anti-christ takes over the rule of the world and all its people, and the idolatrous worship forced upon the world’s inhabitants by the False Prophet.

The word for **wise**, (those who have understanding in the KJV), here is *sakal*, and it is the word for wisdom and understanding, to have understanding means that one is able to comprehend what is going on concerning the events around him and why. He has the ability to see past the appearances of things to see the truth. But be able to do that he has to be open to the truth and have been taught the truth on the matter. But *sakal* also had the idea of wisdom concerning prophecy.

It means that these believers, **the wise**, will have a **firm grasp** of who they are as believers in Christ, where they are in contemporary history, how it all ties in with prophecy, and will be able to see through all the smoke, mirrors and deception of the propaganda machine of the media, the New World Order, the anti-christ, and the false teaching of an apostate church designed to lull them into a false hope.

The second thing about *sakal* is that it speaks of having **wisdom**. Now the world has its version of wisdom; the Greeks had it; the Romans had it; and the world today has it. But God’s version of wisdom is totally different; in that it **speaks of the doctrine that one has taken in, understood, metabolized by faith and applied to one’s own personal life experience**. So these believers are wise because they have been taking in the Word of

God in their life, believing it and applying it to their walk in life, to their daily struggles, and right on into this new situation in world events.

The next thing we see about *sakal* is that it is in the participial form telling us that this was **a way of life for them, a daily practice**. It wasn't just academics, or an intellectual exercise, where they would sit around and just discuss things, but their life! They had been living by wisdom and understanding for some time before all this began to happen.

The next thing about *sakal* is that it's in the hiphil stem. Now, as to whether we take the strict **causative** sense of the hiphil or not could be open to debate, but it would certainly stand to reason that they were caused to become wise due to God's grace as the remnant elect, his plan for their life, and lots of pressure. It's interesting how pressure forces believers to rely upon God and his provisions and to turn to the Word for strength and comfort. By the way, **pressure**, *thlipsis*, is the word for tribulation telling us that the final age will simply be one of great pressure!

How can these things be? For one thing, God in his grace sovereignly reserves to himself believers who will not go into apostasy, this is what the remnant is. But another thing is that **the continual pressure of living in an apostate generation**, both in the world and the Church, with people giving themselves over to demonism and the gratification of their lusts, to be followed by the anti-christ's New World Order, which our government is leading the way to put in effect, and the outbreak of hostilities against believers would certainly **be sufficient cause for believers in Christ to turn to God's Word for wisdom and understanding, especially wisdom and understanding concerning what is going on**. From this we can see how it easily becomes a causative participial form.

And all this brings us around full circle to the Word again. How did they become wise? How did they get all that understanding concerning what would be going on in the end times? **They got it by diligently and faithfully studying the Word of God with an open mind, by having a positive mental attitude toward truth**. What we will see in the end times is that there will be a group of doctrinally prepared believers on earth, who because of their being taught and studying the Word of God, will know what is going on, and beyond that, because they had developed a pattern of applying doctrine to their problems in life and living by faith in the Word, will have the practical and doctrinal answers to give to the other believers who are ignorant of these matters. The world's definition of wisdom is how much education they have, or perhaps if they have a background in philosophy, but God's definition is truth that a believer has learned, metabolized by faith and then applied to their experiences in life. *"Those doctrinal men of the people of God, who really understand what is going on at the end time, that it is really the end times, (they haven't been deceived by the propaganda mill), will instruct the rest of God's elect on these matters."*

In the original the word, *am*, is there, which speaks of a certain group of people, a race, family, tribe, or nation and was used for the people of God, whether Israel or the Church.

So we have a reference to two things: 1) the people of God as a whole, and 2) those believers in the people of God who are wise, or have the wisdom. So we end up having, “*Those of the people of God **who are wise** will instruct the many*”.

This tells us that not every believer in the family of God on earth will have an understanding on what will be going on at that time; some will be walking with the Lord and some won't. Some may have a tremendous understanding on many things of the Word of God, but still will not really have an accurate understanding of the true end time scenario, but those who do have this insight, (which is what classifies them as **the wise**), will instruct many.

The word for **many** is *larabim*, with the prefix *le*, attached to it and the definite article, *the*. The prefix *le* points to the direct object telling us who the wise will be instructing, **the many**, with the idea of the majority of believers. But with the definite article it should be translated as **the many!** *The many* in the Old Testament was a reference to the elect of God. **The many equals the Elect!** So what we end up with is, “*Those believers who have the wisdom concerning what will really be going on in the end times, that the elect will go through the Tribulation, will be instructing the rest of the Body of Christ on these matters.*”

The word for **instruct** is the qal future of *biyn* and it means to so instruct someone that they will have a clear understanding of the subject and was often used of gaining apocalyptic (end time) understanding. It meant to come to a **deeper** understanding of a subject, or to be able to have the **correct** understanding of a subject. So with *biyn* being used, we are directed toward the idea of instructing people deeper and more clearer on the doctrines concerning the last days.

So what do we have so far? We have the *sakal* believers (the wise believers), who will be a certain group and number of believers among the people of God on the earth in the end times, who will have the correct understanding of what will be going on during the time of the end. It doesn't necessarily mean that they will know more about the Bible than the other believers, nor does it mean that they will be more mature than other believers, but a certain amount of that is implied because they are in the practice of living by faith and applying the metabolized doctrine they have to their situations in life. What it does mean is that they will have the correct understanding of certain key elements of prophecy. **This will make them: 1) prudent, 2) practically wise, 3) careful of consequences, 4) and cautious in what they do when the outcome is not known.** The majority of believers, on the other hand, even though they could be doctrinal and have a lot of growth, or just plain backslidden, will not have the same insight into the Last Days concept; they may be even completely wrong.

So the *sakal*, the believer with wisdom and understanding into what's going on in the end times, will end up instructing the other believers, or a percentage of them, on these

matters giving them the correct doctrine and a deeper understanding into the Tribulation Age and those years preceding it.

2. “*Though for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered -*

Now we see something else about these men, who will be instructing other believers about the end times, and that is **there will be opposition to them by the New World Order**. There is one thing that stands in the way of Satan’s bid to take over the world and install his two men, the Beast and the False Prophet as the rulers of the world, and that is the people of God on earth. Or, to be more accurate, the Word of God that God’s people teach - the Truth. Everything in his power will be brought to bear down upon those men who have the truth: armies, the police, laws, regulations, even people in the street.

The passage starts out here with **fall by the sword**, *kashal*, which implies death, then **burned or captured or plundered**. The problem is that the translators have all four of these adversities in the **verb** form, when only **fall by the sword** is a verb and the rest are nouns. The second problem is that the word for **to fall** has a much broader concept to it and takes on more predominant ideas than just to die.

For example it means **to trip, stumble, or fall**. Sometimes only one of these ideas is true; sometimes two of them; and sometimes all three of them. And there is **always the thing that one trips over, the thing that causes you to stumble**. When this is in view it is designated by the prefix *be* following the word to fall. He tripped over the toys in the yard. He tripped over betoys in the yard. By using the prefix *be* it tells us **what** it was that caused him to trip over, or to fall over. In the passage all four words are prefixed with *be*, **sword, burning, being captured and plundering**, which reveal to us that it will be these things that will trip up some of these believers.

But with *kashal* you can **trip** over something without stumbling, and you can **stumble** without falling down. Technically, to **trip** would be to catch your foot on something so that you lose a step or two. You regain your walk and keep on going. To **stumble** would be where catch your foot on something, lose your balance, and stumble forward two, three, or four steps, but are able to regain your balance and keep on walking without falling down. To **fall** means that your are unable to regain your balance and fall all the way to the ground. And even if that happens, it doesn’t necessarily mean that you will die as the result. **But all that is just a figure of speech, for what it means is to be prevented from doing what one intended to do.**

There’s another aspect involved in *kashal* and that it necessitates that 1) that he is one a path of some sort or a road, 2) one is walking on it, 3) that he has a goal or purpose in mind, 4) and some place he is going to, 5) with something he’s going to do when he gets there. What this tells us that these **wise men** are being used by the Lord to give out the Word on the end time situation, along with other doctrinal information, and that they are

on their way to do that. **But that there will be things on the way that they will have to watch out for, things that will hinder or stop them in their objective.**

This gives us the idea that one can be hindered or impeded in doing what they intended to do, and with the prefix *be* attached to the words: **sword, burning, capture and plunder**, it tells us what it is that will hinder or possibly stop these men who will be ministering in the Tribulation and the time preceding it. It doesn't tell us that these things will permanently trip them up, or permanently cause them to fall, because the participial form isn't used, but they will trip them up, or hinder them for a while.

The procedure is that God wants them to get the Word out to positive believers and the unbelievers he is working with concerning what is going on at this time in history and their lives. The *sakal* believer, who has the correct understanding on end time phenomena concerning the anti-christ and his New World Order, is to instruct the other believers who: 1) do not know about these things, 2) are in carnality or reversionism, 3) or who have been misinformed or deceived, so that they can have the correct and a deeper understanding of these things. **But it will not be easy! There will be things standing in the way, obstacles in the road that will trip them up; prevent them from going on to accomplish this purpose: the sword, burning, capture and plunder.**

But this will only be for a little while. The word here is *yamim* in the plural. When it's formed like this it speaks of **days**. How many days? We don't know. What it does refer to is **a period of time**. It could be days; it could be months; it could be for a year or two. Some have tried to pin it down to a period of time lasting less than a year. Even though it was used to denote a period of time of less than one year, there was no hard-set rule for us to go by that. It has been used for up to one or two years, and perhaps under two years would be reasonable. All we can say is that this opposition to their doctrinal end time ministry to the elect in Christ will last only for a while.

Now what are these four things that will stand in the paths of these doctrinal communicators that will prevent them, to some degree, from going out and fulfilling their divine commission?

The first one is the **sword**, *chereb*. Although it has military applications, it stands out as **the emblem of the judicial system**. We can't say that it speaks of justice, (which is what it's supposed to stand for), because there definitely will not be any true justice at that time. So the sword as the emblem of the judicial system fits in quite well here. **Which tells us that the legal systems (legal industries really) of the world, local, national and international, will have passed laws against the gospel and the teaching of God's Word during the time of the end.** What most believers are unaware of is that this is already happening, even in America! The deception and the hypocrisy is that the government states that Americans have freedom of religion, but at **the same time tells them that there are things that they cannot say in the exercising of this "freedom"**. Practically speaking this will present a serious obstacle for those men going out to

communicate the truth to other believers. They will have to do so at their own peril knowing that **the “law” will not only be against them, but after them!** We can easily see how this will trip up many of these men.

The second one is **burning**, *lahab*. This is not to be taken in this passage as a flame, or in the sense of a burning fire. The closest idea would be one of **glittering**. This referred to the glittering of the points of the enemy army’s spear points, or their naked unsheathed swords being held in the air. As one viewed the enemy at a distance out on the battlefield holding up their spears and swords, the sunlight would so reflect off of them that, from a distance, all you could see is this glittering. When God arrayed an army against a nation to destroy it out of his justice it was called his flames of retribution or judgment, but it wasn’t flames, it was the glittering of the sun’s rays as they reflected off their weapons. The whole scene looked like flames of fire as they danced around in the sunlight. **What this speaks of is the judicial system in the end time bringing police and/or the military, with their unsheathed weapons, against those men who are teaching God’s Word and standing up to the New World Order.**

It would be easy to see why this would hold back to some degree (trip up) many doctrinal communicators from going out to teach end time truths. And even if they all went out, **they would have to understand that the law and the police will be waiting for them somewhere down the road**, somewhere down the path they are taking. That’s why they are also called **prudent**. **They will have to exercise great caution, when they go out and go about their ministries**. The law will be against them, but so also will be the police operating under some international agency, who will be ready, willing and able to use their weapons against them; against these men who will be teaching the prophetic truths on the end time.

It’s not saying that these four things are going to prevent all of the Wise from communicating the real story on what is going on in the end time to other believers. There will be some, I imagine, who won’t venture forth at least for some time, but these things **will be out there waiting for them**, and if they aren’t very careful, they could stumble into them and trip or fall. **The key is caution!** Do not be walking, driving, whatever you’re doing, wherever you’re going, whomever you’re going to be speaking to, and be so focused on the message, that you aren’t **consciously aware of every step you’re taking**. One will need to **be looking down at the ground**, so to speak, **watching where you put your feet**. For these obstacles will be in your path, somewhere, and you will have to learn to be very cautious, very careful to note where they are at and walk around them. It’ll be a mine field out there.

The third word is **capture**, *shabah*. It means **to arrest someone and lead him away as a captive**. This also fits all to well in the entire situation. The legislatures of the various nations, under UN Treaty provisions, will have made the true teaching of God’s Word “illegal”. It’s already happening, for one cannot teach anything that conflicts with their guidelines. One of the provisions is that there can be no reference to a central redeemer,

or to blood. Backing up these illegal “laws” will be **an army of police officers and military personnel in every country using every weapon at their disposal: spying, eavesdropping, surveillance, people turning you in, rewards, threats, punishment, setting traps for you, keeping records on you, computer data that they have gathered on you that they keep, road blocks, check points, false brethren, people trying to get close to you to find out what’s going on, surveilling the places that you meet, strip searches, searches of one’s house and property, all to get believers who are trying to get the Word out on end time prophecy.** These military personnel and/or police officers will be armed to the teeth with every kind of weapon to kill these men if they do not surrender. If they surrender, then they will be taken captive. Obviously, this will hold some men back, if only for a while, and it definitely will be a hazard that they will have to watch out for, for it speaks of **arrest and imprisonment.**

The fourth word is **plunder**, *bazaz*. It meant **to seize one’s goods as the spoils of war**, but that’s not its only application. **Plunder refers to the seizure of one’s property, whether as the spoils of war, or seizure due to “legal” confiscation and forfeiture laws.** If these doctrinal communicators get caught, they will lose all their property to the state. Bank accounts, real property, personal property will be confiscated by the state under Big Brother, if these men are caught, arrested and jailed. Their kangaroo court trials are merely a formality to “justify” the actions of illegal and evil government.

So what we have here is the end times, which are already upon us, under the antichrist and his New World Order, **(we may not see the anti-christ, but the New World Order is definitely here and in full operation).** The average Christian may not see this, or believe it, due to his ignorance of true prophecy, or being totally out of it spiritually, but just because he’s ignorant or misinformed doesn’t alter the fact of him going through the Tribulation and the Beast System. And in this setting we will have doctrinal communicators who will have the correct understanding of where we’re at in prophecy going out to teach the many, the elect of God. But under international law, the various nations around the world will make it illegal to teach the Word, especially on these matters. They will probably be guilty of a hate crime because they will be against “the Peace”. Following the enactment of these “hate crimes” the full force of all police agencies, even the military will be on guard for them, with every weapon and tool at their disposal. **If caught**, or if they surrender these men will be **arrested**; if **arrested**, they will be taken **captive**; and if taken **captive**, their **property will be seized**. Being very **careful** will be the name of the game at that time.

The Insincere in the Last Days

“When they fall, they will receive a little help, and many who are not sincere will join them.” Daniel 11:34

וּבְהִפְשָׁלָם, יַעֲזְרוּ עִזָּר מְעֹט; וְנָלוּ עֲלֵיהֶם רַבִּים, בְּחִלְקֵלְקוֹת.

1. “*When they fall*” - niphil infinitive of *kashal*.

This has the 3rd masculine plural suffix, **they**, and refers back to **the Wise**, who will have the understanding of the New World Order, prophecy and how the Church will be in it in the last days. As these doctrinal communicators of God’s Word go out to teach the truth on these matters, traps will be set for them by the world government, through their various member states who were formally independent nations, in order to catch these men. Laws will be passed preventing US citizens, and other nation’s citizens from doing this or that, and from saying certain things. Of course the things that they won’t be allowed to talk about is the New World Order and the things pertaining to what they are trying to do on the earth to bring all people under the control of a one world government, and the blood bought salvation that is in Jesus Christ. And remember, **the concept of falling is due directly to the “justice” or legal system, which will trip them up or hinder them.**

Anyway, laws will be passed having the full mobilization of the police and military powers behind them, **and traps will be set to catch those who teach the truth of God’s Word. If they are caught, arrested and jailed, then their property will be confiscated.** It will be inevitable that some, or many will be caught; we just don’t know how many that will be. One must also remember, that at this time most of the people will have been so brainwashed, so indoctrinated, and so in love with the World System for what it gives them, that most people out there will be dead set against these communicators and will turn them in a heart beat because off their hatred for them, not to mention the fact that there will probably be rewards on their heads. The good old free enterprise system will be alive and well in Babylon. We also notice that it’s, ***when they fall, not if they fall.*** **There will be casualties in the angelic conflict as it reaches its culmination, even as there are today.**

2. “*They will receive a little help*” - niphil future of *‘azar*.

“*They will be helped with a little help*”, is how we have it here, and this probably from those believers who are positive to the Word; the rest of the believers will more than likely shun them, and I wouldn’t be surprised to see even believers turning them into the authorities. Some believers are so brainwashed, so evil, so in lock step with government, with their loyalties not to Christ, but the government, that turning other believers in will be their civil, “patriotic” “Christian” duty. The word for **little** simply means a little of something of whatever is being discussed, so it’s **a little help**, but in connection to what, their ministry? Will they be receiving a little help to assist them in carrying out their ministry of teaching the Word? That would appear to be the case. Remember, **the entire justice system and police powers will be against these men as they bring forth the Word**, and other believers might be reluctant to help out these doctrinal communicators.

There are a couple of things in view here. The first one is the idea of being able to **discharge their duty of getting the Word of God out to the elect**. The second one is **resisting the anti-christ's New World Order**, perhaps slowing it down for one won't be able to stop it, but maybe slowing it down or hindering it in certain geographical areas where there is positive volition; and at the same time, to try to get those believers who are wrapped up in it to come out of it. I have believed for a long time that there will be areas on the earth that will somewhat have a degree of freedom or protection from the long, pervasive arm of Big Brother. *"Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues."* Revelations 18:4.

But why is the word **little** used here? First of all, it's obvious that the help they will be helped with will be little in comparison to the help that the Lord will bring with him and his angelic army. But I think that **the circumstances of those days will limit the help that these men will get**; they will be helped by other believers, but not that much. It will be a time of tremendous opposition by the devil.

People in society, even many believers, (remember, the Church at that time will be apostate, it already is now), so they will not want to get involved for several reasons: 1) **the peer pressure of society** will go against these communicators who hold such politically incorrect views. The effective brainwashing tool of the media will mold society's mind against them, as it is already doing. 2) there will be the added pressure that **those who help these types in anyway will themselves also be prosecuted for the aiding and abetting of another person in his committing of a crime, which would result in their being arrested, prosecuted, imprisoned and the confiscation of their property**. So it would be easy to see why the Wise will not get much help from other believers. Lacking *agape* love will be another reason.

It's interesting to note that the word for **help** here is *azar*, which is usually used in the context of a covenant referring to **one's covenant helper**. It was used throughout the old and new testament of God being a helper to his covenant people, and between men who were in covenant with each other. So we know that the little help that it speaks of is either from God, other believers, or both. You say, "God"! One has to remember that there will be all out war in Heaven at this time, then Satan will be kicked out of Heaven to come down to the earth. The earth will be filled with demons and demonic activity the likes of which has never been seen before in history, as with Daniel when the archangel came to him. In Daniel 10:12,13 we saw that the archangel had tried to come to him for three weeks, but was prevented in doing so by the prince demon of Persia. **The angelic conflict on earth will be so intense at this time that the help these men will receive will be little in comparison to what they were used to having before. But, as we had seen in v.33, it will last only for a little while. It could be for a few months, one to two years, or as long as around three years, but only for a short time.**

3. *"And many who are not sincere will join them"* - niphal preterite of lawa.

To begin with, the definite article, **the**, is not included here letting us know that this only refers to **many**, speaking of a number of people, and not **the many** being a reference to the elect, which tells us that they may be believers, they may not be believers! In my study on the Mark of the Beast in Revelations 13 we found that there will be **five categories of people living on the earth that will not take the Mark of the Beast**: 1) will be believers in Christ. 2) will be those who are not believers in Christ, but will believe on him at some time during those days. 3) those who are not believers and who will not become believers in the Lord, but are opposed to the New World Order based upon the ideas of patriotism and nationalism. 4) people living in such remote areas, that they are not worth the effort of going after. And 5) will be young children before the age of accountability. Sort of like the Social Security numbers that are assigned to each child at birth, but are not activated until they become 16 yrs. old and sign up.

When the Maccabean revolt began it was due to the fact that the Jews in Israel were going to be required to worship God, not according to the way in which he demanded to be worshipped, but according to the world system's model, which had its roots in Babylon. This is already going on in America, for Pastors and Churches cannot teach and worship the way the Lord says, but must go by the rules and regulations of the government.

Anyone who thinks that there is religious freedom in America is under a delusion. Part of the Maccabean group was motivated by a true love for the Lord, and part of them were simply patriotic. But in their zeal they went out and rounded up those who had corroborated with the enemy and killed them. This had the effect of many Jews joining the ranks of the Jewish patriots, but they were not really sincere about it. Their motive was not out of love for God, country, or the Maccabean cause, **but to save their own skin**. (The word for **join** is the niphal preterite of *lawā* and can be used to join, as in a covenant sense, but really meant **to join up**, as we know it today).

This has always been a problem for the people of God on earth. There are those who are truly committed to the Word and will of the Lord, and then there are those who aren't, those who join up with them for different reasons; these are those of the negative volition crowd. **Coercion, whether it is physical or economic is never to be employed concerning the things of the Lord. Whatever anybody does it must be done freely out of a free will decision, without any threat or coercion.** Even today there are many people who pose as Christians simply to do business, so they can feed their families, and the reason why they do this is because Christians have put them in this position. This is wrong and will have a backlash.

When God led the Israelites out of Egypt a mixed multitude of people joined themselves to the Israelites. Theirs' was not a love for the Lord and his Word; they did not go out there to serve *Yahweh*. It was about food, security, and things of that nature. The problems began when the Lord started testing **his** people in the desert in a provisions test. **It was they who first began the complaining about what God was supplying for his**

people. “Oh, if we had just stayed back in Egypt where the living was easy and the food was good.” **Their association with the Israelites had a negative influence on them and it wasn’t long before the Israelites started their whining.**

Rome had the same problem themselves coming from the people that they had conquered, who after a time, came to Rome and joined themselves to the people of Rome that eventually caused the downfall of the Roman Republic. The historians called this the orientalizing of Rome.

And for 2,000 years the Church of Christ has had the same problem. Either unbelievers join themselves to Christians personally or by joining their churches, or believers, who are not sold out for the Lord, join certain churches or groups for social contacts, social activities, business contacts, recreational facilities, or to further their career somehow. This is why **the only format of a local church is to teach the Word of God solely!** No programs, no entertainment, no ritualism, no formalism, no emotionalism, nothing but the teaching of God’s Word. **If they are there for anything other than the Word, they will leave. And that’s what you want!** You want the negative volition to get out of the holy assembly of the Lord. God the Father is the God of truth; God the Son is the incarnate truth; and God the Holy Spirit is the spirit of truth. So what do we want in our churches? The truth and only the truth! If they don’t want that, then there’s nothing there for them.

The reasons why these “**insincere**” people join themselves to believers at this time are many! Some will do it to save their own skins, as we have seen. Others will do it for social position, or money, or the opportunity to better themselves. We have seen in John 6 that there were those Jews who joined themselves to Christ’s disciples because of the opportunity to receive free food, or the chance of being healed. But when the issue of the Word came up, they quickly left. **The Word is always to be the issue; it’s what separates us from the others!**

What this shows is that one can never use threats, implied or real, coercion of any kind, or even the prospect of financial gain as an inducement to get people to join your cause. To join in with Christians there must be two things: 1) they must be Christians themselves; 2) they must be fully committed to the Lord, his Word and his will. If these two criteria are not met you will have the wrong kind of people joining up with doctrinal believers for wrong reasons with disastrous results for the local church.

Now what we have here is insincere people joining in with groups of doctrinal believers in the end times for the wrong reasons. We don’t know what their reasons are, it could be **to feel safe**, it could be that they **want food and shelter**, or it could be that they will be **agents of the New World Order**, but they will coming in alongside the positive believer, or try to, so this is something that **doctrinal believers need to be aware of and be watching out for.**

The word for **insincere** is *chalaqlaq*, or *chalaqlaqoth* in the plural, as we have it here. The basic meaning of the word is to be **smooth**, and from there it developed in the direction of being slippery. From there it went in another direction of three meanings: **1) flattery, 2) hypocrisy, or deception, 3) and bareness**. The figurative use of flattery, hypocrisy and deception are what we have here with these people. During those times, (its been going on for thousands of years anyway), **the doctrinal believers will be deceived by the insincere, due to hypocrisy and flattery.**

Hypocrisy is where they come across as something they aren't. They portray themselves, and appear to be, as sincere Christians who love the Lord like the doctrinal believers do. But they don't! Their attitude toward grace, faith and truth will show them for what they really are. The problem is that they are **slippery**; it's hard to pin them down. But in time, the truth will come out. So what one needs to do is not to let them get too close, nor give them access to certain knowledge, as a safety precaution.

Flattery is where they "butter you up", as we would say. They flatter you to get on your good side so they can gain access to the group. One needs to beware of those whose "lips are dripping with honey". These types are always condemned in the Bible, and there were always bad consequences for the believers whenever the insincere were present. Appearances can be deceiving. There are those who appear to be rich, but aren't; and there are those who appear to be poor, but are rich. The Chinese had a saying that, "the rich man should have a poor man's gate". One can look, talk and act like he really loves the Lord and that he's one of you, but isn't. Another one can come along and stroke your ego with flattering words.

It's normal to be taken in by flattery, but think about how many people have lost their life's savings, because of someone else flattering them! To treat people suspiciously is not paranoia, especially in those times. It means that you have a keen understanding into those times and the nature of people, or I should say, into the nature of the beast, and it means that you understand that "all that glitters isn't gold". It is quite possible, and more than likely probable, that **these new people who want to join in with your group will be agents (informants) of the New World Order there to spy on you**. This was going on in the first century church and it will be going on in those days. "*This matter arose because some false brothers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves. We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might remain with you.*" Galatians 2:4,5.

Stumbling Believers

"Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time." Daniel 11:35

וּמִן־הַמְשֻׁכִּים יִכְשְׁלוּ, לְצָרוֹף בָּהֶם וּלְבָרֵר וּלְלַבֵּן--עַד־עֵת קֵץ: כִּי־עוֹד, לְמוֹעֵד

1. “Some of the wise will stumble” - hiphil participle of *kashal*.

This passage refers back to the original group of the *sakal* in v.33, **The Wise**, those believers who have insight and understanding in the matter of prophecy and doctrine and what will really be going on in the end times. Out of the entire body of the elect there will be some of them who are wise; and out of the Wise there will some of them who fall. The term **the Wise** is in the hiphil participle, which shows that **they were caused to be wise**, that they were caused, due to one thing or another, (God is behind it all), to have access to this wisdom, live by it and still possess it.

Now it says that they will **fall**, niphal future of *kashal*, but note, **only some of them will fall**, that is trip, stumble, or fall; that is, be prevented from going on with their doctrinal end time ministry. The preposition *min* tells us that there will be some out of this group of doctrinal communicators that will be hindered from going on - but not all of them! Not even the majority of them. The preposition *min* tells us that the majority of them will be successful - mission accomplished!

What trips them up is found in the passage. We know that **laws will be passed against them and waiting to get them, and that they will have to be very careful - obstacles in the way.** But from the context we see that **there will also be the problem of the insincere believer**, (if they are believers at all), who will deceive them by flattery and hypocrisy so they can join in with them. And seeing that from every example in the Bible concerning the non-doctrinal type, or the unbeliever joining up with believers, that it always had disastrous results for the believer, we can assume that the same thing will happen here. It is very probable that due to non-doctrinal types joining in these men’s groups, ministries, or social life, that they will be the direct cause of them not being able to complete their ministries, or at least have a negative, indirect influence on their ministries. These **insincere believers** in the midst of the doctrinal types will become a Trojan horse to their ministries, because they will distract, or hinder them from going on in their ministries, or maybe turn them in to the authorities! Judas was an informant.

Now these **insincere** will fall under **five categories**: **1) They will be plants or spies sent there by the authorities of the New World Order to spy on doctrinal ministries** and report back to command central. They will be able to do this because they will deceive the elect by use of flattery and deception, even passing themselves off as Christians. They will be looking for teaching that is against what the government allows. When found, they will close these ministries down, arrest the Pastors and confiscate their property. Which is already happening.

2) The second group will be made up of apostate believers, who having been deceived by the New World Order, will be doing the same thing; **acting as agents of the Beast System.** They will be brainwashed by the Beast government into thinking that these men are wacko's, crazy's, fundamentalists out of control, and that they are doing the world a favor by closing them down.

3) The third group will be made up of **believers**, who are not really sold out for the Word, all they will **want is a free hand-out and a place to stay**. The problem is that their negative mental attitude toward the Word will affect the positive believers causing the focus of the positive believers on their end time ministry to be sidetracked. But what do they care? All they want is food or whatever - not truth. Remember, that at this time, apostasy from the truth by Christians will be rampant!

4) The fourth group will be made up of **believers who do not believe these prophetic concepts, who still firmly hold to the error that they will not go through the Tribulation, therefore this is not the Tribulation**, therefore **The Wise** are out of line because they are not submitting to the powers that be. There will be no love by these apostates for **The Wise**, but there will also be very little love shown by the body of Christ during this time.

5) There will also be **those who are not positive to the Word, but be attracted to positive believers out of love, friendship, relationships, etc.** They are not interested in the Lord and his Word; their involvement in the ministry would be due to food, clothing, housing, protection, or an emotional element. They will gain access by hypocrisy pretending to love the Lord, when they really don't, and they will flatter whoever they have their sights on, but in the end they will be a constant source of distractions and problems causing one or more in the group, including the doctrinal communicator from completing their ministry in the Word. They also pose a constant risk of turning positive believers in if they get upset over something.

Remember, all these people, **the insincere**, are basically negative to the Word, grace, faith and prophetic end time concepts. Not only are they negative, but also they love this World System and all its benefits, so much so, that you aren't going to be able to get them over to the right side. And they are **experts, experts in using words to manipulate people to get what they want**, whether food, or love, or to secure their position in the system. The only recourse is to regard their silver-tongued words the same as you would the serpent in the garden, and **make the whole issue doctrine from start to finish**. Don't listen to their words - look at their actions! The Lord dealt with these types by blasting them with the Word, by using terms that would offend them, as we have seen in John 6. This drove away the negative volition crowd and left only the positive.

2. *“So that they may be refined, purified and made spotless” -*

Le, with the infinitive of construct, tells us that what we are looking at is **the result of them being tripped up**, (stumbling, falling), that is, being captured, arrested, or just being prevented from fulfilling their mission, will end up in these men being refined, purified and made spotless. It may be their fault, due to some oversight, and it may not be their fault! But God is faithful to his people and he will cause all things to work out for the good to the elect. **So, even what seems to be failure ends up in personal victory for**

these people. These things, capture, etc., are not done for the purpose of them being refined, etc., but that it will result in their being refined, etc., The word *bahem* is used here, *be* plus *hem*, which is to be taken as the Greek equivalent of *eis*, resulting in, or, “*resulting in them being refined, etc.*”.

The word for **refine** is *tzaraph* and it had the idea of melting metal for the purpose of bringing the worthless dross to the top so one could get rid of it and end up with the gold. As fire is used to purify the worthless elements from the ore to get the gold, so are God’s people put through the fires of testing to rid us of unbelief.

What we have here is a concept that deals with faith, **and it is the fiery trial of being captured, arrested, jailed, and having one’s things confiscated by the authorities that will refine the faith of these men.** But how so? Have not these men been operating by faith before all this? Yes! And have not they operated by faith in their ministries? Yes again! But as always there are so many areas of faith that we have not exercised, areas that we are incomplete in, and now they are going to see God work for them in ways that they had not seen before.

The word for **purified** is *barar* and it meant **to clean something, to purify it, to wash it so it is free of impurities**, to make it as white as snow, to purify it so it is clean and bright. The word *bar* is related to this (borax) and spoke of lye soap, a cleansing agent made out of the ashes of the soap plant. This was probably the ashes they covered themselves with when they fasted with sackcloth and ashes. What concept this deals with is old sin nature activity. Not saying that these men will be wrapped up in things like stealing, adultery, murder, etc., but there are mental attitude sins, sins of the tongue and overt activity. There are also sins that deal out of the works of the flesh, where someone tries to get something accomplished by using their own ideas and their own strength. Whatever they are, these men will be purified from them.

The word for **spotless** is *laban* and it means white; in the verb form it means **to make white**. Jacob’s uncle, Laban, meant he was white. His wife was known in the community as Labanah, white woman. In one extra-biblical manuscript *lebanah* was used to describe the beauty of Sarah for the whiteness of her skin. From *labana* the moon was called “the white lady”, and *laban* simply meant “the white man”. The term white was always used in the sense of purity, but from what? Sin? Worldliness? Or unbelief? For the New Testament believer the issue is usually unbelief, those areas in our life where we do not fully trust the Lord. The situation will end up for these men that they have nowhere to go, nor anyone else to turn to but the Lord, so faith will be the name of the game for them **resulting in them becoming perfected in their faith.**

3. “*Until the time of the end*” -

Ad spoke of a period of time of indefinite duration. Connected to *eth*, which referred to a certain period of time. Both were followed by *qatz*, which referred to the very extremity

of that period of time, or the end of it. The time period is the end of the Church Age, the Tribulation, and those years preceding all of it. We know that the Tribulation lasts seven years, but there are those years immediately preceding it, which are similar in essence to the Tribulation and lead up to the Tribulation. So what we end up with is a block of time immediately preceding the Lord's return to earth; it is an indefinite period of time, and it will be at the end of it all. **The Wise**, and all other doctrinal believers, will be in this situation with the anti-christ and New World Order, right up to the very end when Christ returns. Probably what or who is being referred to in Revelations 13:10.

4. "*For it will come at the appointed time*" -

The word for **appointed** is *moad*, which speaks of a set time. Not that it is certain, which it is, but a time that has been set by God. There were Christians living in England in the last century and the century before that, who thought that they could hasten the day of the Lord. That is, by doing certain things on earth they could hasten the day that Christ will return to the earth. One group thought that if they translated the Bible into every language and preached it to the world that would do it. Another group thought that if they could resettle the Jews back in Israel that would bring about the Lord's return sooner. How great is the folly of man who tries to do the Lord's work in the flesh - if they would only believe the Word! God has established back in eternity past the dates and times for his purpose.

Back in England in the 1700's and 1800's was a group of believers called Dispensationalists who were the driving force behind the creation of the Jewish state in Israel and returning the Jews to the land. Joining in with them were Freemasons and Jews who had their own agendas. They thought that by creating a Jewish state in Israel they could so fulfill prophecy that Christ would have to come back! Too bad they couldn't put away their foolish works of the flesh motivated by their own ignorance and arrogance to believe what the Lord said, "*It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.*" Acts 1:7. **If it is not for us to even know it, what in the world would possess a man to think that he could have any input into it!**

What they fail to see is that God is operating by his own timetable and he has already set the exact day and hour for Christ to return to earth! He set it back in eternity past. How foolish man is to think that he can somehow influence the timetable of God's eternal purpose. But prideful man loves to believe that he can interject his ideas, his will and his input onto the sovereign will and purpose of the eternal God.

Pastor Mike