

## Study on Daniel Chapter Twelve.

### The end of the tribulation and the resurrection of the dead The Latter Days

#### Read Verse 1 – verse 4

At that time – Following the destruction of Antiochus, Daniel envisions the final consummation and ushering in of God's kingdom. A time of trouble such the like of which has never been seen is the prophet's way of introducing trouble of magnified proportions.

With the coming of Christ, who would be the final perfect sacrifice and our High priest to intercede for us before God, no longer would it be necessary to have a human high Priest who offered daily sacrifices for the atonement of sin. In A.D. 70 when the Temple in Jerusalem was desecrated, the Holy of Holies, the altar of sacrifice and the records of the priestly lineage were all destroyed. Therefore, no High Priest could be appointed to offer sacrifices.

Michael is the archangel that looks after Israel. His name means, "Who is like God" He is God's representative on earth. See [Matthew 24:21](#) where a great tribulation is spoken of by Jesus - 70 AD conflict.

[Ezekiel 5: 8-9](#) the destruction of Jerusalem such expressions do not mean that no follower of God will be hurt but it does mean that God will be taking care of them throughout the trouble Daniel is ordered to seal up the book until the time of the end to keep it safe and preserve God's word for the time we are now living in – the latter days. John in [Revelation 22:10](#) was told not to seal his visions whereas Daniel's prophecy was for a distant time (bearing in mind that Daniel had this vision hundreds of years before it actually occurred) so it wasn't meant for the immediate future of Daniel's lifetime

#### Verse 5 – 12

Daniel sees two others (two angels) on both sides of the River Tigris implying that on all sides angels attend to carry out God's commands. Daniel asks how long it will be before the fulfilment of the vision

Next we have the expression "two times and a half time". *42 months or 1260 days or 3 ½ years* this phrase does not speak of a period of time except that it takes time to utter the phrase. It is a period during which the oppressor has the dominion but with the sure understanding that such possession is not of his own obtaining. Such authority is given to the oppressor ([Revelation 13:5](#)) as seven indicates completeness and unity so a broken seven indicates incompleteness. A situation of uncertainty as regards the oppressor's power.

A comparison of several passages shows us that the phrase indicates a time of

- a) Oppression of God's People ([Revelation 11: 2 and Revelation 13; 5](#))
- b) Protection by God of his people ( [Revelation 11: 3 7a and 12: 6 14](#))

So Daniel is not really given an answer as to the time.

When the power of the Holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed. The power of the holy people seems to be crushed again and again throughout history. God's recurring purpose in this is to break the pride and self-sufficiency of his rebellious people and to bring them to accept Him as their Lord.

## Study on Daniel

Daniel heard but he understood not. He understood with his head but not his heart. In his heart he was feeling it for his people. He was looking for an explanation but what he got was consolation.

### Read Verse 10

Trials and persecutions make very little sense when we are experiencing them but they can purify us if we are willing to learn from them. After you survive a difficult time seek to learn from it so that it can help you in the future. See [Romans 5:3–5](#) for more on God's purpose on our suffering

### Verses 11 - 12

In these two verses the figures 1290 and 1335 are given. It is impossible to be dogmatic about their precise significance as to their future fulfilment. In all probability however, they point to the last days and speak of that persecution which the antichrist will direct against the Saints of God when he removes the worship of the true God and oppresses believers. The 1290 days reflect the truth that the period of tribulation and of the rule of the antichrist is limited and the 1335 days indicate that those who maintain their true faith through the period of persecution will emerge into a time of great blessing

### Verse 13

God is telling Daniel to go away and not worry about the vision, at the end of his days he would receive his allotted inheritance.

Taking in summation of the whole book of Daniel – Daniel was taken into captivity but he still continued to do God's work. He navigated his way through many trials very successfully with God's help. It is a book about the rise and fall of the many different kings and kingdoms that would come into force to be used by God for his eternal purpose.

It is to teach us about perseverance, faithfulness and although we will have trials and tribulations in our life – these can be overcome for the benefit of our spiritual growth if we allow ourselves to learn the lessons that these trials are sent to teach us. The promise of resurrection was re-affirmed to Daniel.

He would one day see the fulfilment of his words but was not to spend the rest of his life wondering what the visions might mean. Instead he was to rest in the comfort of God's sovereignty and look forward to the time when he would rise and receive and share eternal life with God.

God does not reveal everything to us in this life. We must be content, as Daniel was, with the partial picture until he wants us to see more. He will tell us all we need to know. Daniel stands in the gallery of God's remarkable servants.

Born of royal heritage yet taken into captivity when only a teenager, Daniel determined to remain faithful to God in the land of his captivity, even at great personal cost. Daniel spent his entire life-time advising his captors with unusual wisdom. God chose him as his servant to record some of the events of the captivity and some significant events concerning the future.

As an old man, having been faithful to God throughout his years, Daniel was assured by God that he would rise from the dead and receive his portion in God's eternal kingdom. Faithfulness to God has a rich reward, not necessarily in this life-time but most certainly in the life to come.

## Questions for Chapter 12

## Study on Daniel

This ends our study of Daniel, a complex and fascinating book. In it we see a faithful prophet of God living out his life in captivity and yet coming out of his trials victorious. Never once did his faith waver as he held on steadfastly to his Lord and sovereign.

1. In **verse 1 – 4** Daniel foretold the coming of Christ. **How was this significant?**
2. Can you name the angel that looked after Israel and what his name meant?
3. Why was Daniel told to seal up the book until the end of time?
4. Is Daniel given an answer to his question “How long” will it be before the fulfilment of the prophecy?
5. The power of Israel is continually crushed, by God, throughout history. **Why do you think God did this?**
6. There are many parts of the prophecy still unfilled. Like Daniel, we have to be content to accept God’s providence and to remain faithful. **When trials and hardships come into your life how do you deal with them?**
7. **Does it help to have a strong faith?**

May your study of God’s word over the past few months help to give you a clearer insight into how God works and also help to strengthen your faith. God tells us repeatedly throughout the bible that He will be with us. **“Be strong and of good courage; be not frightened, neither be dismayed; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”** (Joshua 1: 9)

So in the words of Joshua we will close our study. **“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”** (Joshua 24: 15b)