

**Depend upon the Lord!**

Daniel 12:1-3

Psalm 16:5,8-11

Hebrews 10:11-14

Mark 13:24-32

Daniel hears the word of the Lord and it informs him of the great Prince Michael, the guardian of the people. He will come at a time unsurpassed in distress but God's people will escape. Many who sleep shall be awakened and some shall live forever; the wise will shine brightly and those who lead many to justice shall be like the stars of the heavens.

The psalmist expresses trust, sets the Lord before him and for this reason he shall not be disturbed. His heart is glad, his soul rejoices, and his body abides in confidence. The Lord will not let the faithful undergo corruption and in this the psalmist is deeply committed.

Paul compares priests who offer many sacrifices to Jesus, the unique High Priest who offered the one sacrifice for sins that has eternal effects. He now stands at God's right hand and makes perfect forever those who are being consecrated.

Jesus prophesies that there will come a time, unknown to anyone except the Father, when the sun will darken and the powers of heaven will be shaken. When these things happen the time for the Son of Man to come is near and the angels will gather the elect from everywhere on earth. These words will not pass away even if heaven and earth do.



**Only the Father knows  
When the Son of Man will come again.  
The Holy Spirit makes us aware of the signs.**

The readings indicate there will come a time of great disturbances, but those who live justly and guide others to justice have nothing to fear for they will shine brightly with wisdom. Even the psalmist rejoices in body and soul and is confident of being guided in right paths. It is Christ who consecrates the faithful into perfection as he sits at the right hand of the Father. Because of Christ's right direction we can advance in goodness but strictly left to our own we will stagnate. It is not proper to let the inferior replace the superior and there are times to examine carefully our lives and the lives of others and when we observe things that halt and complicate we see that disorder follows and our priorities get out of balance. While it may cause more harm than good to continually dissect ourselves it is essential to understand our own attitudes and motives of conduct. Just what are the signs that indicate the direction we are heading?

Jesus consistently points to a threefold ideal in his teachings and that is a good way to prepare for the end times:

**True Life**

- + a life that looks prayerfully to the Father as we are involved in our daily work, remembering no one comes to the Father except through Jesus. (John 6:65)
- ++ a life that reaches out for the common good regardless of the personal cost, by living the Great Commandment. (Matt 22:36-40, Mark 12:29-31, Deut 6:4-5)
- +++ a life of faith that looks with hope to a future that includes eternal life with the Lord. (John 6:27)