



Daniel

דניאל

Chapter 12

DANIEL 12:1

At that time Michael will arise, the great prince who protects your people. There will be a time of trouble such as never was since the beginning of nations until then. And at that time your people will be delivered, everyone whose name is found written in the book.

- Daniel is told about the Great Tribulation, with words almost identical to those shared by Jesus in the Olivet sermon: a time of distress such as has not happened since the beginning of the world. Jesus may even be quoting Daniel.
- Michael is described as the prince who protects the Jews. At that time he will spring into his most serious action. The reference to him arising could mean that he will be revealed visibly to those he is protecting, but that's conjecture.
- Imagine the setting as the bowls of wrath described in the book of Revelation pour out their various stages of devastation. One third of the ships at sea will be destroyed. Large numbers will die from drinking Wormwood-poisoned water. The remaining population will wish for death during the torment inflicted by satanic locusts. Another third of mankind will be destroyed by them. Everything builds to a crescendo at the Battle of Armageddon.
- Yet notice the wonderful hope presented so clearly: everyone (not just some) whose name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life will be delivered. Every person who accepts that Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah -- the Jewish Mashiach Nagid -- and follows him will be given eternal life. Have you made a decision for Christ, or are you sitting on the fence? If you are a Christian, are you truly living as a believer, obeying the Word of God?

DANIEL 12:2

Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.



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- This points to a bodily resurrection and judgement after the return of Christ. They will then enter the next phase of existence, according to what they believe. Those whose names are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life will be exposed to shame and contempt before the whole tribunal of heavenly hosts and men (Revelation 20:11-15) when all their sins will be exposed to view and they are led off to everlasting torment.
- Rather than judgement and contempt, those who are true followers of Jesus will receive everlasting life in the presence of God.
- It is fascinating that the Bible refers to "many" rather than "all" who sleep in the temporary state we call death. This indicates that others who were dead are already risen, supporting the view of a "rapture" of believers who will be raised into the clouds before the final "day of the Lord."

DANIEL 12:3

Those who are wise will shine as the brightness of the heavens; and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars for ever and ever.

- Jesus shared these words with his disciples. See Matthew 13:43
- Believers often forget about the rewards promised to us by Jesus Christ for righteousness. We focus on the fact that we are saved, but forget that there are specific rewards for the things we do in Christ. The apostle Paul went into detail about the results of how we live as Christians:

"If any man builds on this foundation [of salvation in Christ] using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames."

-- 1Corinthians 3:12-15
- Though all believers will be eligible for a reward, only certain believers will receive something beyond eternal life, because it is based on what we have done with our faith. Things you did for the wrong motives will be burned up. If you offered a homeless person a meal, but only because someone important was looking, your effort will be like "straw" in the fire of judgement and will disappear. Only those things done with a motive of genuine love, compassion and faith will be blessed.



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- Jesus Christ himself promises a reward for every believer, according to how well he or she has performed as a Christian:

“Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.”

-- Revelation 22:12

These rewards are not temporary. They are not like trophies placed on a mantle where they are eventually forgotten and left to gather dust. They actually shine forever as part of us, visible as different levels of brightness for all to see throughout eternity! Isn't this worth saying no to a few temptations in life? Isn't this worth a few hard decisions and a little effort or sacrifice in our earthly walk? Praise God for these promised rewards so rich in undeserved grace and mercy!

DANIEL 12:4

But you, Daniel, close up the words and seal the book until the time of the end. Many will roam here and there, and knowledge will be increased.”

- Knowledge has increased exponentially, both intellectually and spiritually over the past centuries. Since Jerome's first ground-breaking Bible commentary was published around AD400 we have seen an overwhelming quantity of information to help us better understand the Scriptures.
- Once again we see Daniel told to “seal up” the details of the rest of his vision. Scholars are divided on what this means. Some believe this suggests that future documents written by Daniel may eventually come to light at the appointed time. Others say that it only means that the book is to be closed by writing it down and that God will reveal it as appropriate over time. Still others say that there are things within the book that may suddenly be revealed or discovered at a later date, such as the recent discoveries of the so-called “Bible Codes” of equidistant letter sequences.
- It is interesting that Daniel was shown a state of the world in which “knowledge will be increased.” For centuries knowledge remained relatively stable, ramping up slightly during the Age of Enlightenment. However, in the past century our knowledge has grown so dramatically it now doubles every 18 months. Some say this passage refers to spiritual knowledge, meaning the growth in commentaries and books about details of Scripture. While there is some truth to that, it seems that the vast majority of recent “new” discoveries are in fact heresy or teachings that work against the traditional view of the Bible as being the perfect, innerant Word of God.



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DANIEL 12:5-7

Then I, Daniel, looked, and there stood two others, one on this side of the bank of the river, and one on the opposite bank.

One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was upon the waters of the river, “How long will it be to the end of these wonderous things?”

The man clothed in linen, who was upon the waters of the river, held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying that “It will be for a time, times, and half a time. When he will have completed breaking the power of the holy people, all these things will be finished.”

- There at the banks of the Tigris river, Daniel saw other angels standing opposite each other on either side of the river. This is a fairly significant river, not just a meandering stream. This verse supports 1 Peter 1:12, as it implies that even the angels are not fully informed about how the prophetic promises of God will be fulfilled and are eager to learn.
- The phrase “a time, times and half a time” means 3-1/2 years. It represents a single year plus a dual (two years) plus half a year. The Bible always refers to years of 360 days in length, making this a time period of precisely 1260 days. Other time periods given to Daniel refer to 1290 days and 1335 days, which seem to be other stages of development in the end times events before the beginning of the millennium rule of Christ brings perfect peace.
- The angel who was speaking to Daniel throughout this vision is floating above the river. He tells Daniel that the coming of the Messiah will take place “when the power of the holy people has been finally broken.” This suggests that they are at the end of all hope in a human sense. At the Battle of Armageddon, though a short event that will be ended by the sudden return of Christ and the heavenly host, the remaining believers will meet total military defeat, no longer able to resist physically the juggernaut gathered against them. The Bible says that the battle would promise to be so completely devastating that if it weren't for the coming of the Messiah “no life would be spared.” Could that mean a world at the brink of nuclear annihilation?



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DANIEL 12:8-10

I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, “My Lord, what will be the outcome of these things?”

He answered, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end.

Many will be purified and made spotless and refined through trials, but the wicked will continue to do evil. None of the wicked will understand, but the wise will understand.

- Daniel is concerned about the Jews and wants to know how these events will ultimately end in any kind of hope for the Jewish people. The angel answers that many Jews will be saved, but not all of them. It is distressing that so many Jews, called as a nation by God and rescued so often by His mighty hand from certain destruction could be atheists or agnostics. Yet even in the last days, with spiritual revival sweeping through Israel and millions turning to the truth of God’s promises, many of God’s own people -- those with whom He has a deep covenant relationship -- will remain spiritually cold.

DANIEL 12:11-13

From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolate set up, there will be 1,290 days.

Blessed is the one who waits for and comes to the end of the 1,335 days.

But go you your way till the end happens. For you will rest, and arise to receive your allotted inheritance at the end of the days.”

- Daniel is told about three different time periods in the entire account given to him about the last seven years. Nobody is exactly sure of what these times represent, so we can’t build doctrine on them. The most common views appear to be:
- 1290 days are decreed from the time that the daily sacrifice is ended until the coming of the Messiah at the Battle of Armageddon. There is a possibility that the abomination that causes desolation is set up on December 25, as this represents the same day it was put in place by Antiochus IV and now has far more significance since at that time there was no Christian or Jewish meaning to the day.



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- 1260 days are decreed from the time of the idol placed in the Holy of Holies to the Messiah. This would allow a period of exactly 30 days from the end of the sacrifice to the day the idol is set up.
- The third time period is 1335 days, which is another 45 days from the day the sacrifice is abolished. Many Bible teachers believe that a month and a half is assigned to officially inaugurate Christ to his position on the physical throne of David for the millennium rule of peace promised in Scripture. However, this is difficult to reconcile with the text. Notice that the angel tells Daniel that those who wait until the full 1335 days are complete will be blessed. If the Messiah comes before that time is complete, they no longer have a choice during those final 45 days so why would they be especially blessed by waiting? Perhaps the “waiting” portion of that passage refers to everything that comes before the last 45 days. This 1335 day period is far from clear and we must wait until God brings more enlightenment before we can fully understand it.
- The book of Daniel ends with a promise of resurrection and reward, a fitting end to one of the most remarkable books in the Scriptures.