

Daniel 12 – The Time of Jacob’s Trouble

Chapter 11 ended with the Antichrist coming to his end and no one will help him.

Read Daniel 12

Vs 1 What time are these events to take place? This does not mean that what is described in Daniel 12:1 will happen immediately after what the events in Daniel 11:36-45. It means that it will happen in the same era, the same season. Who comes to the rescue? Michael, the archangel. Don’t forget that Chapters 10 – 12 are all recounted to Daniel by a messenger (angel) that fights alongside Michael. Michael is the warring angel assigned to protect the nation of Israel. Jude 1:9, Rev 12:7. Why will Michael be needed? There will come a time of persecution for Israel and world calamity known as the Great Tribulation. This period is also called the time of Jacob’s trouble in Jer 30:7, Matt 24:21, Rev 12:13-17. What is the good news that will follow this? Despite the terrors of that time, deliverance is assured. No matter how great the attack is against the Jewish people, God promises to preserve them. He will never break His promise to Abraham, Gen 17:7. Who specifically will be delivered? Those who are found written in The Book. Luke 10:20, Phil 4:3, Rev 13:8, 20:15, 21:27

Vs 2 What is this verse talking about? The final resurrection of the dead. The Bible clearly teaches two resurrections, one for the saved and one for the damned (John 5:29). The word translated “many” also means *all*. The dead will rise. After the judgment, souls will exist forever, some to everlasting life, all the rest to everlasting torment.

Vs 3 Summarize the reward of the righteous. Notice there are levels of reward based on works done on earth. Those who live in God’s wisdom will shine. Here, the wise among God’s people are those who turn many to righteousness. Notice they shall shine like stars. When we look to the heavens, we see stars differ in size and intensity. 1 Cor 15:41

Vs 4 What is Daniel told to do? To “shut up the words” implies that the words should be kept safely until the time when they were needed. “Seal the book” has the double sense of authenticating the message and preserving it. Daniel’s prophecy certainly was of some value in his own day. But there would come a day, the time of the end, when his prophecy would be of even more importance. Therefore, it was important to shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end. Remember when we studied Revelation we saw that the time is now for this message to be brought forth. What sign will there be that the time is ripe for the words? People will run to and fro. Knowledge will increase. This has more the idea of searching after knowledge rather than rapid forms of transportation. Man will run to and fro, searching after knowledge. Aren’t we in the “information age”? Knowledge doubling time is now estimated at approximately every 13 months. This rapid growth stems from technological advancements, particularly in computing power, the Internet of Things (IoT), and artificial intelligence (AI).

Vs 5 What does Daniel see now? Two more angels, one on each side of the river.

Vs 6 Where was the man clothed in linen (the original angel)? ABOVE the waters. What does one of the riverbank angels ask him? Basically, when will all this happen? He asked this for Daniel’s benefit and our benefit.

Vs 7 What is the answer? It will take 3 ½ years, the duration of the Great Tribulation we’ve already studied. Notice the individual in linen said this with hands raised to Heaven in an oath. This was a sure word. He was basically saying, “I swear to God”. It will take this long for the power of the holy people has been completely shattered and for all these things to be finished. What else do we know about this period from Scripture?

- Daniel 7:25 described it as the period that saints are given into Antichrist’s hands.
- Daniel 9:27 described it as the period between the erection of the abomination of desolation, and the establishment of Jesus’ kingdom.
- Revelation 11:2 described it as the period that the holy city will be tread underfoot by Gentiles.
- Revelation 11:3 described it as the period of ministry for the two witnesses.
- Revelation 12:6 and 12:14 described it as the period that Israel (likely only its remnant) is preserved by God in the wilderness.
- Revelation 13:5 describes it as the duration of Antichrist’s authority to rule, persecute and blaspheme.

Vs 8 Did Daniel understand the message? No. So what did he do? Ask for understanding.

Vs 9 What was the answer? The command “to go your way” is literally “to go” but it is not meant physically. The angel told Daniel to make a mental departure from the questioning. More details would be revealed later; but Daniel must be content with what God has revealed thus far. He was told the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. When we look at Church history, we see that God has successively had the church focus on specific areas of doctrine at different periods. Our present understanding of many areas of Biblical teaching were only most carefully and precisely defined after God appointed the church to focus on that doctrinal area in the past.

200 – 400 the church focused on the doctrine of Scripture.
400 – 500 the focus was on the doctrine of God (in the Trinity).
500 – 600 the focus was on the doctrine of Christ.
600 – 700 the focus was on the doctrine of man
1500 – 1600 the focus was on the doctrine of salvation.
1600 – 1700 the focus was on the doctrine of the church.
1900 – today the focus would turn upon the doctrine of last things and the return of Jesus.

Vs 10 What will only the wise understand? There will be two people groups. One, those saved by the finished work of Christ, will be purified, made white, and refined during this time. The other group, the wicked, shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand. This is why the unsaved just don't get it when we talk about end time events.

Vs 11 This Scripture is one that has dual meaning. When Antiochus Epiphanes ruled over Israel, he did stop the daily sacrifices in the temple (obviously a time yet future to Daniel, 167 BC) and set up the abomination that makes desolate in the temple (Zeus). The temple was now defiled, 1,290 days later (164 BC), the Jews rededicated the temple and resumed animal sacrifices. Most scholars believe this will also happen in the future. A temple will be resurrected in Jerusalem and the Jews will start daily sacrifices. The Antichrist will desecrate the temple by putting himself as God in the temple (2 Thes 2:4). 1,290 days later (3 ½ years + 30 days) an end is made of oppression.
Rev 19:19-21

Vs 12 To whom goes the blessing? Anyone who is able to survive another 45 days. These 45 days represent a final period of waiting after oppression ends but before full blessing arrives, highlighting that those who endure all the way to God's appointed completion are the truly blessed.

Some scholars say;

The 1,260 days = the Great Tribulation
The 1,290 days = tribulation + 30 days
→ often interpreted as time for judgment, cleansing, or dismantling the Antichrist's system
The extra 45 days = transition into the Messianic Kingdom

Common suggestions for what happens in those 45 days:

Judgment of the nations (Matthew 25)
Resurrection and rewarding of the faithful
Reorganization of worship and governance under God's rule

One thing is certain; before the 1,000 year reign of Christ, the earth will need some cleaning up. As we saw in our study of Revelation, mass destruction will occur all over planet earth during the Great Tribulation.

Vs 13 What amazing things do we learn in this last verse of this great Book? Daniel shall not see these things in his lifetime on earth. He shall die (rest). But he will be resurrected and receive his reward at the end of days.