

Daniel
Chapter 12

Chapter 12 with Notes (NKJV):

12 “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.

- This single verse is a direct reference to the final Great Tribulation that will occur during the final seven years of human government; the world will be under the control of the Antichrist for the final forty-two months. Note that Michael the archangel stands watch over "the children of thy people." This is detailed in Revelation 12, when Michael and his angels expel Satan and his angels from the second heaven to the earth; Satan will be cast out after the Antichrist plants his headquarters in Jerusalem, as mentioned in Daniel 11:45. Those delivered who are "written in the book" will be the 144,000 Jews who are caught up into heaven at the middle of the Tribulation (see Rev. 14:1-5).

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.

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.

- Some Christian scholars use verse 2 to teach that the resurrection of the dead in Christ will happen at the conclusion of the Tribulation; if so, then this question

remains: How could there be a believers' resurrection in which some raised to "everlasting life" and others to "everlasting contempt"?

If these are the resurrected saints or the "dead in Christ" (1 Thess. 4:16), then they all would be raised to everlasting life, and none to eternal damnation. There will be one resurrection of those who died as martyrs during the Tribulation; however, these will be raised to rule and reign with Christ for one thousand years (see Rev. 20:4). There will be a second resurrection at the conclusion of the one thousand years in which the unrighteous will be judged and condemned to the lake of fire, which is everlasting damnation. The messenger informed Daniel that at the final judgment, the wise would "shine as the brightness" and those who turn "many to righteousness" will serve God forever (v.3). In verse 2, some raised to everlasting life would be those resurrected who died as believers during the Tribulation (see Rev. 20:4), and those raised to shame and everlasting contempt are those raised at the end of the millennial reign, whose doom is sealed by the second death, the lake of fire (see Rev. 20:6-15).

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."

- Daniel was instructed to seal up the words and the book, while John in Revelation was told not to seal his book (see Rev. 22:10). Daniel's numerous predictions cannot be understood until the time of the end when the formation of the final empires he described in his book is complete (the two feet and ten toes; the horns of the beast). Spiritual knowledge will be increased at the time of the end, when people will comprehend those things previous generations had not understood. Note the angel told Daniel that he will make known "what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days" (Dan. 10:14)-a long time into the future.

5 Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank. 6 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?"

7 Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.

- The river mentioned here is the Hiddekel, or the Tigris. Nebuchadnezzar had constructed the city of Babylon on the edge of this river; at the time of this vision the city was the headquarters for the Media-Persian Empire. This river was the dividing river between the Babylonians and the Persians; today it is the dividing border of Iraq and Iran. In Daniel's final vision, one angel is standing on the side where ancient Babylon was built and the other was on the side where Persia was located; also, a man in linen is walking on the water of the river. Because this was the conclusion of a major vision that began in chapter 10, the two angels on the riverbanks may have been Gabriel and Michael (see Dan. 9:21; 10:13; 12:1); the man in linen may have been the theophany Daniel described in 10:5-6. Note the angel asks the man on the

water, "How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?" The figure on the water raises his right and left hands and makes an oath to heaven and to God. (The book of Revelation contains similar prophetic imagery: an angel clothed with a cloud places his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the earth, raises his hands to heaven, and declares that the mystery of God is finished; see Rev. 10:1-7.) The person on the water in Daniel's vision answers the angel, "A time, times, and an half," which is one year (time), two years (times), and a half (six months), or three and a half years. This time frame would give the Antichrist the time to "scatter the power of the holy people"; then "all these things should be finished" (v. 7). The angel is revealing what John later saw- the Antichrist will rule from Jerusalem for forty-two months and will be determined to destroy the Jewish people. They will be scattered, as many will run into the wilderness of Edom for protection (see Rev. 12:6). Once the final forty-two-month period concludes, all things will be finished.

8 Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, "My lord, what shall be the end of these things?"

9 And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. 10 Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.

- Not understanding the meaning, Daniel asks again how long it will be. Daniel is informed that the prophecies will not be fulfilled during his lifetime because they are sealed until the time of the end. More than six hundred years later, the apostle John will shed insight into the time of the end through his visions in Revelation, and the details will be understood as the actual events begin to unfold.

11 "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days. 12 Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.

13 "But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days."

- The angel concludes this great prophetic book by informing Daniel that he will rest in the grave until the time of the end; then he will rise to receive his inheritance at the end of days. Daniel died in his nineties and was buried in Babylon, the very area where many end-time prophetic events will occur.

THE FINAL TIME FRAME-WHY 1,290 AND 1,335 DAYS? (12:9-13)

Daniel 12:9-13 has been one of the most complicated and often misunderstood passages in the book of Daniel, as it gives a specific time frame of 1,290 days from the time the daily sacrifices are taken away and the abomination is set up, but pronounces a special blessing for the 1,335th day. Some early prophetic scholars, especially in the nineteenth century, lacked understanding and exchanged these days for years. Thus, the 1,290 days became 1,290 years and the 1,335 days were exchanged for 1,335 years. Then a particular prophetic date was selected, and these years added to the date, producing an anticipated year when the predictions of Daniel were to be fulfilled. After numerous predictions producing non-events, these years and dates were changed to point to another future fulfillment.

When the plain sense of the text indicates days, the time must remain as days and not years. We can begin to understand the reason for the 1,290 days and 1,335 days if we combine prophetic insight gained from both Daniel and Revelation. The Tribulation will begin with the signing of a firm agreement for seven years (see Dan. 9:27). These seven years can be divided into two halves of 1,260 days each (see Rev. 11:3; 12:6). In the middle of the seven years, the Antichrist will break the covenant and invade Jerusalem. He then will control the city for forty-two months, or 1,260 days (see Rev. 11:1-2). From the moment he takes the city to the end of the Tribulation is a total of 1,260 days.

Daniel 12:11 tells us it will be 1,290 days from the time the daily sacrifice is taken away until the abomination is set up. The abomination that makes Jerusalem desolate will occur when the image of the Beast is created; it will speak and live through the lying miracles of the False Prophet (see Rev. 13:14-15). Thus, it will take thirty days from the moment the Antichrist enters Jerusalem to the completion of the image-the difference between the 1,290 and 1,260 days. The second time of 1,335 days is also linked to the last half of the Tribulation, the final 1,260 days, "the time, times, and an half" (Dan. 12:7). As stated, the final half of the Tribulation is 1,260 days. The Tribulation will conclude the last half of the 1,260 days when the Messiah returns to Jerusalem (see Rev. 19:11-21). There is a blessing for those waiting and coming to the 1,335 days. When we subtract the 1,260 days from 1,335 days, the difference is 75 days. Some believe that this 75 days is the time from the end of the Tribulation when Christ returns, until the time that Jerusalem and the Temple Mount is cleansed by the Messiah, as a new temple will be constructed on the holy mountain (see Ezek. 44-47).

Additionally, if the seven-year Tribulation ends during the fall months near the time of Israel's fall feast, and the additional 75 days are added, by some calculations we come to the time of the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah. This would be the Feast of Lights and the celebration that recalls the defeat of Antiochus Epiphanes and the miraculous provision of oil in the ancient temple menorah at the time of the Maccabees. This would be the perfect pattern for the dedication of a new building project, the millennial temple of the Messiah.