

Fr. Glenn's Pen

Daniel is a book that is cited by some denominations as one that foretells the end of the age, and it may indeed have such a meaning, but it predicts with supernatural accuracy the decline and fall of the Roman stronghold over the ancient world. Rome's grip was crushed by Christ who replaced it with the Christian Church. If we allow ourselves to be formed by Christ and His Church we will be counted among the wise who will shine like the stars forever.

The book of Hebrews continues to reveal to the Jews of those days how Jesus establishes a more perfect sacrifice. Jesus is that one offering that serves to protect the world. At Mass the real presence of Christ is "made present" for all of us. This is the offering that redeems all who put their faith and trust in Him. Jesus paid the price for us. Our task is to accept His offer and thus live a life in thanksgiving for all that He has done for us.

For the first time in about 1600 years we are living in a time when western civilization has rejected God in its basic laws. Most of Europe and here at home we no longer protect the innocent unborn child. The process is also underway to undermine God's plan for the family and its intended purpose of providing the ideal circumstance to raise children in a safe and psychologically optimal situation.

Many have abandoned God, He will never abandon us, but when society believes it no longer needs God, God will allow things to happen that hopefully will draw people back to Him. This tribulation is seemingly predicted in today's Gospel. Many people will be tempted to despair, but for those who have faith in Christ, they will have hope and trust in God and will not be overcome by fear.

When Christ returns, he will not come as the Lamb that opened not His mouth, but will be the Lion of Judah to judge the living and the dead. Christians will have no fear of such a day, but will be entrusted with helping those around them to have faith in God's mercy and love. Let us pray that those who are hard of heart will have the grace to accept Christ when he comes. No one knows the day or the hour, but let us live as though it will be today!