

Session 12 Details About the Tribulation (Dan. 12:4-13)

I. REVIEW OF DANIEL 12:1-3

- A. In Daniel 12, a mighty angel assured Daniel of the ultimate triumph of God’s kingdom related to the Great Tribulation. The most dramatic, powerful, important generation in history is coming.
- B. Daniel 12 emphasizes the sovereign rule of God over all, namely that history is heading towards a most glorious future and that God’s people will prevail with victory. Our sovereign God rules history and knows the end from the beginning. Many will repent and accept Jesus during this time. These truths will give God’s people boldness and courage to live godly and refuse compromise.
- C. Daniel 12:1-2 describes the full and final deliverance of Israel and the resurrection of the saints. The Antichrist will be a king or political leader (11:36) in the generation of Israel’s deliverance at the end (12:1-3). He will invade Israel and establish his “headquarters” near Jerusalem (11:45). The wise and those who turn people to righteousness shall shine like the stars forever (12:3).

11:45 **He [the Antichrist] shall plant the tents of his palace...[near] the holy mountain [Jerusalem] yet, he shall come to his end... ^{12:1}**At that time Michael shall stand up...and there shall be a time of trouble [Great Tribulation], such as never was...And at that time your people [Israel] shall be delivered...²Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake [resurrection], some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.” ³**Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever. (Dan. 11:45-12:3)******

- D. **Great Tribulation:** This is the verse that Jesus referred to when speaking of the Great Tribulation (Mt. 24:21). Trouble “such as there never was” qualifies this as a very unique time in history.
*15*Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet...
*21*Then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world...
*22*And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved... (Mt. 24:15, 21-22)
- E. The abomination of desolation is the central political and religious event that will reveal the nature and timing of the Antichrist’s emergence onto the world stage. The abomination occurs when the Antichrist puts his image in the Jerusalem temple, demanding to be worshiped (Dan. 8:13; 9:27; 11:31; 12:11), as described by Paul (2 Thes. 2:3-4) and John (Rev. 13:11-18).
- F. Details of the end times were shown to Daniel so that God’s people would prepare themselves. God wants His people to be *resolved* to be faithful before deception, lawlessness, and persecution escalate. In Matthew 24, Jesus warned the Church more about *deception* in the end times than tribulation (Mt. 24:4-5, 11, 24; Mk. 13:5-6, 22; Lk. 21:8; 2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 3:13).
*4*Take heed that no one deceives you. *5*For many will come...and will deceive many ...¹¹Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many...¹²lawlessness will abound... (Mt. 24:4-12)

- G. Why did Daniel’s visions put so much emphasis on the Antichrist? The counterfeit glory of the Antichrist will deceive many who are not established in the love and knowledge of the truth. Hitler’s rise to power created a dynamic optimism that swept many church members into deception.

II. TWO IMPORTANT SIGNS (12:4)

- A. Daniel was commanded to seal the vision, and then he was given two signs of the end-time times—*increased travel* (run and fro) and *increased knowledge*. Some see the *increase of knowledge* as involving knowledge in general as well as an increase of the knowledge of Daniel’s prophecies.
- 4“But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.” (Dan. 12:4)***
- B. ***Seal the book***: To seal a vision can mean different things. It can mean to preserve a vision and not to change it by adding to or taking from it (8:26; 12:4), or it can mean to hide its full meaning (12:9), or to authenticate and fulfill it what is promised in it (9:24). The sealing of the vision here does not indicate concealing it, but rather preserving the vision by sealing it against change or addition—to keep it intact so it could be read and understood by many.
- C. Many commentators limit their view of this verse to increasing in knowledge of the book of Daniel. I do not think this *captures the fullness* of the remarkable truth that the angel is highlighting. All biblical prophecy of the end times will be understood more as we get closer to Jesus’ return. This will not be unique to Daniel’s prophecies and would not warrant a mighty angel highlighting it.
- D. Premillennial commentators who see 12:4 as including an *increase of travel and general knowledge* include John Walvoord, Leon Wood, Richard DeHaan, Eugene W. Faulstich, James Coffman, Uriah Smith, Gary Fisher, Scott MacGregor, David R. Reagan, Ron Cusano, and others.
- E. Two primary components that are *dynamically affecting the acceleration* of good and evil today are the increase of travel and knowledge (via technology). Communication and travel make sin and righteousness more accessible in far greater intensity. They are both significant components in facilitating the collaboration and synergism of good and evil resulting in the gospel being preached in all nations (Mt. 24:14) and of evil coming to fullness in the nations (Dan. 8:23).
- 23In the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king [Antichrist] shall arise...who understands sinister schemes. (Dan. 8:23)***
- 10Many shall be purified...and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly... (Dan. 12:10)***
- F. Babel was the city in which the first organized religion in history developed that resulted in the first organized rebellion against God by mankind. Nothing they proposed to do would be withheld from them (v. 6) in terms of the progression of sin reaching its full potential. The “top in the heavens” refers to their sin reaching into the heavenly demonic realm, not to the height of their building.

4*“Come, let us build...a tower whose top is in the heavens...” *6*The LORD said, ***“Indeed the people are one...now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them... (Gen. 11:4-6)**

- G. “Knowledge Doubling Every 12 months, Soon To Be Every 12 Hours,” by David Shilling
“Until 1900 human knowledge doubled about every century. By the end of World War II knowledge was doubling every 25 years. Today, on average knowledge is doubling every 13 months. According to IBM, internet technology will lead to the doubling of knowledge every 12 hours. David Schilling works as a researcher for IndustryTap.com writing about emerging technologies.

III. THE BREVITY OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION (12:5-7)

- A. An angel asked a question and received a twofold answer—the Antichrist will persecute Israel only for “a time, times, and half a time” (3½ years) and will not end until Israel’s rebellion is shattered (finished)—when all Israel is saved (Rom. 11:26). Persecution will accomplish God’s purpose.

5*Then I, Daniel, looked and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank. *6*And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, ***“How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?” *7*Then I heard the man...who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished. (Dan. 12:5-7)**

***25*...[the Antichrist] shall persecute the saints of the Most High...the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time. (Dan. 7:25)**

- B. Daniel was asking about Israel’s deliverance (from persecution, unbelief and compromise). The two angels were sent as witnesses to the oath (Deut. 19:15; 31:28; 2 Cor. 13:1). The mighty angel or “man clothed in linen” stood in the midair above the river indicating his superior authority.
- C. ***Completely shattering***: The final outcome of this is the shattering of the power of the holy people. The Antichrist will be God’s agent to accomplish this “strange work” of shattering Israel’s pride and self-sufficiency, so that as a last resort, they would cry out to Jesus for salvation (Mt. 23:39) and to purify and refine the Church (Dan. 12:10; Eph. 5:27; Rev. 19:7).
- D. The reference to “a time, times, and half a time” is defined by John as 42 months, and 1260 days (Rev. 11:2; 12:6, 14; 13:5); it is the final 3½ years, or the second half of the 70th week (9.27). Many commentators throughout Church history interpret “time” here as a literal year and “times” as two.

IV. DANIEL’S QUESTION (12:8-10)

- A. Daniel asked for insight into the end (purpose and outcome) of the process that will shatter Israel. He was puzzled as to how such suffering will lead to the promised deliverance and purity (12:2, 10).

⁸Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, “My lord, what shall be the end [purpose] of these things?” ⁹And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. ¹⁰Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand. (Dan. 12:8-10)

1. **Sealed up:** This vision was “sealed” and will be “unsealed” by the Spirit. The Lord has given a measure of understanding of end-time Scriptures, yet much has been hidden until the end. The words were sealed by the work of the Spirit (not by Daniel who sealed the vision in 8:26). Verse 9 is a statement of fact rather than a directive to Daniel to do something as in 8:26.
2. **Go your way:** Daniel was not to be worried by his lack of a more complete understanding of the vision related to the distant future. He should go his way, being content knowing the words were preserved and concealed (“sealed”), yet will be understood more in God’s time.

V. MANY PURIFIED (12:10)

- A. The result of the Antichrist’s persecution in the Great Tribulation is that many will be purified. The Antichrist as the great adversary will create the optimum situation for the Church to grow in purity. No amount of pressure by itself transforms the human heart. The same fire that hardens clay melts wax. Under persecution believers are purified only as they respond rightly to the Holy Spirit.

¹⁰Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand. (Dan. 12:10)

- B. **Many:** God’s plan will succeed and Jesus’ Bride will be prepared before He returns (Rev. 19:7).
- C. The faith of God’s people will be tested as they taking a stand in the face of evil and martyrdom.

³³And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame...³⁵And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time. (Dan. 11:33-35)

VI. THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION WILL CONTINUE FOR 1,290 DAYS (12:11)

- A. The focus turns to the 75 days after the Great Tribulation referred to in both 1,290 days and 1,335 days. Both will begin at the same time—in the middle of 70th week when the Antichrist ends the daily sacrifices in the temple and sets up his image in the holy place. The second half of Daniel’s 70th week consists of 1,260 days ending with Jesus’ return. The 1,290 days will continue for 30 days beyond the time of Jesus’ return and thus the 1,335 days will extend 75 days beyond His return.

¹¹From the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days [1,290 days]. ¹²Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days [1,335 days]. (Dan 12:11-12)

- B. The “mighty angel” did not give the significance of these two sets of days. Still, the fact they were given indicates they are very important dates with important events. These two verses indicate that people will survive the carnage of the Great Tribulation to enter the Millennium.
- C. These verses in Daniel 12 have been subjected to many interpretations. These 1,290 days are 30 days more than the standard 3½ years (1,260 days, with 30-day months, Rev. 12:6, 4; 11:2, 3).
- D. Students of end-time prophecy are familiar with this well-known 3½-year period. This period is referred to in Scripture as **42 months** or **1,260 days** or as **time, times, and half a time**.
- E. The fact that the abomination of desolation continues for 1,290 days means that the Antichrist’s presence and control in Jerusalem is not removed until after these 1,290 days. In other words, the additional 30 days of the Antichrist’s activities are associated with his setting up of the abomination of desolation in the temple in middle of seventieth week.
- F. Jesus will return to earth 1,260 days after the abomination of desolation starts. Immediately after He returns, He will fight the armies around Jerusalem and then cleanse the temple.
- G. Jesus prophesied that the Great Tribulation will begin with the abomination of desolation which will continue for 1,290 days, or 30 days longer than the well-known 3½ years or 1,260 days or 42 months of the last half of Daniel’s 70th week (Dan. 7:25; 12:7; Rev. 11:2; 12:6, 14; 13:5).
¹⁵“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place”...²¹For then there will be great tribulation... (Mt 24:15-21)
- H. **3½ years**: 42 months (Rev. 11:2; 13:5); 1260 days (Rev. 11:3; 12:6); time, times, and half a time (Rev. 12:14; Dan. 7:25; 12:7); and middle of the week (Dan. 9:27). All these six passages refer to the same period of oppression under Antichrist, each emphasizing the three-and-a-half years dating from breaking of the covenant with Israel and stopping of daily sacrifices in the temple.
- I. Scripture gives insights about events that will occur after Jesus returns being associated with establishing the millennial kingdom. The purpose is to separate believers from unbelievers at the inception of the Millennium.
- J. From the setting up of the abomination to Jesus’ return at the seventh trumpet will be 1,260 days.
- K. This important 1,260-day period begins on the day the abomination of desolation is set up. During these three-and-a-half years, three activities pertaining to God’s people will occur. They will all begin *on the day* the abomination of desolation begins and will continue for 1,260 days.
 - 1. **Provision**: God will make supernatural provision for the remnant of Israel for exactly 1,260 days (Rev. 12:6, 14).

⁶The woman [Israel] fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days [1,260 days]...where

she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. (Rev. 12:6-14)

2. **Prophecy:** The two witnesses will prophesy for exactly 1,260 days (Rev. 11:3).

³I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days [1,260 days], clothed in sackcloth.” (Rev 11:3)

3. **Persecution:** The Antichrist will war against the saints (Dan. 7:25; Rev. 13:5, 7) and dominate Jerusalem (Rev. 11:2; Dan. 12:7) for exactly 1,260 days.

²⁵The saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time. (Dan. 7:25)

⁵And he was given a mouth speaking...blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months...⁷It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. (Rev. 13:5-7)

²And they will tread the holy city [Jerusalem] underfoot for forty-two months. (Rev. 11:2)

⁷..it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished. (Dan. 12:7)

- L. These three activities will end on exactly the 1,260th day after the abomination of desolation begins. Why? This is the day the Church is raptured at the seventh trumpet (Rev. 11:15) and when the Antichrist’s unchallenged domination of Israel ends. The Lord will allow the Antichrist’s worship system in Jerusalem to function for thirty days *after* the Church is raptured at the seventh trumpet.
- M. The abomination will continue 1,290 days; thus, the Antichrist’s rage will continue for an additional 30 days after Jesus returns. The Lord’s most intense judgments against the Antichrist (before he is thrown in the lake of fire) will occur over these 30 days after He returns (Rev. 16:1-21; 19:17-21).

VII. THE BLESSING ON THOSE WHO COME TO THE 1,335 DAYS (12:12)

- A. A transitional time of 1,335 days after Jesus returns—to establish millennial governments? (12:12). These 1,335 days refer to 45 more days (beyond the additional 30 days of verse 11—the 1,290 days) probably to establish issues related to the governmental structures of the nations in the Millennium.

¹²Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days. (Dan. 12:12)

- B. Jesus will remove evil leaders and replace them with the saints who reign with Him (Dan. 7:27).
1. The 1,290 days seem to be focused on *judging* the Antichrist and those associated with him.
 2. The 1,335 days seem to be focused on *rescuing* those new believers who resist the Antichrist.

- C. **Waiting:** possibly for God to rescue them in the midst of the chaos of those days. This will be a very important promise to many in that day. It will encourage people living on earth at that time to be faithful to the Lord in the midst of the post-war chaos and danger in the nations at that time.
- D. A total of 75 days after Jesus returns will be used for the judgment of the nations to determine who enters the millennial kingdom. Ezekiel prophesied of the purging of all rebels out of Israel at the beginning of the Millennium (Ezek. 20:33-38; Isa. 4:3-4; Mal. 3:1-6).
- E. Jesus spoke of the Gentiles being judged according to their treatment of the Jewish people, referred to as “these brothers of Mine” (Mt. 25:40). These new Gentile believers will be told: “Come, you who are *blessed* of my Father and inherit the kingdom” (Mt. 25:34).

VIII. PERSONAL ENCOURAGEMENT TO DANIEL (12:13)

- A. The Lord’s personal promise to Daniel was that he would enter his destiny and receive his full inheritance in the age to come (12:13) after the end of the 1,335 days. Resurrection is God’s answer. We can live in confidence in the face of suffering knowing where we will go when we die. This book closes with reminder that this present age is not all God planned for us.
¹³But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days. (Dan. 12:13)
- B. After receiving assurance of Israel’s total victory, Daniel could die in peace. He was commanded *to go* with implication that he would die (“enter rest”) and later be resurrected “at the end” (12:2).