

The Book of Daniel / Chapter Twelve (Part Three)

Lesson 56-Daniel's Apokalypsis

I. REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK

The message delivered to Daniel by the "one" man provides a comprehensive prophetic history of Israel, culminating in a period of great affliction at the "end time." This period will serve as a definitive separation between two groups: those who understand the coming of the Messiah and support Israel, and those who do not. The former, if they lose their lives, are promised resurrection to rule with Christ. The latter are destined for condemnation. Daniel was commanded to seal this message, preserving it for a future time when its meaning would be more fully understood through an increase in divine knowledge.

II. PROPHETIC OVERVIEW: THE SEQUENCE OF KINGDOMS

Prophetic Kingdom	Empire	Prophetic Symbolism (Daniel 2)	Key Figures / Components
First Kingdom	Babylonian Empire	Gold (Dan. 2:36-38)	Nebuchadnezzar (605-561 BC)
Second Kingdom	Medo-Persian Empire	Silver (Dan. 2:39a)	Cyrus, Cambyses II, Darius I, Xerxes I
Third Kingdom	Grecian Empire	Bronze/Brass (Dan. 2:39b)	Alexander the Great, The Diadochi
Fourth Kingdom	Parthian Empire	Iron (Dan. 2:40)	Mithridates (171-141 BC)
Fifth Kingdom	Satanic Empire	Iron & Clay (Dan. 2:41-43)	"Shattered Horn" (Dan. 7:19-25)

III. THE VISION AT THE TIGRIS RIVER (DANIEL 12:5-7)

Daniel records a specific encounter on the twenty-fourth day of the first month while standing on the bank of the "great river," identified as the Tigris.

Key Participants:

- **Daniel:** The observer who emphasizes the authenticity of the vision through the Hebrew phrase *rā'â 'ānî dinîyē'î* ("I, Daniel, looked").
- **Two Messengers:** Standing on opposite banks of the river.
- **The Man Dressed in Linen:** Positioned above the waters of the river. He is described in Daniel 10:5-6 as having a body like beryl, a face like lightning, eyes like flaming torches, and a voice like a "tumult."

The Inquiry of "Wonders:" One of the messengers asks the man in linen: "*How long will it be until the end of these wonders?*"

- The term **"Wonders"** (*pele'*) is critical to the narrative:
 - It occurs once in the Book of Daniel in this plural form with a definite article ("the wonders").
 - It is derived from the root *pawlaw*, meaning something extraordinary or miraculous.
 - The use of this term separates "ordinary" history (Daniel 11:1-35) from the "extraordinary" history (Daniel 11:36–12:3) that pertains to the end times.

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IV. PROPHETIC DURATION: "TIME, TIMES, AND HALF A TIME"

The man in linen provides a sworn affirmation, raising both hands to heaven and swearing by "Him who lives forever" (*Ḥay 'ālam*). He declares the duration of these extraordinary events to be "a time, times, and half a time."

Linguistic Analysis of the Duration:

- **Time (*mô 'ēḏ*):** An "appointed time" or "appointed meeting," generally referring to a year.
- **Times:** The plural form of the same word (*mô 'ēḏ*).
- **Half (*ḥēšî*):** Meaning "middle," "midst," or "half."
- **Contextual Meaning:** This phrase, which also appears in Aramaic and the Greek Septuagint, is associated with the completion of all "wonders."

Events Occurring Within This Period: The "time, times, and half a time" (associated with the second half of the "Time of Jacob's Trouble") includes the following developments:

- **The Rise of the King:** A "king who does as he pleases" will exalt himself above every god, speak monstrous things against the God of gods, and distribute land to those who pay him homage.
- **Military Conflict:** This king will collide with the "king of the north" and "the king of the south," leading to the fall of many countries (Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia).
- **The Fortress:** He will establish his royal fortress (possibly the Temple) in the "Beautiful Land" after breaking a "firm covenant" with Israel.
- **The Remnant:** Michael the archangel will arise to protect Israel; the remnant will escape into the wilderness.
- **The Indignation:** The "time of distress" and the wrath of God will reach their fiercest point.

V. CONCLUSION OF THE VISION: THE SHATTERING OF POWER

The vision concludes with the statement that all these events will be completed "as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people."

- **Shattering (*nāpās*):** Used only once in Daniel, written in the *piel* stem, signifying "shattered to pieces."
- **The Holy People (*qōḏeš 'am*):** Refers to the "redeemed of the LORD" or the "daughter of Zion" (referencing Isaiah 62:10-12).
- **The Power/Hand:** The term "power" here refers to the "hand" or strength of Israel.

The completion of this prophetic timeline is tied to the total breaking of the holy people's strength, at which point the extraordinary events described in Daniel's message will be accomplished.