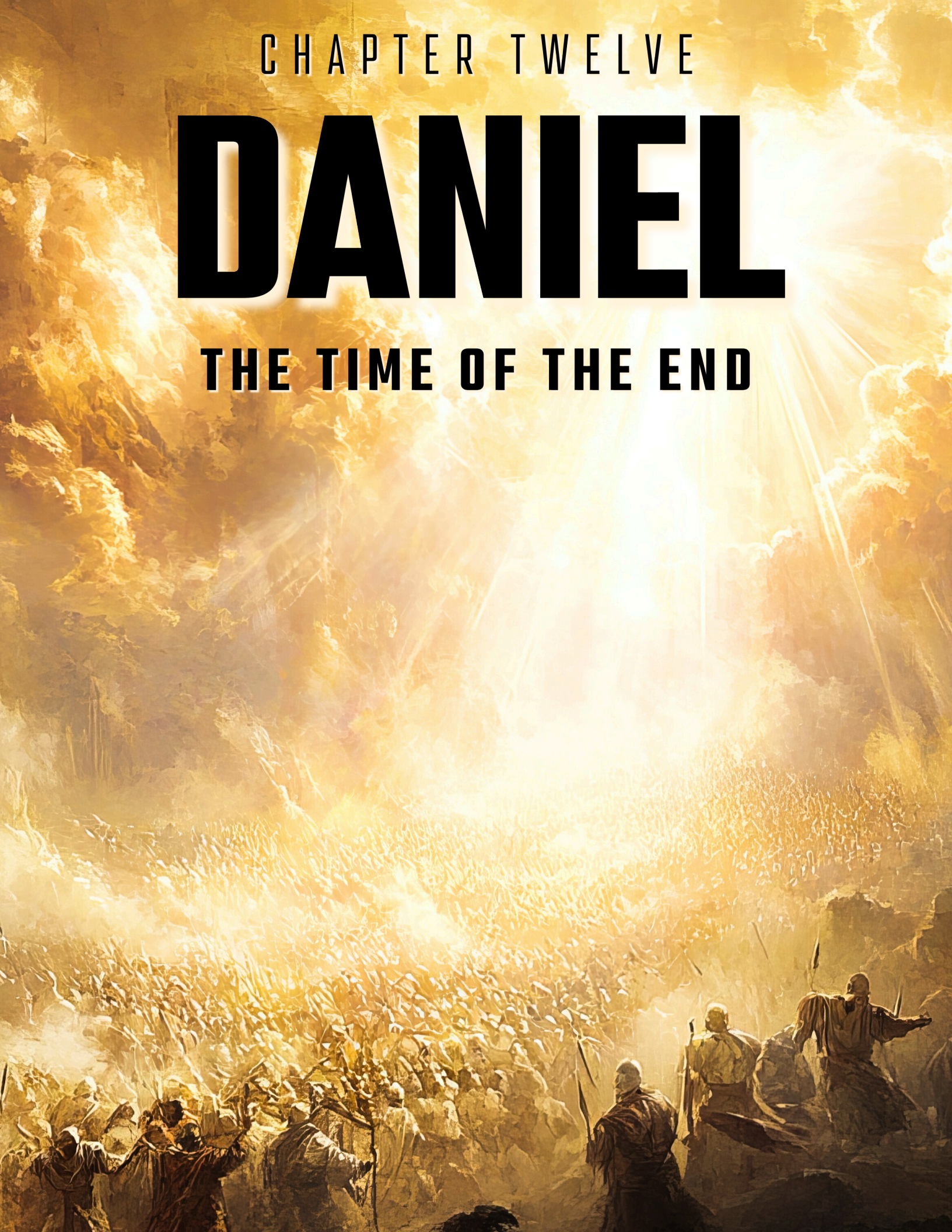


CHAPTER TWELVE

DANIEL

THE TIME OF THE END



Introduction

Since this is such a short chapter, let's begin by reading it together in its entirety. And then we will walk our way through this chapter, verse by verse.

Daniel 12:1-13

- 1 "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.*
- 2 Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.*
- 3 Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.*
- 4 But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase."*
- 5 Then I, Daniel, looked and behold, two others were standing, one on this bank of the river and the other on that bank of the river.*
- 6 And one said to the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long will it be until the end of these wonders?"*
- 7 I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these events will be completed.*
- 8 As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, "My lord, what will be the outcome of these events?"*
- 9 He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time.*
- 10 Many will be purged, purified and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand.*
- 11 From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.*
- 12 How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!*
- 13 But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age."*

Prophecies Concerning the Time of the End (vv. 1-4)

As mentioned previously, chapters 10, 11, and 12 should probably have been kept as one unit, because all of them deal with Daniel's fourth and final vision.

But since they're three different chapters in our Bibles, just remember to read them together, as one entity.

Daniel 12:1-4

1 *“Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.*

2 *Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.*

3 ***Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.***

4 *But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.”*

Daniel writes, “*At that time.*” This time stamp is vital to the interpretation of these final verses. As a matter of fact, _____ times in this one verse Daniel is told about “*that time.*”

This phrase points us back to the same period of time as the ending of chapter 11. Chapter 11 ended with a discussion of the future Antichrist and the future seven-year _____ period (vv. 36-45).

In light of that, Daniel is told: “Now **at that time** Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise” (v. 1). During the Tribulation the archangel Michael will rise up to support _____ cause at a point during which the Antichrist will be involved in some fierce End Times battles (Dan. 11:40-45).

Notice that Michael is called the “*great prince,*” the chief or leader of God’s holy angels.

In chapter 10 Michael was seen keeping the demonic world forces from destroying the nation of Israel (vv. 13, 21). Thus, it would appear that those dark future days of the Tribulation would have brought about the _____ of the people of Israel, were it not for the mighty efforts of Michael.

Having said that, please remember that God is a covenant-keeping God, and for that reason alone He would NEVER allow His people Israel to be destroyed.

Jeremiah 31:35-37

35 *Thus says the Lord,*

*Who gives **the sun** for light by day and the fixed order of **the moon** and **the stars** for light by night, Who stirs up **the sea** so that its waves roar; the Lord of hosts is His name:*

36 *“If this fixed order departs from before Me,” declares the Lord,*

*“**Then** the offspring of Israel also will cease from being a nation before Me forever.”*

37 *Thus says the Lord,*

*“If the heavens above can be measured **and** the foundations of the earth searched out below,*

***Then** I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel for all that they have done,” declares the Lord.*

In other words, God will NEVER reject His people.

Scripture tells us that the _____ of the Tribulation will be a very busy time for Michael.

In Revelation chapter 12 we read that there will be an unprecedented _____ in Heaven, a war led by Michael who will fight against Satan and his demonic hoard. The outcome of the battle will be the final removal of Satan from the realm of Heaven where he has had limited access, for he sometimes comes before God and _____ the saints (Job 1:6-10; Rev. 12:10). But Michael will defeat him, and Satan will be strictly confined to the earth during those last days.

At that time there will be great rejoicing in Heaven (Rev. 12:10-12), but terrible days will come upon the earth for _____ days, which corresponds perfectly to the last half of Daniel's Seventieth Week.

In essence, the battle against Satan will switch at that time from Heaven to Earth, and it will be a time of intense persecution of God's people, Israel.

Revelation 12:12b

12 ...Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time."

Daniel 12:1b

1b And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.

Our Lord had this same time in mind when He declared the following in His Olivet Discourse:

Matthew 24:21-22

21 For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.

22 Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

Now, it's critical for us to understand that we must distinguish between _____ "tribulation" or trials, and THE Tribulation period of the End Times.

The Bible is crystal clear that ALL believers (those in the Old Testament and those in the New Testament) should expect a certain amount of general tribulation in their lifetimes.

Jesus Himself said to His disciples, "*In the world you **will have tribulation***" (Jn. 16:33).

BUT the language describing _____ Tribulation Period distinguishes it from everyday "trials and tribulations."

Listen to the specifics told us about the Tribulation of the End Times.

- Scripture refers to the Tribulation as a _____ period of time at the end of the age (Mat. 24:29-35).
- It will be so severe that no period in history—past or future—will equal it (Mat. 24:21).
- It will come upon the _____ earth (Rev. 3:10; Isa. 24:1).
- The days are said to be shortened for the elect's sake (Mat. 24:22). Otherwise, no flesh would survive it.
- It is called the time of “_____ *distress*,” for it is a judgment on Messiah-rejecting Israel (Jer. 30:7; Dan. 12:1-4).
- The nations will also be judged for their sin and rejection of Christ (Isa. 26:21; Rev. 6:15-17).
- This Tribulation period will last exactly ____ years (Dan. 9:24, 27).
- It will be so bad that people will want to hide and even _____ (Rev. 6:16).

(See also Zeph. 1:15, 18; Rev. 14:7; Isa. 24:1-4, 20-21; 26:20-21; Jer. 30:7; Joel 1:15; Amos 5:18; Dan. 9:27.)

Even though the Tribulation will be an unprecedented time of persecution and death, especially for the Jews, the Bible makes it abundantly clear that it will also be a time of unprecedented deliverance and _____, especially for the Jews.

Look at the final phrase in verse 1. **Daniel 12:1c**

1 ...and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, **will be rescued**.

It's clear from this passage and many others like it that God is not “_____ *with the Jew*”!

God's purpose for the Seventy Weeks, and in particular the Seventieth Week, was spelled out in chapter 9, verses 24-27. God's purpose is to bring Israel into the _____, so that He can fulfill His promise to Abraham. The Apostle Paul also foretold this time in Romans chapter 11, verses 25-29.

Before we move on, I believe that “*the book*” that is mentioned here is the same as “*the book of life*” (Rev. 3:5; 20:12, 15), which is also called “*the Lamb's Book of Life*” (Rev. 13:8; 21:27) because it contains the _____ of all those who have been cleansed by the blood of the Lamb.

Daniel 12:2

2 *Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.*

Now, there is a time gap between verses 1 and 2—a gap of a thousand years! Verse 1 was talking about the Tribulation period, but here in verse 2 the angel jumps forward 1,000 years to the end of the

The fact that people are returning to life tells us that we are dealing with a resurrection. And the fact that we are dealing with a _____ company of both saved and unsaved souls identifies this particular resurrection.

There is only one resurrection when the unsaved will be given their incorruptible bodies, and that happens after the Millennium, right before the final _____ judgment.

All prior resurrections are for _____.

For example, when Jesus rose from the grave on the third day after His crucifixion, He inaugurated “*the first resurrection*” with His new, glorified body.

After that, comes “*the dead in Christ*” rising at the time of the Rapture.

Then after that, the Bible teaches that “*we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air*” (1 Thess. 4:16-17).

After that there will be a series of resurrections involving the two witnesses during the Tribulation, and the _____ saints and the Tribulation saints at the Second Coming of Christ.

Those are all pieces of “*the _____ resurrection*,” involving believers.

Listen to what John said in Revelation chapter 20.

Revelation 20:6

6 *Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in **the first resurrection**; over these the second death has no power; but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.*

The second resurrection involves _____.

The messenger in Daniel 12:2 is referring to this second resurrection, the same one that Jesus referenced in John 5:28-29, and about which the Apostle John spoke in Revelation 20:12-15.

Daniel 12:3-4

3 *“Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.*

4 *But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.”*

Verse 3 introduces us to “*those who have insight*,” or as some other translations say, “*those who are wise*” (NKJV, ESV, NIV).

They are the ones who know the One True and Living God.

These people will see through the Antichrist's _____, and will turn to Jesus in repentant faith.

They will then go on to lead "*many to righteousness.*" In other words, those who get saved during the Tribulation are going to be **real** _____.

Daniel mentions in passing the concept of _____ believers; this concept is developed and expanded by New Testament writers (Mat. 5:12; 1 Cor. 3:8-15; 2 Cor. 5:10).

The rewarding of Church Age saints will take place when the Lord Jesus returns at the Rapture.

And the rewarding of the Old Testament and Tribulation saints will take place at our Lord's _____ Coming.

Now, this messenger goes on to tell Daniel that those faithful saints "*will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven...like the stars.*"

Just like the stars in the heavens give continual witness to the greatness and power of God, so too will all the _____ saints in Heaven.

→→ And did you notice how long they will shine? "*Forever and ever.*" These rewards are _____ in nature (see also 2 Cor. 4:17-18).

And with this glorious promise, the actual content of Daniel's final vision ends.

Daniel is now given a _____ that he must heed.

Daniel 12:4

4 "*But as for you, Daniel, **conceal these words and seal up the book** until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.*"

We've been accustomed to having the heavenly messenger _____ the visions and cast light on their interpretations.

But this time the angel says, "*But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time*" (v. 4a).

→→ Was this message meant only for Daniel?

→→ And if so, did Daniel sin by making this revelation known to us by writing it down in his book?

The answer is a resounding "NO!"

God's intention for the book of Daniel was to reach the _____ of the earth.

And that is exactly what has happened.

QUOTE:

*“The admonition to Daniel was for him to **protect and preserve** the contents of the angel’s message **until a time came when it could be clearly understood**” (Tsarfati, 265).*

This was not a command to _____ the truth; it was a recognition that the truth of these things would not be understood until more of God’s prophetic puzzle had been revealed.

That was essentially the angel’s admonition to Daniel.

In the future God would send His people more prophetic puzzle pieces which would make the picture become clearer and clearer.

There is a clear link between the Old Testament book of Daniel and the New Testament book of Revelation.

While this messenger told Daniel to “*seal up the book,*” _____ angel told him the opposite.

He said, “*Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, **for the time is near***” (Rev. 22:10).

And with the added insight of the book of Revelation, we can now better understand the book of Daniel.

Conversely, with Daniel’s vision to guide us, we can lay a proper foundation for understanding John’s vision of Revelation.

Verse 4 closes with two little clauses which have spawned all kind of interpretations over the years.

The angel said, “...*many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.*”

There are some who have taught and believed that these are predictions of an increase in travel and knowledge in days future to Daniel, specifically the days that we are living in right now.

But after studying this passage in its context, I do not believe that that interpretation is the only option, nor even the best one.

The Hebrew words, for “*go back and forth*” do not depict deliberate travel, but rather wandering around without _____.

This picture of people running aimlessly to and fro is seen in other places of the Bible too.

For example, in the book of Amos, we find a prediction of the same thing happening.

Amos 8:11-12

11 *“Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord God,*

*“When I will send a famine on the land,
Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water,
But rather for hearing the words of the Lord.*

12 *“People will stagger from sea to sea*

And from the north even to the east;

*They will go to and fro to seek the word of the Lord,
But they will not find it.”*

(See also Jer. 5:1).

Beloved, there have been many times in history when there has been a _____ of God’s Word. People have wanted it, but it wasn’t available. Think of the Middle Ages.

And even today, there are still many people who do not have God’s Word readily available to them.

Thus, I believe that the *“going back and forth”* should be taken as godly men pursuing God’s knowledge.

QUOTE:

“[This] is not a reference to automobiles and jet planes or the advancement of education. It has reference to the study of God’s Word in the last days, especially the study of prophecy. Amos 8:11-12 warns us that the day will come when there will be a famine of God’s Word and people will run here and there seeking for truth but won’t find it. But God’s promise to Daniel is that, in the last days, His people can increase in their knowledge of prophetic Scripture as they apply themselves to the Word of God ”
(Wiersbe, Bible Exposition Commentary).

Thus, it is probably best to understand this phrase as meaning that as time goes on, the truly righteous person will gain more and more _____ into the prophetic aspects of God’s Word.

Thus, the modern-day interpreter of Daniel understands these prophecies with much greater clarity than would have been possible in the sixth century B.C.

QUOTE:

“No doubt those living in the end times will have far greater understanding of these things than is possible today” (Walvoord, p. 377).

QUOTE:

*“As the Lord’s people give diligent attention to this piece of Scripture, they will, **especially nearer the end**, have a clearer grasp of its meaning.... It is immersion that brings insight” (Davis, 164).*

QUOTE:

“As the time of fulfillment draws nearer, the ‘wise’ will seek to comprehend these prophecies more precisely, and God will grant understanding (‘knowledge’) to them” (Miller, 321).

The angel had said all that he was sent to say to Daniel. BUT right before he could fly away to go help _____ in his ongoing battle against the princes of Persia and Greece, a voice stopped him.

How Long? (vv. 5-7)

Daniel 12:5-7

5 Then I, Daniel, looked and behold, two others were standing, one on this bank of the river and the other on that bank of the river.

6 And one said to the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, **“How long will it be until the end of these wonders?”**

7 I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these events will be completed.

At this point in the vision, Daniel looked toward the Tigris River, and as he did, he saw two additional angels.

These two angelic beings clearly wanted to know more about the significance of the events just revealed to Daniel, and they posed a question to a _____ individual.

This third individual, dressed in linen, was the same glorious _____ seen earlier in chapter 10, verses 5-9.

The question was a simple one—one that we all want to know—*“How long?”*

God’s people have often asked this question in the midst of hard circumstances.

- “How long, Lord, must I endure this pain?”
- “How long, Lord, must I endure this difficult marriage?”

- “How long, Lord, until I’m out of this financial mess?”
- “How long, Lord, until You come back and take us HOME?”

Beloved, this question has reflected the heart’s cry of God’s people for the past 6,000 years of human history. This cry echoes that of the prophets and psalmists who longed for the Lord’s hand of discipline to be replaced with His hand of _____.

But this time, the question comes from angels.

Now, look at verse 7 once again with me. When answering the two angels, as well as Daniel, this magnificent angelic being raised his hands towards Heaven.

He was making an _____.

He probably did this because of the human tendency *not* to believe what God has said.

In Scripture, the raising of a hand indicates that a very solemn oath is being made (see Deut. 32:40; Rev. 10:5).

But here we see the angel raising *both* hands, probably indicating that the oath that he was making was even more serious.

Now, remember that there were two other angels present, witnessing this oath.

The number *two* is significant, because Scripture reveals that two is the _____ number of witnesses required to confirm an oath (Deut. 17:6; 19:15).

The linen-dressed angel then uttered the oath.

Don’t forget, the question was “*How long will it be until the end of these wonders?*” (v. 6b).

And this heavenly angel who swore by “*Him Who lives forever*” answered saying that it would be “*for a time, times, and half a time*” (v. 7).

Now, the title “*Him Who lives forever*” is a clear reference to our eternal God (Deut. 33:27; Psalms 90:2; Isaiah 44:6; 48:12; Revelation 1:8).

And the answer, “*for a time, times, and half a time*” should be familiar to us by now.

The word “*time*” refers to a _____.

The word “*times*” refers to _____ years.

And the words “*half a time*” refer to _____ a year.

This clearly totals three and one half years—or the second half of the Tribulation period. Again, remember the context of chapter 12. When the angel asks, “*How long?*” we know that he is asking “How long would it be until the prophetic events at the end of Daniel chapter 11 would be completed?”

And the answer is, after the final 3 ½ years of Daniel’s Seventieth Week, the Tribulation (Dan. 9:27).

(This same span of time is described by other phrases in Rev. 11:2-3; 13:5.)

The angel went on to clarify and said, “...and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these events will be completed” (v. 7b).

At the very end of the Tribulation, “*the holy people,*” Israel, will be “*shattered*” as the forces of the Antichrist move toward them in the _____.

God has limited the time of Israel’s intense persecution by the Antichrist to three-and-a-half years.

When these final three-and-a-half years have run their course, then _____ will return and take control of the earth and establish His Millennial Kingdom.

Now, it’s interesting to note that this second part of the angel’s answer has to do with the salvation of the Jewish people.

Our Lord was quite clear that Israel, who had rejected Him during His First Coming, would never see Him again until they became a _____ nation (Mat. 23:39).

Thus, the primary purpose of the Seventieth Week is to tear off the spiritual blinders that Israel has had on for nearly two thousand years, so that they can finally recognize that Jesus really was their _____ and had come to bring them into the New Covenant.

In Daniel 9:24, one of the clearly stated purposes of the Seventieth Week was to “*finish the transgression,*” which refers to the apostasy of Israel.

The oath taken here is that this apostasy of Israel will indeed be shattered, and a _____ and contrite nation will turn to Jesus as their Lord and Savior, the Messiah.

Go Your Way! (vv. 8-10)

Daniel 12:8-10

8 *As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, “My lord, what will be the outcome of these events?”*

9 *He said, “**Go your way, Daniel,** for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time.*

10 *Many will be purged, purified and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand.”*

When the old prophet asked one of the angels for a little more clarification, his question was not the same as the one asked by the angel.

Instead he asked, “My lord, *what will be the outcome of these events?*”

Apparently Daniel did understand the length of time involved, BUT he did not understand HOW the _____ of his people Israel would be accomplished.

Verse 9 gives him the answer, but it was probably not the one he was hoping for.

The angel essentially replied that his question would be answered, but much later on.

He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time” (v. 9b).

They were to be kept safe and preserved for future generations when further enlightenment would be given.

I believe this meant that it would remain a mystery until _____ writers of Scripture would come on the scene—like Zechariah, Paul, and John—and only then would it make sense.

Daniel 12:10

10 Many will be purged, purified and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand.

The End Times will produce two groups of people.

This will be true of all people, but especially of the Jews.

There will be those who will be _____, i.e. “*purged, purified, and refined.*”

Those Jews will recognize their sin, repent, turn, and embrace God’s only solution for their sin problem—the Lord Jesus Christ.

For the first group of Jews to come to that future point of salvation, they must be the ones who escape _____ when the Antichrist reveals his intentions.

Wisely, they will see what’s coming, and when it’s time, they will flee for their lives into the wilderness.

BUT there will also be another group of Jews. That group will refuse to acknowledge their sin. They will refuse to acknowledge their need for a Savior. They will continue to act wickedly. They will not understand the times in which they’re living. They will have no _____.

They will stay in Jerusalem, holding on to the hope that the Antichrist will be true to his word. BUT by that time it will be too late.

Listen to what the Apostle Paul said about blindness to the Gospel.

1 Corinthians 2:14

14 *But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and **he cannot understand them**, because they are spiritually appraised.*

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

3 *And even if our gospel is veiled, **it is veiled to those who are perishing**,*

4 *in whose case the god of this world has **blinded the minds of the unbelieving** so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

Daniel 12:11-12

11 *From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and **the abomination of desolation** is set up, there will be 1,290 days.*

12 *How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!*

This is the third time that a variation of the phrase “*the abomination of desolation*” is used in the book of Daniel (9:27; 11:31; 12:11).

It refers to the time when the Antichrist removes the sacrifices being made to God from the newly rebuilt temple and places _____ in the position to receive worship.

We have already noted that Antiochus Epiphanes would do/did the same thing (8:11-13; 11:31).

BUT there is coming another _____ Antichrist who will put a stop to the Jewish sacrifices at the middle of the Tribulation and then set himself up as the one who is to be worshipped.

Right before Daniel’s vision ends, the angel suddenly drops two _____ into the mix—“1,290 days” and “1,335 days.”

→→ How are we to understand these two new numbers?

The two crucial events of the termination of the Jewish sacrificial system AND the setting up of the “*abomination of desolation*” have already been discussed (Dan. 9:27).

And it’s very clear from Daniel and from the Lord Jesus that these events will take place at the _____ of the Tribulation (Dan. 9:27; Mat. 24:15).

The desecration of the Jewish Temple will begin the “**great tribulation**,” which will especially focus on the nation of Israel during the last three-and-a-half years of the Tribulation.

We’ve already seen the time marker “42 months.” We’ve already seen “1,260 days.” And we’ve already seen “*time, times, and half a time*.”

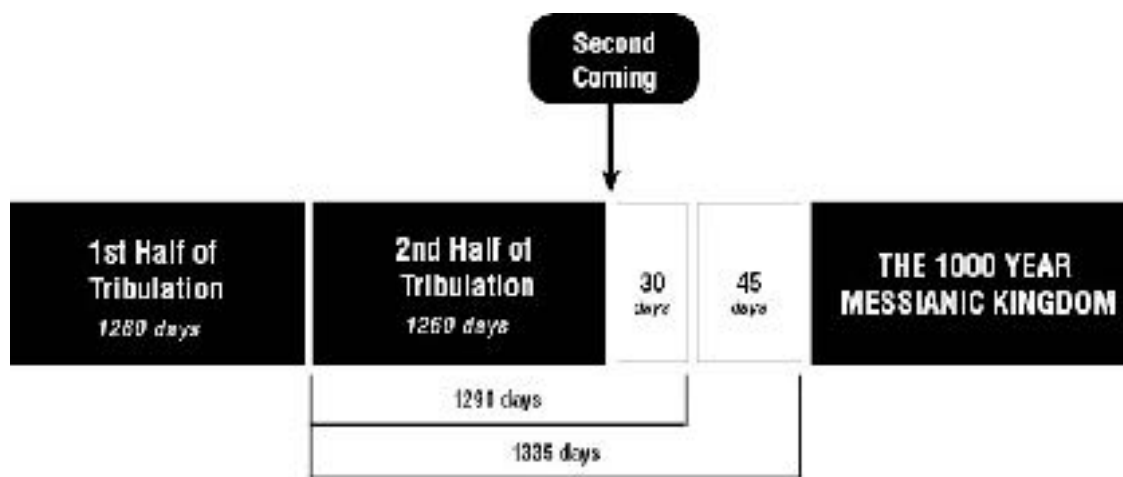
These are all different ways of saying the exact same thing—_____ years.

However, right here, at the very end of the book, the angel drops two new periods of time—“1290 days” (30 days beyond the Second Coming) and “1335 days” (75 days beyond the Second Coming).

→→ Why the additional days? Well, to be perfect honest—we simply don’t know with certainty. But we can make some legitimate guesses based on a number of other passages of Scripture.

It is normally assumed that the Messianic Kingdom will begin right away at the Second Coming. BUT this may not necessarily be the case.

There very well could be an interval of _____ days between the Second Coming and the commencement of Messiah’s rule and reign, in order to deal with some necessary matters.



QUOTE:

“A 75-day interval apparently separates the end of the tribulation period from the beginning of the millennial kingdom. During this brief interim, a number of significant events transpire. For example, the image of the antichrist that had caused the abomination of desolation at the midpoint of the tribulation will be removed from the temple after 30 days. ‘From the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days’ (Daniel 12:11). The last half of the tribulation lasts only 1260 days (or three and a half years), so the abomination that makes desolate is removed from the Jewish temple 30 days after the tribulation ends. An additional 45 days must also be added into the prophetic timetable: ‘Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days’ (verse 12). The 1335 days minus the 1290 days means another 45 days are added into the mix. Apparently, this is when the judgment of the nations takes place (Matthew 25:31-46). The Jewish survivors of the tribulation period will also be judged” (Rhodes, quoted in Tsarfati, 272).

Now, having said all of that, it is _____ to know for sure what these additional time periods will be.

Notice the honesty and humility of commentator James Boice when it comes to these verses.

He simply says that there are things here “*which we cannot yet explain*” (Boice, 122).

The book concludes with a personal word for Daniel. Look at verse 13 with me once again.

Daniel 12:13

13 But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age.”

Daniel was to continue living as he had been doing until “*the end*” or entering into his “*rest*”—i.e., his _____.

After that the angel told him that he would be resurrected and _____, and he would participate in Messiah’s Kingdom, that is, his “*allotted portion at the end of the age.*”

QUOTE:

“[Daniel], you are in your last years, God says, but I still have work for you to do. When it is time for you to retire from My work, then I will bring you home. Then ‘you will rest’ because you will be with Me. Then, as promised you will ‘stand to receive your allotted inheritance’, your destiny, your reward. This will happen ‘at the end of days.’ So do your duty, make disciples, proclaim My Word, and endure. [Because] something wonderful is on the horizon at the end” (Akin, 167).

This is reminiscent of the final paragraph of *The Last Battle* in the Chronicles of Narnia, by C. S. Lewis.

Listen to how Lewis described Heaven.

QUOTE:

“And as He spoke He no longer looked to them like a lion; but the things that began to happen after that were so great and beautiful that I cannot write them. And for us this is the end of all the stories, and we can most truly say that they all lived happily ever after. But for them it was only the beginning of the real story. All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story, which no one on earth has read: which goes on for ever: in which every chapter is better than the one before” (C.S. Lewis).

Life Resolutions

Resolution #1—Like Daniel, let us resolve to maintain a holy _____ or reverence for the One True God.

After witnessing God's great power in delivering Daniel from the lions' den, King Darius decreed that *"people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel"* (6:26).

Belshazzar was petrified when a celestial hand appeared at his feast and wrote four words on the palace wall—and rightly so.

BUT he did not truly _____ the living God Who gave him his life, his kingdom, and everything else that he had.

For those who do not know God, there is a real terror that awaits them. The Bible clearly teaches that *"It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God."* (Hebrews 10:31)

Only those who know the living God, have had their sins forgiven, and have been adopted into God's family don't need to live in terror of the living God.

But having said that, the Bible very clearly **does** teach that *"the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge"* (Prov. 1:7).

The fear of the Lord should also motivate one to obedient living (Deut. 5:29; Eccl. 12:13).

The fear of the Lord should motivate one to avoid evil (Prov. 3:7; 8:13; 16:6).

The fear of the Lord should motivate one toward true wisdom (Job 28:28; Psalms 111:10).

The fear of the Lord should motivate one to worship Him (Deut. 6:13).

God _____ those who fear Him (Psalms 115:13).

The Bible also teaches that the fear of the Lord leads to riches, honor, and long life (Prov. 22:4). And God shows mercy toward those who fear Him (Luke 1:50).

Resolution #2—Like Daniel, let us resolve to be _____ to God no matter what.

It's clear that Daniel and his three friends were committed to faithfully obeying their God regardless of what they faced.

When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego were commanded to bow down and worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden statue, they resolutely refused and were thrown alive into the fiery furnace.

When King Darius banned prayer to any god but himself for thirty days, Daniel's response was to go home and continue to pray to his God three times a day, just as he had always done.

Their experiences remind us that obeying God may often entail sacrifice and _____ of one degree or another.

BUT do not forget that God tells us in His Word that obedience also brings:

- blessings (Luke 11:28),
- long life (1 Kings 3:14),
- happiness (Psa. 112:1),
- peace (Prov. 1:33),
- a state of well-being (Jer. 7:23),
- success wherever we go (Josh. 1:7-8),
- and eventually, life eternal (John 8:51).

Daniel and his three friends enjoyed all of these blessings, and so too can we!

Resolution #3—Like Daniel, let us resolve to be men and women of _____!

There is no doubt that Daniel was a man of great prayer. He prayed consistently and regularly. He prayed in good times and bad.

In chapter 2, after a command had been given for all the wise men of Babylon to be killed, as soon as Daniel heard it, he appealed to the king for time to entreat his God.

And then he immediately went home and held a prayer meeting with his three Hebrew friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. And God graciously answered their prayers.

Beloved, the Bible is full of God's people lifting up their voices to the God of Heaven Who listens intently and answers perfectly.

James 5:16b-18

16 ...The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.

18 Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

James used Elijah as an example of effective prayer, BUT I believe he could just as easily have used _____ and his three friends' example of prayer having extraordinary results.

Resolution #4—Like Daniel, let us resolve to put our trust in God's _____ control over all things.

In the book of Daniel, we repeatedly see that God is fully in charge of everything—past, present, and future. He was sovereign over the captivity of Israel, the fiery furnace, the lions' den, and every other event.

Again and again the Bible declares that God is _____.

He knows all things, both actual and possible (Mat. 11:21-23).

He knows all things past (Job 38:4ff).

He knows all things present (Heb. 4:13).

AND He knows all things future (Isa. 46:9-10).

Isaiah 44:8a

*"Do not tremble and do not be afraid; **have I not long since announced it to you and declared it?**"*

Isaiah 45:21b

*"Who has **announced this** from of old? Who has **long since declared it?** Is it not I, the Lord?"*

Isaiah 46:9b-11

*"For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, **declaring the end from the beginning**, and from ancient times things which have not been done.... Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it."*

Resolution #5—Like Daniel, let us resolve to be _____ in every circumstance and situation.

Daniel was a gifted genius. And yet, what we find again and again is a humble man who continually pointed away from his own abilities to the living God (Dan. 2:27-28).

The Scriptures continually speak of God opposing the proud, but giving grace to the humble (James 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5).

And James 4:10 says, “*Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and **He will exalt you.***”

Daniel continually _____ himself throughout his lifetime in Babylon, and because of that God highly exalted him. May God grant each one of us the grace to resolve to live such a wholeheartedly humble life.

Resolution #6—Like Daniel and his three friends, let us resolve to remain _____ no matter how difficult the circumstances.

Honoring and obeying God can get us into serious trouble, even life-threatening situations. And while that might be a rarity for Christians living in America, it is important for us to remember that it is a daily reality for many of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world today.

Daniel and his three friends were unbendingly courageous, over and over again, in spite of being threatened with certain death. All of them stayed strong and true to their God.

And folks, I just want to remind you that we serve THE _____ GOD.

You and I, through the power of the Holy Spirit, can be bold and courageous as well.

In our study of the Minor Prophets last summer, we saw this same admonition in the book of Habakkuk.

Habakkuk 3:16-19

16 *I heard and my inward parts trembled,
At the sound my lips quivered.
Decay enters my bones,
And in my place I tremble.
Because I must wait quietly for the day of distress,
For the people to arise who will invade us.*

17 *Though the fig tree should not blossom
And there be no fruit on the vines,
Though the yield of the olive should fail
And the fields produce no food,
Though the flock should be cut off from the fold
And there be no cattle in the stalls,*

18 *Yet I will exult in the Lord,
I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.*

19 *The Lord God is my strength,
And He has made my feet like hinds' feet,
And makes me walk on my high places.*

Resolution #7—Like Daniel and his three friends, let us resolve to remain faithfully obedient even to the point of _____.

Daniel and his three friends were obedient to God to the point of death. Again and again, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were all willing to die rather than disobey God.

We would all do well in remembering the words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

Matthew 16:24-26

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

25 For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Those who are willing to die for Christ have eternal life waiting for them in Heaven (John 10:28; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 3:21; Rev. 2:10).

And that is good to remember, because God does not always _____ His servants in the same manner.

Hebrews 11:33 speaks of those who “*shut the mouths of lions,*” which is a clear reference to _____.

BUT beginning in verse 36 of that same chapter, the author of Hebrews mentions those who “... *experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword;...*” (vv. 36-37a).

God calls some of us to win by _____ righteously.

And He calls others of us to win by _____ righteously.

But God is sovereign in BOTH.

Our world desperately needs to see those who truly ***love*** their God and who truly trust their God, both in ***life*** and when facing ***death***.