
a *Grace Notes* course

Daniel

an expositional study
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Lesson 112

Daniel Chapter 12

Daniel 112 – Chapter 12

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Daniel 12

Daniel 12:1

‘At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book.’

The first three verses of chapter twelve set forth the future deliverance of Israel and the climax to the book of Daniel. The immediately preceding context indicated that Israel would go through a period of great tribulation by the Antichrist (11:36-45).

Chapter 12:1-4 is the climax to the prophecy running from chapter 10:1.

Michael the archangel is responsible for the defense of Israel (10:13, 21). He is the head of all holy angels, an archangel.

Jude 9. Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”

The time in this verse is the second half of the Tribulation mentioned in the last chapter (11:40). The second half of the Tribulation will be a time of unusual duress for the nation Israel (Jeremiah 30:7; Matthew 24:21). Jesus Christ indicated that the beginning of the Great Tribulation is the abomination of desolations spoken of by Daniel the prophet (Matthew 24:15; Daniel 9:27). Both Daniel and Jesus warned that this time would be a period of unprecedented trouble.

Chapter 11 dealt with the political and religious features of the end times, but this chapter deals with its impact on the nation Israel. God will nationally deliver all Jews whose names are in the book (Zechariah 12:10; 13:8-9; Romans 11:26; Revelation 12:13-17).

PRINCIPLE: Prophecy looks toward the consummation and purpose of history.

APPLICATION: The whole course of prophetic history moves toward the end times. The Tribulation will be a period begging a description of duress, conflict and suffering. The nations of the world will continue to be belligerent until the end.

Prophecy looks toward the consummation of the age, an age of conflict and bloodshed. This will be especially true for Israel. There is trouble before triumph for the nation Israel. Israel will invariably posit a problem for the nations of the world. There is no international solution to the problems of the Middle East. No diplomacy or human intelligence will resolve the problem.

Jeremiah 30:7 . Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob’s trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.

Zech 12:2,3. Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem.

And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

Matt. 24:21,22. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.

There is a time coming, when the time of the Gentiles is over, in which God will deliver Israel. The Second Coming of Christ at the end of the Tribulation will resolve the problem of the Middle East. At that time, all Israel shall be saved.

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Romans 11:26-29. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: 'The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.'

Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Daniel 12:2

'And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.'

Notice that the angel says many and not all. The alternatives are mutually exclusive. The Jews who die in the Tribulation go to either everlasting life or everlasting contempt. Those are the only two options (Re 20:4-6).

This resurrection is both a spiritual and a physical resurrection for they will rise from the dust of the earth. This passage does not say that the resurrection of the lost will occur at the end of the Tribulation. This is the first mention in the Old Testament of a dual resurrection for the saved and the lost.

John 5:28,29. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice

and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

The usual way the Old Testament depicts resurrection is by sleeping and waking (2 Kings 4:31; 13:21; Isaiah 26:19; Jeremiah 51:39, 57; Job 14:12). The Bible never presents the idea of the soul sleeping but always of the body sleeping.

The word everlasting conveys the idea of endlessness. This is the first occurrence of the term everlasting in the Old Testament. The Old Testament uses this term of God Himself, that He is everlasting. If hell is not eternal, then neither is God eternal (Revelation 4:10; 20:10; 21:8).

The word shame means reproaches. The ones awakened to shame are those who do not believe. God will bring reproach on them after the Tribulation. However, this passage does not indicate the specific time frame. The word many indicates that not all will rise to shame. There is no general resurrection here.

God will raise both righteous Jewish and Gentile Tribulation saints (Revelation 7:9-17; 20:4-6) plus Old Testament saints.

PRINCIPLE: God has a plan for our resurrection.

APPLICATION: There are two resurrections and two phases of the first resurrection. There is a resurrection of the just and the unjust. There are two resurrections of the just: the Rapture and the Second Coming. God does not raise Old Testament saints at the Rapture. The Rapture occurs seven years before the Second Coming. The Tribulation is between the two resurrections. God will raise Old Testament saints to place them into the Millennium.

Job 14:14. If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, Till my change comes.

Job 19:25-27. For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth;

And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God,

Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

Psalms 16:9,10. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope.

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For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

Psalm 49:15. But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, For He shall receive me. Selah

Is 25:8. He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the Lord has spoken.

Is 26:19. Your dead shall live; Together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; For your dew is like the dew of herbs, And the earth shall cast out the dead.

Hosea 13:14. I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. O Death, I will be your plagues! O Grave, I will be your destruction! Pity is hidden from My eyes.

Sequence of resurrections:

1. Resurrection of Christ, and a token resurrection of saints, Mt 27:52-53
2. Resurrection of New Testament believers at the Rapture (1 Th 4:13-18) and Israel at the beginning of the Millennium, Re 20:12-14 and Da 12
3. Resurrection of unbelievers at the end of the Millennium, Re 20:12-14

Note the order of resurrection:

1 Corinthians 15:23. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

The word order signifies that arranged in order. It was especially a military term, denoting a company. 1 Corinthians 15:23 uses it metaphorically of the various classes of those who have part in the first resurrection. God stands in review as various companies pass before Him.

First, Jesus is the first to rise from the dead.

Next, the church raptured before the Tribulation.

Third, Israel, Old Testament saints and tribulation saints. This resurrection occurs after the Tribulation.

Daniel 12:3

Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.'

This verse continues to carry the idea of hope for Israel. Rewards follow resurrection. Those receiving reward will shine like the glory of the firmament above and the stars. They will reign with Christ in the Millennium (Mt 25:14-30).

Revelation 20:4. And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Those who turn many to righteousness are those who win others to Christ. The grammar is causative (hiphil) – cause many to turn to justification. They have the wisdom to do this. They will shine like stars forever and ever. Their reward is everlasting.

Proverbs 11:30. The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise.

PRINCIPLE: Those who are wise will receive reward for winning people to Christ.

APPLICATION: God's great are those who win others to Christ. They are those that point many to Jesus. Have you examined your life to determine whether you will shine like a star in heaven?

Philippians 2:14-17. Do all things without complaining and disputing,

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that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

Daniel 12:4

'But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.'

The words shut up indicate that Daniel was to keep a copy of the book of Daniel in a safe place. Daniel must keep a record of his book for posterity because of its divine inspiration. The angel challenged him to keep a record for the time of the end--that is, the Tribulation period.

Future attempts to understand the book of Daniel will look like scholars running back and forth in an intense search of increased knowledge about the prophecies of this book. As time passes, Bible scholars will understand the interpretation of Daniel better than Daniel did.

PRINCIPLE: Maximum application of the principles of God's Word to experience gives stability to the soul.

APPLICATION: Some will painstakingly examine the visions of Daniel but they will not understand until the last days. All of us want to know what it will be like in the final days. We want to understand the future. What does the future hold?

Some people are unstable in their Christian lives because they do not have a core of biblical principles in their souls. They constantly vacillate from one experience to another. These people compensate for guilt complexes by

sublimation. They refuse to take the time to learn biblical principles for life, so they go from one thing today to another thing tomorrow. They do not have much capacity for faithful and loyal love. These are the worst sort of believers.

When we carefully scrutinize the Word of God to find His principles for life, then we find stability in our souls. When principles of the Word of God become our way of life, we stabilize our souls. The glory of Christ becomes the most important orientation to our souls. Everything else is a detail. Money is a detail. Pleasure and sex are details. Without the perspective of God's Word, these things become far too important to us. When these things become details, it does not matter whether we have them or not. Operation under the principles of the Word gives us capacity to enjoy the details of life.

Matthew 4:4. But He answered and said, 'It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'

Daniel 12:5-6

Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank.

And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, 'How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?'

Daniel again becomes a personal participant in the scene. Two figures stood on each side of the Tigris River and an angel above the river (v.6).

The book of Daniel ends with a couple of questions and answers.

Question # 1: Daniel 12:5-6

Answer: Daniel 12:7

Question: Daniel 12:8

Answer: Daniel 12:9-13

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Daniel saw two other people standing on either side of the Tigris River (10:4). These people may have been angels. One of these people asked the man dressed in linen above the river a question about the length of the persecution and deliverance of Israel (11:36-12:4).

PRINCIPLE: Hope gives definition to our present life.

APPLICATION: Hope is an essential dynamic in the Christian life. Hope gives meaning to life. We exist in despair without hope. Hope at the end of the tunnel gives encouragement to the soul. Hope stands with faith and love as a primary quality of life in God's economy.

Hope helps those who suffer endure their pain. They have a better future ahead.

Romans 5:1,2. Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

1 Peter 1:3-9. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

Daniel 12:7-13

READ Daniel 12:7-13

The angel above the river authenticates his message as true by lifting both hands to heaven.

The length of time of Israel's persecution and deliverance is a time, times, and a half a time or three and one-half years. The enemies of Israel will control seven years in the prophetic calendar. The last half of those seven years will be the Great Tribulation but at the end of the last half of the Tribulation, the Messiah will come.

Zechariah 14:2,3. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

Then the Lord will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle.

Daniel wanted to know how all this would end, as seen by his second question. The word end means latter end. Daniel's question has to do with eschatology.

The angel told Daniel that the full interpretation of this vision would remain ambiguous until the time of the end.

Many people will turn to the Messiah for salvation in the Tribulation. The godless will not understand the reason for the events around them. The wise (believers) will grasp the prophetic meaning of those events.

The angel provides some specificity about a major event in the Tribulation – the abomination of desolation. The abomination by

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the Antichrist terminating Jewish sacrifices and desecrating the temple occurs in the middle of the Tribulation (Matthew 24:15). 1,290 days from the middle of the Tribulation is 30 days longer than 3 ½ years. This would be one month after the Great Tribulation (the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation).

God will bless those that wait and come to the 1,335 days. They are those who wait for God to deliver them. This period is 45 days longer than the 1290-day period (v.11). This ends after the conclusion of the Tribulation when the Messiah establishes His millennial kingdom 45 days after the Tribulation.

The angel told Daniel to move on with his life. Eventually Daniel would die and then receive his inheritance in the resurrection.

PRINCIPLE: All suffering is for the purpose of blessing.

APPLICATION: All suffering in the Bible is for blessing. No matter how difficult the situation we face, God has a purpose in it all.

As God gave Daniel dying grace, so He gives us grace for any situation. Do not think like a dead man or woman. Some believers live their Christian lives like zombies. They are morbid, upset, bitter, frightened, worried, envious and jealous. They are miserable people. All this denies God's provision for our lives. We are to quit living like dead people until we go to meet the Lord.

Philippians 1:2. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.