

## The Time of the End

The OT reading for this coming Sunday (Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost) is Daniel 12:1-3.

The beginning words *at that time* connect this passage with the preceding chapter. Chapter 11 had pictured the destruction of the Antichrist at the end of the world.

At this point we meet *Michael, the great prince*. “Michael” is a reference to the archangel Michael, the warrior who helps the Lord. Michael was charged to care for Israel which may also include “new Israel,” the Church.

There isn't a day when our world doesn't seem to be going out of control. It seems every day is a bedlam. But what is really going on is that our world is a battleground. There is war constantly raging between the forces of God and the forces of devil. There is not a single area of life which has not been claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan and his henchmen. The struggle will continue and even intensify as the time draws closer to the end. We should not be surprised by this because Jesus said the same in Matthew 24:21-22: *For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.* <sup>22</sup>*If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.*

But there's no reason for despair. Not only is there trouble ahead; there's triumph, too. Verse 1 speaks of *the book*. This is God's Book of Life, listing those who remain faithful. This same book is also spoken of in Revelation 21. Through faith in Christ's perfect life and his innocent death we have our names in that book. We may feel spiritually beat up at times, but we know that in the end we will be winners.

Our death will be like a sleep and we will arise on That Day and live in heaven forever. We will shine like the brightest of stars in our heavenly home.

Prayer: Almighty Father, I wait for you to guide my life as I go on my way to my heavenly home. Amen.