

Daniel 12

One of the things we must keep in mind is that we will all rise again. We often think that only those who are in Christ will be raised, but Scripture teaches that everyone will be raised. From there, humanity will face two very different destinies: one is eternal life that is beyond our present ability to fully comprehend, while the other is resurrection into judgment.

The judgment that people will face will be:

- **Public**
 - *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all nations, and he will separate people from one another...”*
- **A revealing of secret sins**
 - *“For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.”* — Ecclesiastes 12:14
 - *“Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known... what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.”* — Luke 12:2–3
- **Inevitable**
 - *“Because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”* — Acts 17:31

No matter what we have done, how well we have hidden it, or how convincing we have been in pretending otherwise, everything will ultimately be made known publicly before God. There is nothing a person can do to escape this judgment unless they are found in Christ.

For those who belong to Christ, not only have their sins been paid for, but their judgment has already taken place in Christ on the cross. Jesus took upon Himself not only our sin, but also the judgment before God that we deserved.

I would encourage the leaders to consider using this first portion of chapter 12 as an opportunity to have a gospel conversation with the youth. My hope and prayer is that every student who enters our small groups would be found on the right side of God’s judgment. Part of loving and serving them faithfully is warning them that a day of judgment is coming, where every person will give an account for what they have done.

One area where students may get hung up is when we begin discussing timelines and trying to determine exactly when certain events in the middle section of the chapter will take place. I would intentionally remind them that those are great “8:30 questions,” but knowing the precise timing is not the main point of the passage. I would argue that God is intentionally not fully specific so that we would not know the exact time. Instead, we are called to live in continual readiness for Christ and His return.

Another point that will likely come up is whether these events have already taken place or are still future. So, once again, here is a chart. As before, this chart reflects a general consensus view of chapter 12, though there are certainly faithful believers who may disagree on some details.

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Daniel 12 – Fulfillment Chart

Daniel 12 Passage (ESV)	Event / Theme	Historical Fulfillment	Status	Notes
12:1a – a time of trouble	Severe persecution of God's people	Antiochus IV Epiphanes (167–164 BC)	Partial	Unprecedented suffering for Jews
12:1b – your people shall be delivered	Deliverance of Israel	Maccabean Revolt	Partial	Temple restored (Hanukkah)
12:1c – written in the book	Salvation of the faithful	Faithful remnant preserved	Partial/Ongoing	Points to eternal salvation
12:2 – many shall awake	Resurrection	None yet	Future	Final resurrection
12:2 – everlasting life/contempt	Final judgment	None yet	Future	Heaven and hell
12:3 – wise shall shine	Faithful witnesses	Jewish teachers under persecution	Partial	Also eternal reward
12:4 – seal the book	Limited understanding	Progressive understanding	Ongoing	Not one event
12:10 – purify themselves	Spiritual refining	Faithful under persecution	Partial	Pattern across time
12:10 – wicked act wickedly	Hardening of wicked	Seen in apostasy	Ongoing	Continues today
12:11 – abomination	Temple desecration	167 BC altar to Zeus	Partial	Exact timing debated
12:12 – blessed is he who waits	Perseverance	Faithful endurance	Partial/Ongoing	Forward-looking
12:13 – rest and stand	Death and resurrection hope	None yet	Future	Promise to Daniel

