

But You, Go Your Way

Daniel 12:5-13, "Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two other, 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?' Then I heard the man clothes 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. Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, 'My Lord, what shall be the end of these things?' And he said, 'Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed tul the time of the end. 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. 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. Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days. But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days."

Heavenly Father, we ask that You would move among us today. We ask that You would show us Yourself through this text. We ask that You would put Your Holy Spirit on our ears and hearts that we would receive it. We do pray that You would speak to us and visit us through this passage, that You would teach us things that You have been teaching to Daniel. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Our new memory passage for the quarter is a really wonderful tie in to the conclusion of Daniel here. 1 Peter 1:3-5, "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." Daniel is looking forward to a hope, he was given comfort. These last three chapters of Daniel, we see his last vision as the response to his repentance and prayers to God. He sends messengers, He sends Jesus Christ Himself as we see this figure that we will see in the passage today, the Man clothed in linen. He sends Him to comfort him with telling him about an incorruptible inheritance that he will see at the end of his days. He doesn't explain every detail of the plan, Daniel doesn't understand all of it as he says in verse 8, he asks again what should be the end of these things, but there is comfort in knowing God does have a plan and is fulfilling His glorious purposes. Today we will be examining the conclusion of this final vision which is spanned over chapters 10-12, and will bring us to the end of Daniel. There's a lot of discussion about these last verses of Daniel. You have pretty much every eschatological viewpoint, looking at these verses and asking how they are to be applied, the end times and what's going on here. I think it's really important with a passage like this to make sure we are focusing on the context as we walk into this. I want to just do a really quick recap. Daniel 2, we see Nebuchadnezzar dreaming a dream about a great image with a golden head and silver arms and belly and thigh of brass, legs of iron and feet of iron and clay, then a stone appears that is cut without hands and smashes into the image and breaks it in pieces. We are given these different parts are kingdoms of the world, this stone cut without hands is the kingdom of God, this is Christ's kingdom coming and being victorious over the kingdoms of the world. We're not told a lot of details about this, just setting the framework. If you remember going forward to chapter 7, Daniel has a dream about these four beasts that rise up. One is a lion with eagle's wings, one

is a bear, one is a leopard with four wings on its back and the fourth beast has great iron teeth and ten horns. In this same vision he sees the coronation of Christ and he's told from a bystander there in his vision that these four beasts represent four kings that will rise up, but in the end the Son of the Most High will take the kingdom. If we are comparing this with the four kings as we go forward, we know Daniel has been through the lion with the eagle's wings, this is Nebuchadnezzar, he has been through the bear which is the Medes and the Persians, the leopard is in the future for Daniel, but we can look back on it and know it's the Greeks as it's explained in the next chapter. The Greeks were like a lightning bolt going through Asia and Alexander went through in ten years, this is like a leopard with wings on its back. The fourth beast we don't get a lot of details about, but it's just this beast with iron teeth and ferocious. In chapter 8, we have this next vision where there is a ram with two horns and the goat which is moving so fast that it's flying above the ground and it attacks the ram. We are told in the same vision that the ram is the Medes and Persians with the two horns and the Greeks, Alexander coming in ferociously and quickly smashing the Persians. We're not given a lot of detail about the fourth kingdom, which I believe is Rome. Daniel is instructed to shut up the vision because it will not be for many days. In chapter 9, Daniel prays to confess his sin and the sins of his people and he is visited by an angel who gives time frames. These time frames at the end of chapter 9 are really important to where we are today. Daniel 9:24-27, "Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy. 'Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of your command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.'" I wanted to revisit this because we are covering like 490 years here. If we remember the sermon that Dan preached a few months ago, we have these seventy weeks, they are like a week is seven days. So you have this that works out perfectly that you have 490 years from the time of Daniel to the time of the end of the Jewish system, the end of the sacrifices. This is where we are in Daniel's vision. This is the time when the prince who is to come, who we just read about in verse 26, shall destroy the city and sanctuary with a flood. The Romans came into Jerusalem and all Judea like a flood just wiping out all the cities, burning through them, destroying Jerusalem and then the following cities after that. This is a time when the sanctuary is destroyed, this is the time when the city is destroyed, the time when God confirms the covenant with many as there are people saved from this destruction. In the words of Christ, flee to the mountains, not to Jerusalem during this time when the Romans were coming. The sacrifices will be ended in the middle of this week, the middle of this week being the last seven years of the prophesy, and God's judgement is poured out on desolate people who had an empty and dead religion. Finally, in chapter 10, we are caught up to Daniel's final vision and this is the one we are concluding today. In these chapters Daniel is told really remarkable details about future wars and the conquest of the Greeks and the northern and southern kingdoms and you have all the back and forth and everything that passes through Jerusalem. He gets told about all these things and finally you get to the rise of Rome at the end of chapters 10 and 11. Chapter 12 starts out with the Messiah appearing and you have the raising of the dead that happens at the crucifixion of Christ. Then Daniel is told again in verse 4, to shut up the words and seal the book until the time of the

end. He's told again that this is for a future time, so these instructions are repeated again, to seal up the prophesy. The running to and fro is the gospel going out, people are increasing in knowledge, they are going out and spreading the gospel. If you look at where Paul goes and the gospel reaches over a short period of time, none of that happened when the Jews were called the people of God. Paul goes out with the power of the Holy Spirit and the church is growing. That brings us to today's text.

Verses 5-7, "Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two other, 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?' Then I heard the man clothes 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." These two others, presumably angels, are standing on the banks of the river. Daniel had been conversing with these two angels, if you go back to chapter 10 you can see he is at the Tigris River, so it's at the same location. He is standing there and he sees the man clothed in linen, which I think is Jesus Christ. He is wearing the linens which are the garments of the priest, He is revealing Himself to have authority, the angels are asking Him questions. Kings travel with an entourage, you never see a king hanging out by himself, they have people there. Even the mercy seat, we are given a similar picture here where there is an angel on either side of Him bowing down to Him. We don't have that necessarily here where they are bowing down, we don't know if they were or not, but this is the picture where Christ is surrounded by His angels. One of these "others" asked the man in linen, "how long until the fulfillment of these wonders?" These wonders would be the things they were just talking about; they weren't talking about anything outside the context of this. The things that were going on were the going forth of the gospel, we are talking about the people being scattered. That phrase "completely shattered", I don't think this is talking about the judgement on the Jews. You can look at this and say that time, times, and half of time when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished. The KJV translates that word for "shattered" can mean "scattered" or "dispersed". It can also mean "broken in pieces", but when you think of what happened with the early church and the martyrdom of Stephen, the church is spread out and dispersed abroad. That's the thing that caused them to go out from Jerusalem. This phrase "time, times, and half a time", with each of these as a year, which again, some of this I am just going to say is me looking at it and trying to make sense of it and at the end I have a summary that wraps this all up. I am looking at this and saying this is my best stab at this, I prayed over it and tried to understand it, and I think I have a really good grasp on this, but I'm saying that time, times, and half a time is measuring a precise time. I don't think you would say time, times, and half a time if you are saying it's just some length of time like a little while, this is a specific measurement of time in prophetic language. If you assign a year to a time, then you have one time plus two times and a half a time, so three and a half years. If you have three and a half years there, that seems like a reasonable amount of time for the early church to be establishing themselves, selling their property, going out and making the Jews in Jerusalem nervous about the things they are saying and the people that are coming and hearing them and people being converted. You have this time of buildup, it's not like they go out, there's Pentecost and all of a sudden Stephen is martyred. I think there is this buildup and the perceived threat of the Jews from the church, so I think that's a plausible explanation for that. I think we are probably dealing with three and a half years here. This is the answer that's given to this angel from Christ, that it will be three and a half years, that's when the people will be shattered and these things will be finished. When it says "finished", we are not talking about the end of everything or the second coming, we're not

talking about 70 A.D., we are talking about the thing that was just being talked about. How long will the fulfillment of “these” wonders be? “These” refers to something specific, it refers to what we were just talking about. So we have these wonders being the things where the people are going abroad, knowledge is increasing, and that will happen for a time, times, and times and a half. That’s how I put my time marker on that, that’s what I think that means. I don’t think right before the destruction, if this is talking about this time, I don’t think that Jesus would be referring to the Jews as the holy people, I think this is another evidence why I believe what I believe, which is talking about the true Christians who are believing the promises of God, not those who are practicing this dead religion and coming together persecuting the Christians. Again, I think this time, times, and half a time are referring to that time period.

Verses 8-10, “Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, ‘My Lord, what shall be the end of these things?’ And he said, ‘Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. 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.” We see here again Daniel looking to the future. We have the benefit of looking at the past, there was a Greek king named Alexander who stormed through Asia, we know what happened with Rome and what happened with Christ, and Daniel is looking at this and he’s got a lot more blanks in his picture than we do. These are the things the angels desire to look into from this memory passage from 1 Peter 1, that is such a great tie in to the end of Daniel. He was looking to the future through these prophetic visions and trying to make sense of what he is being told. He asks a similar question as what the angel asks, he wanted to find out what does this mean, when will these things be, what’s the fulfillment of this, how is this going to play out? He’s told to go his way, for the words are sealed until the time of the end. It’s an interesting response, this is the same Christ who sent angels to give Daniel tremendous detail about the conquering of Asia. All these wars and things that happen in such precise detail, it’s truly amazing to look at chapter 10 and 11. All the Bible is amazing, but the specific detail it gets into that are hundreds of years in the future is truly amazing. He is told all these amazing details, but then is told to go his way, these words are sealed up until the time of the end. This time of the end, I take as being the time of the end of the Jewish system, the time of the end and the judgement that’s coming upon the people around the same time that the church is being established and that the people are being scattered from Jerusalem and all these things are happening. I think this is like the next progression in this. You have people being made white and the persecutions happening. This time of the end is not referring to end times of the second coming, I think this is referring to a time of the end of the Jewish system, the time of the end when the Messiah would come and this would be the completion of what’s going to happen. He is going to come and be rejected, and then there is judgement that comes upon the Jews. When you think about it, this is such a wonderful display of God’s care for His people. The Lamb who is slain before the foundation of the world is giving instructions for His people hundreds of years in the future, this is what a shepherd does, He is leading and guiding, He’s laying out instructions and showing them that all these wars in chapters 10-11 are going to happen and be difficult, but you know what a relief it is to know that there is going to be suffering but there is a plan. You are in this thing that plays out, but you don’t need to worry about siding with this king or that king or being in this whole shuffle of power because I have a plan and this is all exactly what I said would happen and it’s going to happen according to My will. This is the same thing; he’s saying this is where Christ is later telling His disciples to get out of the cities when the Romans are coming. In the next two verses, in 11 and 12, we will see he gives them the time frame on how long they need to be out of the cities in Judea when the Romans are coming in. if you here in this room are one of

God's elect, recognize the intricate care that God has for you, for His people. This word from Daniel was not for you, this is not your specific instructions, but God has given you specific instructions in His Word and it's such a wonderful thing. God desires for us to know His will and is just a marvelous display of His mercy that He gave to His people and the majority of these people were Jews who had just crucified the Christ and He is saving them and giving them instructions on what to do when the Romans come because you are My people now and adopted into My family and I care for My own. "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." Revelation 7 and 14, both speak about the 144,000 that will be redeemed, there are 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes of Israel as described in Revelation 7. Again, this is such a tremendous show of the mercy of God, He is turning the rebellious people. The only difference between the people who are gritting their teeth in Jerusalem against Rome when they come against them, they think they can stand up to the Roman legions, the people who are there and the people who flee to the mountains, is that God turns their hearts. He turns their hearts and He shows them His Word and will, this is what I would have you to do and they say "yes Lord" and they follow Him. The 144,000 have hearts of flesh, they are the ones who know the song in Revelation 14, they know the new song that's sung before the throne of God. They follow the Lamb wherever He goes, these are the Christians saved out of death and destruction, these are the ones receiving the words Daniel is writing in this passage. These are also the Christians who would suffer persecution for spreading the gospel and the people hearing don't want to hear because they are holding onto a dead religion and they need to trust in Christ for their salvation and they are guilty of putting the Son of God to death and rejecting Him. They don't want to hear that so they start persecuting them, but this is what it means that they are purified in their trials. Many shall be purified and made white and refined. The word "purified" means to be polished and be made bright. We just read about that in 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." These 144,000 people who are saved by the mercy of God are the ones who are turning others to righteousness, they are spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ for the peril of their own lives. The wicked will not hear or understand. Again, only God can give ears to hear and eyes to see the truth of His Word. They all had God's word revealed to them, they all had the writings of Daniel and some looked at it and saw and understand. The difference was not them, it was God opening their eyes and humbling their hearts softening them to receive. At the same time God is softening the hearts of His people, He is using the same message to harden many because many would be standing in Jerusalem when the Romans come and it was a great slaughter.

Verses 11-12, "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. Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days." In our last sermon on Daniel 12, Dan mentioned this period, this year of the four emperors. If you remember Nero commits suicide and Vespasian is already at war with the Jews putting down a tax revolt that spread throughout Judea. The Jews were a rebellious people rebelling against the Romans and you contrast that to the teachings of Christ where He says to give to Caesar what is Caesars, trusting in God that the taxes will be provided, and God faithfully providing those things, miraculously pulling a coin from a fish's mouth. God is showing His people that He provides for His people so they don't have to worry about taxes to the Roman government. Vespasian is there leading his troops, besieging Jerusalem in 66 A.D. and he hears that Nero is dead so he leaves to go take the throne. There's this time where there's four emperors in quick succession and eventually without recapping the whole thing, Vespasian eventually becomes emperor

and his son Titus comes into Judea to then lead the quelling of the Jews in this uprising, because it drew Vespasian away and the attention was brought more towards seeking the throne and this was during the time of the Jewish civil war. Vespasian's son Titus, who would later become emperors, is the one who goes in and continues to the war against the Jews and it's like there's a noose just tightening around Jerusalem. He's going all throughout Judea in the north and zipping across all these cities burning them and enslaving the people. The Jews were standing hard-nosed thinking they could stand on their own, but as we have seen in the past God carries out military campaigns and we see there is an angel leading the charge. There's an angel going forward with the prince of Persia, this is how God carries out His will. These are powers and principalities that are beyond the strength of man. You have angels carrying out the will of God and its time for the Jews to be wiped out of Judea, this is the time of their judgement so nothing is stopping Titus. This is the time that Jesus warned about in Matthew 24. He said not to go back in their houses, if you're in the field don't go back to your houses if you see them coming. This is like lightning coming, the Romans were a war machine and they were going and doing what God was having them do. If you remember going through Isaiah, can the ax bow against the axmen? Rome was God's ax and He was the axmen swinging them and carrying them through. Jesus was telling His followers not to go back when they see the Romans approaching and don't go to Jerusalem. Those who didn't believe that Jesus was the Christ, they fled to Jerusalem, they thought this was the strong city, there were outer walls and inner walls and the temple mount, this was a major stronghold where they thought they could be safe. By reports there were millions of people there when Rome besieged Jerusalem because everyone was fleeing there from the other places and it was the time of Passover so there were a lot of people in there. This is how God is rounding up the people He is going to judge, rounding them in one spot and bringing the Romans in. The thing about this passage that's tricky and these timelines and the 1,290 days and the 1,335 days, the thing that's tricky about this is we don't know when the daily sacrifices were taken away. It could have been taken away at the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem, maybe they are running out of supplies to do the sacrifices. The factions fighting for control were killing each other, poisoning the water supplies, burning the food storage, they were destroying themselves while the Romans are building siege walls around the city so no one could escape. We don't know exactly when it was ended, but I think it was probably when Jerusalem fell, that's what I am guessing. I am going off of that assumption. From the time of the daily sacrifices taken away, the abomination of desolation is set up, which I would think is when Titus comes in and defiles the temple by making a mockery of the worship of God. There shall be 1,290 days, this number is roughly half of seven years, this is about three and a half years. If this is half of seven years and we are in the last of the seventy weeks, we're in the sixty-ninth week of Daniel's prophesy moving forth to the end, which I believe is the conclusion of the Jewish war, you have three and a half years here and in the middle of that you have the end of the daily sacrifices. Again, we don't know when the daily sacrifices were taken away so I think these days refer to the second half of the Jewish war. The Jewish war is basically 66 A.D., Vespasian starts it and besieges Jerusalem for basically four years and then Titus comes through and wipes out all the other cities around Jerusalem and really besieges Jerusalem. They used to be able to sneak out and go get supplies, but this was like the super siege when Titus comes in and concentrates his forces there, no one is getting in and out at this point and the people who do try to escape are getting crucified. It's a horrendous thing that is happening there. In three and a half years you have the end of the daily sacrifice, that puts you at 70 A.D. Starting in 66 with the first siege of Jerusalem, three and a half years gets you to 70 A.D. depending on when in 66 it started. Again, these numbers are not clearly noted anywhere. You have the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. and it takes an additional three years for the last Jewish stronghold to fall, this is around 73 or 74, there's not even a good record of when that

happened. This is the final fortress that the Romans came in and wiped out. Going to Revelation 11 and 12, I asked Noel to read Revelation 12 today because it references to the time, times, and half a time, there is reference to the 1,260 days, so it's similar. I hope I'm not being too confusing right now; Dan is a lot better at presenting this than I am. The 1,290 days I think is the second half of the war, it says in verse 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." I think that's three and a half years, which the sacrifices are taken away during the last week and during the second half of the war the last city is overthrown. Going to Revelation 11 and 12, refers to forty-two months that the Gentiles will tread the holy city, 1,260 days John says. There will be these two witnesses preaching, they will be killed, and the people will celebrate their deaths. We know the witnesses will be in Jerusalem when they are killed because it says they will be in the same place where they crucified the Lord and this same city it called Sodom in Egypt. This is showing God's disdain for this place. I'm going to read a little bit of Revelation 11, because I think the tie in here is important. Just to recap, in chapter 12:11, Daniel is referring to the second half of the war and I think revelation 11 is referring to the first half of the war which would be the 1,260 days. It explains why the number of days are different because it's not exactly the same. Revelation 11:1-3, "Then I was given a reed like the measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, 'Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.'" I believe there were at least two witnesses still in Jerusalem. They didn't flee necessarily in disobedience, but I believe they were there to preach against the rebellion to God. Verses 4-6, "These are the two olive trees and two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire." God leaves these powerful prophets that are in Jerusalem while these things are going on. Verses 7-10, "When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth." You can imagine preaching the gospel in Jerusalem at the time you have all these people fighting for control and the Romans are coming, but you still have the voice of Jesus Christ preaching through His people. Verses 11-14, "Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, 'Come up here.' And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly." So you have this time where you have these witnesses and there's this miracle of sorts that they are resurrected and it's shown to everybody that's there, these were My people. There's no denying that, if you're making fun of someone that's dead on the ground, saying they had to die in order to shut up, no one could kill him until God was ready for them to be dead, then they are resurrected from the dead and called up to heaven in front of

your face, that's a powerful sign. If that's what is going on in Jerusalem in this last time and this is the witness God is giving and there are some that give glory to the God of heaven, so not everyone remains hardened. Some see this, even though they are doomed to death by the Romans, but God is continuing to extend His hand of mercy to these people. I think that's what leads up to chapter 12. The reason I asked Noel to read this is because you have the woman going out to the wilderness to be pursued and I believe this is the church, it's given birth to Christ, and Christ is called up to heaven and now there is war going on. The dragon is pursuing the woman who gave birth to the child, but she goes out and is given wings like an eagle and flies to the wilderness to find a safe place. To me this sounds like the people fleeing from the wrath of the Romans, those who are listening to Christ. If you're trying to follow along, this is in chapter 12 of Revelation. Revelation 12:14-17, "But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." So you have this picture of this woman being safe in the wilderness and I think these things are tied together to what we are seeing here at the end of Daniel. Again, the 1,290 days that we see in Daniel is from when the sacrifice is taken away which is when I think is at the fall of Jerusalem and goes until the fall of the last city in Jerusalem. These 1,260 days is this time when God is sending witnesses in, these forty-two months, a time when God is still sending His message to Jerusalem. They are surrounded and besieged by Romans, but there is still hope for those who will hear. I wanted to go over that because you see here He is referring to them as spiritual Sodom and Egypt; this is God saying He has turned away from them. We know what He did to Sodom and Egypt, and when He was bringing the people out while they are in the wilderness, He is giving them His law and saying the people in Egypt and Canaan, they do these things that are an abomination to Me, but you are to do these things that are My law, you are to walk in My ways. This is the people who rejected the Messiah, this is the people who were calling themselves the people of God, yet their hearts were far from Him. In verse 12, I believe these 1,335 days also start at the time of the fall of Jerusalem and there's an extra forty-five days on there. If you take 1,335 and subtract 1,290, which takes us to the end of the war, there's an extra forty-five days. He says, "blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days." I think this is like, the coast is clear, the Romans are gone. They're not going to just disappear after the last city, they are going to be gathering their things, looting, leaving, or whatever the case is. They are rounding up the survivors, the Jewish slaves, and they are leaving town. I believe that this is what that is. After the time of the fall of Masada to the time it is safe for the Christians to come out of the mountains and wilderness and come back to the city they fled from, this is what I believe this is talking about. When you think about this and the pictures of the parallels and things we have, God is calling Jerusalem Egypt and Sodom, and He is saying He's coming in with an army and wiping out the inhabitants of the Promised Land. This is Canaan, the place the Jews once inherited, but the things they didn't build, the vineyards they didn't plant, this is God saying He is coming in and wiping out the Jews like I wiped out the Canaanites. This is who they are to me now, this is what it looks like to be divorced from God as is spoken of by the prophet Jeremiah. He comes in and He wipes them out and who inherits the land? It's those who are faithful, those who believed the promises of God and fled to the mountains. Yes, blessed are those who come to the 1,335 days, they are going to inherit cities, they are going to come in and the Romans are gone and it's probably in ruins, but they are inheriting these things without the ones who were persecuting them.

They are able to rebuild and live in peace for a time. I believe this is what this is talking about, these people go out and come back to empty cities. The Jews are ejected from the Promised Land they once inherited from the Canaanites and God uses the Romans to take them out so His true people, His new covenant people can inherit this land. Of course, that's not the true inheritance, the true inheritance is Christ, the true inheritance is heavenly places, the true inheritance is what we read of in 1 Peter, an incorruptible inheritance that is undefiled and does not fade away.

Verse 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." This "end of the days" I think refers to the final judgement, but we do know that there were people resurrected from the dead at the crucifixion. We don't know if Daniel is risen in that, but I think this is referring to the final judgement, you are going to die and be raised up in the last days. I think this is referring to the second coming of Christ. These are the final words of comfort. We know that angels and Christ were sent to tell Daniel these things because he was loved of God. These words of comfort are coming to him saying, you are going to have an eternal inheritance. Remember, these words are coming to him after he is mourning for his sins and the sins of his people, God sends comfort to him telling him of his final inheritance by encouraging him that there is a resurrection, this is one of a few very, very, very clear passages in the Old Testament that talks about the resurrection. In Job 19, Job says, "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!" This is the true comfort, the true hope for the Christian, for the one who trusts in God and His plan.

Applications:

1. Fear God. You can say that after every passage of Scripture, but fear God, this is what God does to a people who take His name in vain. If you are sitting in this place today and you don't truly know Christ and you are calling yourself a believer, this is how God treats those who take His name in vain and He is longsuffering and patient, but there is an end to that patience. When the patience is up, it is wrathful and it is furious. The things that these people went through when they stayed in Jerusalem because of their stubbornness and refusal to hear, God didn't open their ears, but they were responsible to hear and know. They had His law for hundreds of years and they closed their ears because of their proud hearts. I hope no one here today would be proud in not admitting to themselves and truly examining themselves. Week after week we come and take the Lord's Supper together and hear the preaching of God's Word. It's such a great blessing and we have further responsibility than what the Jews had back then because of the passage we read today and look at what God did to those people, thousands of people wiped out in a horrific way. The prophecies of Deuteronomy 28, God promises blessings for those who obey His Word and He is speaking with Moses. Those who walk diligently with His voice are promised wonderful things. I encourage everyone to read Deuteronomy 28, this is what God does. Deuteronomy 28:52-59, "They shall besiege you at all your gates until your high and fortified walls, in which you trust, come down throughout all your land; and they shall besiege you at all your gates throughout all your land which the Lord your God has given you. You shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and your daughters whom the Lord you God has given you, in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you. The sensitive and very refined man among you will be hostile toward his brother, and toward the rest of his children whom he leaves behind, so that he will not give any of them the

flesh of his children whom he will eat, because he has nothing left in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates. The tender and delicate woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because of her delicateness and sensitivity, will refuse to the husband of her bosom, and to her son and her daughter, her placenta which comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears; for she will eat them secretly for lack of everything in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates. If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, The Lord Your God, then the Lord will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues—great and prolonged plagues—and serious and prolonged sicknesses.” This was not just some Hollywood movie of a siege in medieval times, this was horrific. There’s reports from this time that this is what was going on Jerusalem which makes sense because these were the disobedient people who turned from God, who called themselves His people yet refused to live as though they had a Lord. Fear God and be honest with yourself about the state of your soul.

2. Of course all Scripture is written for the benefit of the church and is profitable so the man of God can be equipped for every good work. The words of Daniel are not just for the specific people in a specific time, but it’s easy for us to dig into details and lose the fact that this was a specific message for a specific people at a specific time. The message to us is that God cared about His people, He desired to give them these instructions. We don’t know when the daily sacrifices were stopped, we don’t know when Masada fell, we don’t know the dates of the Jewish war and God hasn’t given them to us. He very well could have, but the one thing we have to go on that most people look at and call the Jewish wars is from a man called Josephus who was a known liar. There’s things that contradict themselves in his works and we shouldn’t be looking to that and say we need to understand the exact history of how this happened so we can trust God’s word and that it was true. We can look at God’s word in this part of Daniel and see that these things happened how he said they would happen because they did. God has details that Josephus obviously didn’t have, but a lot of times we want to look at God’s word and say we have a historical piece over here that proves this. It says it took this long and that matches up with the word of God. I’m not saying people here do that, but it’s easy to get caught up in that mindset. It’s always interesting to see when historical documents match up to God’s word, but to my knowledge there’s no real, true, solid grounded dates. People claim there are and want to base all their theologies and ideas on timelines. I’m not holding to this stuff I am saying to you today with dogmatic fervor, I’m saying this is my take on this because I know that God desired to deliver people from this wrath, because I trust the words of Jesus Christ. I find it marvelous and so amazing that God would raise up Daniel. Think about this, He raised up Daniel to be this world famous person, even Muslims today look to Daniel and say he was a good guy. This is how uncontroversial it is that Daniel was a holy man. God raised up Daniel to this level of holiness, not so he could have all the knowledge of this, but so that message would have credibility when push came to shove. God gave this message to Daniel that was for his people hundreds of years in the future. That’s the amazing love God has for His people, He desires to protect, shepherd, and care for them. This guy Josephus somehow survived the suicide pact with all the other people that he was with. He was the mayor of one of the early cities that was taken over by the Romans, so he went along with them and documented some things. Just to give you an example of his theology, he was saving his own neck from what I can tell. He told Vespasian that he was

the messiah because he had conquered the whole land. He was not someone who had a good grasp on the understanding of these things, or whose eyes were opened to these things. He is someone who somehow survived and wrote a story about it. We shouldn't be looking to him and saying that this is something to hold onto, we need to look at God's word and see the amazing testimony of His love to His new covenant people. We can get caught up in these things, church tradition says Peter was crucified upside down in Rome. Do we need to know that and based things on? What if Peter was one of these witnesses in Jerusalem? We don't know, but what we do know from God's word, we can rest on. I just want to discourage everyone from going out and trying to look up what this church father or that church father said about these things because they don't know. There's a lot of bad dates with them, some say Jesus was fifty years old when He was crucified. These are the so-called church fathers, or referred to as church children before because we know more now due to revelation and God's people being washed and cleansed by the Word. This is a real thing that happens, the church is having their blemishes and wrinkles washed away. The church is being made ready for Christ, this doesn't mean she is becoming less and less knowledgeable or understanding. God, through His Spirit, gives people understanding. It's not something that we can trust the people early on, so I just want to discourage everyone from looking at their stories. We don't really know because none of those things were things that God said we needed to know, God gave us everything we need to know in His Word. Daniel was a faithful man entrusted with holiness, it was a gift that was given to him. The difference between Daniel and any of the people inside Jerusalem at the time it was destroyed, is that he was a faithful man because God made him faithful and preserved him. God had a message for His people and God is sovereign and that's what He does.

3. Just remember that Daniel's comfort was not in being able to understand everything. Do you have to find comfort in understanding every detail in God's plan? Or do you have comfort in knowing that God has a plan and you have a role to play? When he says to him, My Lord, what is the end of these things? He told him to keep doing what he was doing. Daniel was a faithful man; He did not tell him the answers that he was asking. He said to go his way until the end. The question for us is, are we going our way until the end? Are we walking in faithfulness? Are we content to trust in God's plan? Are we busy trying to seek things or answers? I'm not saying we shouldn't wrestle with God's word, but there are things in there that were revealed to a people in a specific time, in a specific way and it's a marvelous thing. But if we don't know all the details of what happened at this time, I don't know that it's that important because we know what God did and how He did it. What has God set before us? We are vessels, just like Daniel was, of truth and we have the words of our Savior, we have our charge, our orders. The message for the first century church was the same as ours, but He has other instructions about fleeing from the wrath that was to come, from the Romans. Our is to go and make disciples of the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things Christ has commanded you, and I am with you even to the end of the age. Are we being faithful with things we have been given to do.

Let's pray. Heavenly Father, God, thank You for the blessing it's been to hear the preaching through Daniel, to study this book. Lord, Your word is such a precious gift, even as we see it's been used to save so many lives, even the danger, suffering, physical torment that You preserved Your people from at the time of the fall of Jerusalem and Judea. Lord, nothing is like the wrath that You've preserved Your people from by teaching us the only way to You the Father, through Your Son Jesus Christ. We thank You that

You have made a way, that You have purchased a rebellious people, everyone in this room that knows You, knows You because of Your work, not because of anything we have done in our own strength, but because of the finished work that You have done on our behalf. Father, I thank You that Your word is a perfect guide for us. Help us to seek Your truth and to seek You diligently. Help us to be faithful in the work You have given us to do in this life. In Jesus' name, amen.