

Small Group Guide: Daniel Chapter 12

"Occupy Till He Comes"



Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: What's one thing you've been faithful to do consistently over the past year, and what motivated you to keep going?

Sermon Summary

This week we concluded our study of Daniel by examining chapter 12, which focuses on end-times prophecy. The key message: God's promises are sure, and while we wait for Christ's return, we're called to "occupy till He comes"—to faithfully do the work He's given us.

Key Scripture References

- **Daniel 12:1-13** - The end times and Daniel's final vision
- **Romans 11:1-36** - God's plan for Israel and the Gentiles

- **Luke 19:11-27** - The Parable of the Minas
 - **Matthew 24:21** - The great tribulation
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. **Daniel 12:1** speaks of "a time of trouble such as never has been." How does this connect to Jesus' words in **Matthew 24:21**? What does this tell us about the consistency of Scripture?
2. Read **Romans 11:25-26** together. What does Paul mean when he says "all Israel will be saved"? How does this fit into God's larger redemptive plan?
3. The sermon mentioned several different time periods in **Daniel 12** (1,260 days, 1,290 days, 1,335 days). Why do you think God gives such specific details, even if we don't fully understand them yet?

Applying the Truth

4. Daniel was told to "go your way till the end" (**Daniel 12:13**). What does "going your way" look like for you in your current season of life? What has God specifically called you to do?
5. In **Luke 19**, Jesus tells His servants to "do business till I come." How does this parable challenge or encourage you in your daily walk with Christ?
6. The sermon emphasized that "knowledge shall increase" (**Daniel 12:4**) specifically refers to prophetic understanding, not just general information. How does this change the way you approach studying end-times prophecy?

Personal Reflection

7. Daniel is described as someone who was faithful and "beloved of God" with nothing negative said about him. What character qualities made Daniel so faithful? Which of these do you want to cultivate in your own life?
8. The sermon ended with a simple summary of what God asks of us: Love God most, love others, care for the needy, and make disciples. Which of these areas do you find most challenging? Why?
9. How does the certainty that "the prophecies are sure" affect the way you live today? Does it bring comfort, urgency, or both?

Key Takeaways

- ✓ **God's promises are absolutely reliable** - What He said would happen in Daniel 11 happened exactly as predicted, so we can trust what He says about the future.
- ✓ **God has a specific plan for Israel** - The natural branches will be grafted back in when "the fullness of the Gentiles comes in" (Romans 11).
- ✓ **We are called to occupy till He comes** - Faithfulness in the present matters, and we will give an account for what we've done with what God has given us.
- ✓ **The wise will understand** - As we approach the end times, understanding of prophecy should increase among God's people.
- ✓ **Our faithfulness determines our eternal responsibility** - Like the parable of the minas, how we serve now may determine our role in Christ's kingdom.

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one of the following to put into practice this week:

Option 1: Love Assessment

- Evaluate how you're doing in the four areas mentioned: loving God, loving others, caring for the needy, and making disciples
- Pick the weakest area and take one concrete action to grow in it this week

Option 2: Stewardship Inventory

- List the "minas" (gifts, resources, opportunities) God has given you
- Honestly assess: Are you investing them for the Kingdom or burying them?
- Share your findings with an accountability partner

Option 3: Study Prophecy with Fresh Eyes

- Read Revelation 11-12 alongside Daniel 12
- Journal the connections you see and what they reveal about God's character and plan

- Share one insight with the group next week

Option 4: Pray for Israel

- Based on Romans 11, commit to praying daily this week for the salvation of the Jewish people
 - Research one ministry reaching Jewish people with the Gospel and consider supporting them
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Prayer Focus

Pray for:

- **Faithfulness** - That we would be found faithful when Christ returns
 - **Wisdom** - To understand the times we're living in and respond appropriately
 - **Israel** - For the salvation of the Jewish people according to God's plan
 - **Readiness** - That we would live with urgency, knowing Christ could return at any time
 - **Fruitfulness** - That we would multiply what God has given us for His kingdom
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Looking Ahead

Next week we begin a new series. Take time this week to thank God for what you've learned through the book of Daniel and how He's grown you during this study.

Closing Question

If Jesus returned today and asked, "What have you done with what I gave you?"—what would your answer be?

"Go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days." - Daniel 12:13

5-Day Devotional: Faithful Until He Comes



Day 1: The Certainty of God's Promises

Reading: Daniel 12:1-4; Romans 11:25-29

Devotional: God's promises are absolutely sure. Just as the prophecies in Daniel 11 were fulfilled exactly as predicted, so too will the future prophecies come to pass. This should fill us with confidence, not anxiety. The same God who orchestrated history according to His word is orchestrating your life today. Daniel was told to "seal up the book" until the proper time, reminding us that God reveals His plans in His perfect timing. We may not understand every detail of what's ahead, but we can trust the One who holds tomorrow. Today, reflect on God's faithfulness in your past. How has He proven trustworthy? Let that history strengthen your faith for whatever uncertainties you face.

Day 2: Grafted Into God's Family

Reading: Romans 11:11-24; Ephesians 2:11-22

Devotional: Paul's imagery of being grafted into the olive tree is stunning. As Gentiles, we were once far from God's covenant promises, yet through Christ, we've been brought near and made part of God's family. This should produce humility, not pride. We don't support the root; the root supports us. God's mercy toward us should never make us arrogant toward others, especially toward the Jewish people through whom our Savior came. Instead, let gratitude overflow. You didn't earn your place in God's family—it was pure grace. Today, thank God specifically for grafting you into His promises. Then ask: How can I extend that same undeserved grace to someone who feels like an outsider?

Day 3: Clothed in White Through Wisdom

Reading: Daniel 12:10; Revelation 3:4-5, 7:9-17

Devotional: "Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined." This isn't about self-righteousness but about responding to God's truth with wisdom and obedience. Those who are wise understand the times and live accordingly. In Revelation, we see the church clothed in white robes, representing both Christ's righteousness and faithful endurance. The question isn't whether difficult times will come, but whether we'll remain faithful through them. Purification is often uncomfortable—it requires letting go of what defiles us and clinging to what is holy. What in your life needs refining today? Ask God for wisdom to discern between what's temporary and what's eternal, then choose to invest in things that will last forever.

Day 4: Occupy Until He Comes

Reading: Luke 19:11-27; Matthew 25:14-30

Devotional: "Do business till I come." These words to Daniel echo through Jesus' parable of the minas. We're not called to passively wait for Christ's return but to actively invest what He's entrusted to us. Every gift, resource, relationship, and opportunity is a mina from the Master. The question at His return won't be "How much were you given?" but "What did you do with what you received?" The faithful servants didn't play it safe—they took risks for the kingdom. The wicked servant's problem wasn't failure but fearful inaction. Today, identify one gift or opportunity God has given you. How are you investing it for His kingdom? Don't let fear of failure keep you from faithful stewardship.

Day 5: Your Allotted Place in the Kingdom

Reading: Daniel 12:13; 2 Timothy 4:6-8; Revelation 22:1-5

Devotional: "Go your way till the end, and you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of days." What beautiful assurance Daniel received! His faithful service wasn't in vain—a specific place awaited him in God's eternal kingdom. The same promise extends to you. Your faithful obedience today is preparing you for eternity. Paul understood this, declaring confidently that a crown of righteousness awaited him. This isn't about earning salvation but about rewards for faithful service. The question isn't whether you'll be in heaven if you're in Christ, but what you're building that will last into eternity. As you close this devotional journey, hear God's invitation: keep doing what He's called you to do. Love God wholeheartedly, love others sacrificially, care for the needy, and make disciples. Your labor is not in vain.