

### Daniel 12:1–13 (ESV)

1 “At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. 2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. 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.” 5 Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream. 6 And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, “How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?” 7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished. 8 I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, “O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?” 9 He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end. 10 Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand. 11 And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days. 12 Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days. 13 But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days.”

Whatever else- Go your way

This morning is our last stab at Daniel. I feel like I should be apologizing for how little clarity I have brought to exactly what Daniel’s prophecies are **foretelling**. But when I read that we are dealing with things that **even Daniel, himself**, could not understand and the **angels** had trouble understanding, I feel like I am at least in good company.

Chapter 12 begins with **At That Time**. The obvious question is, “**What time?**”

Vs 40 in Chapter 11 speaks of the time of the end. We might jump to the conclusion that this is speaking of the end of time. But that conclusion could be hasty. It might mean the end of that specific period of time. The problem with that though, is that what is described in 45 does not describe how Antiochus Epiphanes met his end. Remember we looked at how history teaches one thing about where Antiochus Epiphanes died that verse 45 predicts a different place for this anti-Christ person dies. Then when you combine it with 12:2 where people are **awakening from the dead to face judgment**, this leads me to believe that this is speaking of an antichrist that will arise in the future. He is very similar to Antiochus Epiphanes, but even more powerful and more severe.

Just reading it at face value, I think chapter 12 is addressing the future while building on the image of this past anti-Christ like figure. So I think that **“at that time”** is talking about the period of time right before Christ appears. If I am right it is **in our** future.

So the last chapter ended with an antichrist figure setting up his tents, preparing his assault on the holy city. He has his battle plans. He intends his harm. And what happens? He shall come to his end with none to help him. We don't see a battle at all. It is like our brother Godfrey says about Revelation. When God determines the end, it is the end. There is no struggle on **God's part**.

God never struggles in the defeat of our enemies. The end is a certain as the promises of God. There is comfort in that truth. While our enemies may loom large in our lives, they never loom large to God. He's got this.

Now maybe during the period that this antichrist doing his harm in the end of Chapter 11 but not before the Antichrist is undone, we see this.

**1 “At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people.**

Most scholars understand Michael as the angel who has charge of the Jewish people. He usually shows up in that context. Could it be all of God's people he is in charge of? Maybe. But isn't it interesting to see that an angel has a job description- **in charge of God's people**. We will never know that by watching our lives. We only know that because God tells us. God sends angels to help us. We are probably all here as a result of that.

**And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time.**

I believe all the futurists believe this is in the middle of the 7 years described in Daniel. The antichrist comes to power. There is peace for 3 ½ years and then

utter suffering for the people of God for 3 ½ years. They would say this is describing the last 3 and ½ years of suffering.

Other scholars put this in the past or in the future some times.

I think it has to be in the future based on what is said next.

I don't want to expand too much on this time of trouble. But it is very important that we get this into our heads. We must understand that this time of suffering is ordained by God. It is no surprise. He has given us 2 ½ thousand years advance warning. If we think about how much suffering there has been since **the first nation**, that is a lot of suffering. This will be worse. If we live to this time, we must know that it is **serving a purpose**. We must know that God did not fall asleep. This is not proof that **God does not care**. He still cares about His children. We do not need to **agonize** about **how we will face it**. That is a waste of today. We need not worry. But we must understand that this time of trouble does not prove anything bad about God. All it proves is that He is **getting ready to restore** all of His children to **live in His presence** in an environment designed for their maximum joy.

We continue...

**But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.**

If this just said that your people shall be delivered, we might think they were **politically** delivered. But the context leads us to conclude that this is much more final than that.

This is the **final deliverance**. This is the deliverance we long for deep in our souls. This is the day a believer's dreams come true. It is ok that when we read this, we might not feel that way. We are often absorbed in work with people that we love. We love our children. We love our families. We love our church friends. We do not know what this other world **is like** other than **what we read**. But once we are there, we will say **"YES"**. This is what I have wanted all my life. Finally this yearning in my soul to be more than what I am will be met. This is where my soul is free to be happy. We will no longer want to sin and not want to sin. No more of this struggle with who we are deep down. This meets my needs and cravings more than any other point in my life. We will be delivered from **being fallen** to being **completely restored**. We will be utterly safe and living the fullest life possible. That is what is coming. But there is **trouble** between here and there. And the closer we get to the end, the greater the trouble gets.

Now who gets in?

**everyone whose name shall be found written in the book**

This is the book of life. Every believer's name has been written in that book from the beginning of time. We see that referred to in Rev 13:8

**8 and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.**

Logically our name was either written before the foundation of the world or it is not. This is God's bookkeeping so there will be no mistakes.

This is the list you want to be on. And if you are in Christ, if you have faith in Christ and your life has the marks of a Christian on it, then you are safe.

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

This is going to be very strange. Dead people will show up. Many. We are talking about multiple billions of people if it is everyone. One could imagine some logistic problems there. But evidently God has a way of sorting quickly.

There are only two destinations. **Everlasting life** and **everlasting contempt**. That is it. We do well, above any other thing in life, to make sure our salvation is secure, to work out our salvation with fear and trembling.

Our walk with Christ is worth it, whatever it may cost us. There is a **certain payoff** at the end and **many blessings** along the way. We need to hang in there.

A life apart from Christ is **never** worth living. It has **no future**. It is destined for **suffering**. When we see our lives clearly, we will pity any person who does not know Christ. No matter what they have today, they **will not have** what **we have** tomorrow. This life is the best it will be for them. This life is the worst it will be for us. And what they **had** was never worth what they **paid for it**.

I lose this awareness often. I can be around those who do not know Christ and never make a point of at least trying to tell them the gospel. I am repenting of that attitude. I hope that this year we have many opportunities to warn people about their destination if they do not know Christ.

**3 And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.**

We can see what will be valued on the day of judgment.

Those who are wise. Who are those who are wise? The people who **lived for eternity**. The people who **lived for Christ**. The people who did not **believe the world** or **follow the world**, but who surrendered their lives to Christ in this life.

These people will stand out. This will be their big day. And the more their choices were made **in light of eternity**, the **more** they will shine.

And what else? **those who turn many to righteousness**

What influence do we have on people? What effect are we having? Are we pouring **our lives** into **other people's lives** to help them live godly lives? In any given week, how much effort are we spending to help others follow Jesus? I think that is what this is talking about. Evangelism and discipleship, the mission of every believer. The people doing that will be wise.

May God drive us to prayer this year. May we pray that God makes us more and more aware of the needs of the people around us. May we spend more time and effort in the mission we were sent here for. To raise our kids well. To support our spouse's spiritual walks. To reach out to our coworkers or associates in the world. To help our church members and outside friends and family. Those people are the only eternal things in our lives.

**4 But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end.**

So Daniel was to seal up the book. Often other copies would be made of scrolls back then, and the original would be sealed in such a way that they were authenticated to be genuine. The seals said that they were **the real deal**, as well as restricting anyone from opening them **without the proper authority**.

This book was not for Daniel. This book was for future generations. And it may be that the final generation will see with absolute clarity what it was that Daniel was predicting.

**Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."**

I am not sure if this is talking about a growth of information at the end times like we are experiencing today and the frantic search by the world for something that makes sense.

Or it could be that the closer we get to the end the more our knowledge will increase as we rely upon the prophesy of Daniel to help us make sense of it.

**Secular humanism** believes that in our process of evolution, the human race will be **saved by information**. Human civilization has never had **more access to more information** than it does right now, yet it has never been more confused. This might be good evidence for the humanist to throw their theories aside. They do not work.

**5 Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream. 6 And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, "How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?"**

We are not given the details of who the others are, although they are most likely angels.

Then someone who Daniel may not have been able to see asked a question of the third man clothed in linen who was above the waters of the stream.

I am not sure what importance any of those details have.

But this is the question.

**“How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?”**

When we think about this time this is near the end, this time of great suffering for the church, when we think of this wicked man being so much in control on the earth, when nothing seems to show any signs of God’s intervention for His people, the logical question is **How Long?** God, How long will you allow this to continue. This is the same question that the souls under the altar ask in Revelation. They ask in Rev 6:10 **how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”**

This is not an unreasonable question. After all, we know that **God is good**. We know that **God loves His children**. We know that **God hates wickedness**. It is perfectly reasonable to ask **“How Long.”** Sometimes that is a much better question than **“Why”**. If we know God’s character, we know that God will not allow this to continue one more second after it quits serving Gods eternal purposes. God never allows pain for pain’s sake. The moment suffering ceases to be necessary for the people of God, it will disappear. That is like our God.

**7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.**

The two hands raised is probably showing us that this is the most solemn of oaths. He is essentially saying- I promise you by the word of God that it will only be for 3 ½ years.

It will only be for a short period of time.

It will not **seem** like a short period of time. When we are healthy, a day is short.

When we have a severe toothache or earache, a day seems like forever.

So this will be for **3 ½ years**. There are many scholars who think this is a symbolic time and not an actual time. Our brother Godfrey would say it is symbolic. I am not so sure.

Now what is the **shattering of the power of the holy people**. Most futurists think this has much to do with the Jewish people. But it would not need to be that. It

could be that the Christians have lost all their influence in this world. The last person who would respond to the gospel has responded. The power of the gospel is ended.

Whatever it is, there is a **clear end in sight**. God is not going to allow it to linger on and on. He has the beginning and the end planned. We can trust Him. He knows what He is doing. Nothing is out of control.

Now I take a lot of comfort in the next verse.

**8 I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, "O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?"**

That could be my theme for the last 6 chapters in Daniel. **I read but I did not understand**. I am thankful that I am not alone in this. And Daniel asked, what is the outcome of this? What are the results?

Notice what comes next.

The angel does not answer.

The angel does not answer.

Sometimes we are to live with the questions. It keeps our minds occupied and challenged. And think about it. **We** do not need to know everything when the **one we trust** already does.

This non answer would have required Daniel to trust God. He has to **trust God** for something while **not understanding it**.

Does that sound familiar?

How many times in our lives have we not been able to make sense of a trial we are going through, something that just seems to happen randomly to us? We want an explanation to help us make sense of things. But none comes. So we learn to trust that **God knows what He is doing** while we have **no idea** of what He is doing.

Daniel had to live with the mystery. The angel did not answer Daniel's question.

**9 He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.**

Much of our lives consists of **living while waiting**. I think our study of Daniel has been partly that. We don't know what the prophesy means. So we go our way, we do the work in front of us today, we do our jobs and raise our kids, and minister to who we can minister to, while we wait to see how the future unfolds. When we need to have clarity about the future, it will be given to us. But for now, we obey what is clear and right in front of our noses.

**10 Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined,**

Many shall purify themselves. Wait a minute. Isn't it **Christ** who does that **to us**? Isn't it Christ who purifies us? Yes. In **justification**, which is **monergistic**- (one energy) done by only one, Christ took away the guilt and penalty of our sin once and for all.

But what about **sanctification**. That is **synergistic**. (multiple energies) That is the work of two parties. It is us and God, us doing the work that God has enabled us to be able to do. So there is a sense that we are choosing a path of purification, of sanctification, of putting off and putting on, of dying to ourselves.

But notice, we may be **actively involved** in the activity of sanctification, of purifying ourselves and making ourselves white, conforming to the image of Christ, but the refining **happens to us**. We are **being refined**. God is choosing the circumstances to put us in that will **get rid of the stuff** that should not be in our lives and having us more committed to those things that please Him. The refining is done **to us**.

What verse 10 is saying is that this is what God's people will be doing.

**but the wicked shall act wickedly.**

What about the wicked? Notice that is anyone who is not actively going through sanctification? There isn't a third category. This is no Christian who is not actively in the process of purification.

The wicked will do what they are. They will keep doing wicked stuff, even when it appears to be good stuff. They are powerless to do anything else.

**And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand.**

Look at this. What won't the wicked understand? I think the angel is talking about understanding **what is happening**. As they are watching the news on tv or internet, the world is going to interpret the events very differently than believers will. I think the world is going to think that the antichrist forces, no matter how it works out, are working toward world peace and order. I think they will believe that a utopia is on the horizon. But Christians will know that the end is near.

**11 And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days. 12 Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days. 13 But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."**

This is an addition to what was said earlier.

In the first reference to the 3 ½ years we are told **when it will end**. When **the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end**, the final judgment will occur.



But here we are told when it **will start**. And this is clearly in Jewish terms. They could be symbolic terms. I am really uncertain about this.

**11 And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days.**

So this event starts the time clock. For this to be literal, there must be a temple rebuilt. I am to the place that if I see the Temple rebuilt, I am going to believe that the **futurists** might be right about more things than the **idealist** view gives them credit for. If the temple gets built and sacrifices are offered, this could all be very literal. So keep these passages in your mind.

No one is really sure why there is a different number of days in verse 11 and verse 12. Maybe it is just letting people know that they are very very close to Christ's return at this point.

Whatever the case the book of Daniel ends with this:

**13 But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."**

I think it is very fitting for us as well today as we move on to our next book. Brad is giving us an introduction to Thessalonians next week.

You and I should **go our way**, with our questions intact. It is ok. And we will either have to use Daniel's prophecies, or we won't. Daniel did not **need** to understand. We **might** need to. But if these events are not in our future, the same instructions apply. We do not need to worry about the future. We need to **go our way**. We need to walk our path that the word of God illuminates for us. And what is promised to all believers who live until they die?

**you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days.**

Christ had a place prepared for Daniel. As He has a place prepared for all believers. Daniel will arrive at that place and no one will stop that. That is true for us as well. We will arrive at our allotted place.

**[Jhn 14:1-4 ESV] 1 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. 4 And you know the way to where I am going."**

This was **Daniel's** hope. This is **our** hope also. This life may be full of the **temporal blessings** of God. We may have lives full of **meaningful relationships** and **little hardship**. Or our lives might be filled with temporary suffering and anguish. But no matter what the case, our course is to **do the next faithful thing**. And every day we can wake up with the full assurance that there is **coming a day**

when **every hardship** will seem small in comparison to that which we are given. Christ literally has a room for you. He has a spot for you prepared that will be your dream home. It will be what you have hoped for and searched for all your life.

And **He is coming back**.

I wish that we would all gravitate back to this truth every 5 minutes. How it changes our perspectives on the difficulties we have now. This future is coming. It is not a theory. It is a reality. We are all driven to be happy. This will be our ultimate happy place. It will be like the best of this life without the down side. This is the one place we can **allow our imaginations to roam**. Normally when we do that reality disappoints us. That will not be true here. God has a room for you. God has an appointed spot for you if you are in Christ.

What a great truth to end the book of Daniel on.

What **applications** should we focus on this morning?

There have been so many in the book of Daniel. I think the one that Daniel would have gotten firmly in his mind is that there are way more things going on in this world than we **can control**. There are more things going on in our lives than we **can understand**. We are a tiny meaningful speck in God's huge plan for the future of mankind. We need not worry about **how big God's plan is**. We need not worry about **how small our part is**. We simply need to get up tomorrow and trust our God to carry **out His plan** while we do **our tiny part**. And our tiny part **matters** to God. He **knows** us. And he has a place prepared for the "**us**" that He created us to be. So tomorrow morning, we will wake up in the middle of God's huge plan, and we **go our way**, to **do His will** in our small lives. And it all matters to God very much.