

# The End of the Age

📖 Daniel 12:1-13

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📅 October 16, 2016

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**Q:** Sometimes in the past you have said certain Scriptures are for Israel only i.e. Jer 29:11. I know context, context, context but aren't we as believers supposed to apply all of God's word to our lives?

**A:** Interpretation is one, application is many. You discover the single interpretation and then you discover many applications.

In the passage you mentioned: Jer 29:10-14. "For thus says the Lord, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup>For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup>Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup>You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup>I will be found by you,' declares the Lord, 'and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the Lord, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.'

The interpretation of the passage is to Israel, God's people in the OT. The interpretation is that the generation of Judah who lived to the end of the seventy-year exile in Babylon would be partially restored when they called on Him and sought Him and in the end both Judah and Israel would be restored when they called on Him and sought Him with all their hearts. Application of the passage can be made to the Church, God's people in the NT. The application is that believers under divine discipline will be restored to fellowship when they call on Him and seek Him. So yes, there is application of the principles of divine discipline and restoration that apply to both Israel and believers in the Church. My qualm has been that this passage has been applied to America. But the application is to the people of God, not to nations. Observe that you can apply the principles of verse 11 to the believer's life today. God has a plan for the believer's life, plans for welfare, to give believers today a future and a hope. That welfare, future and hope are our resurrection and reign as servant kings with Christ in the millennium. So interpretation is one, application is many. All Scripture is not to us but it is all for us. I have been saying this my entire ministry. I hope there is no confusion on this point. I always give the interpretation of the passages we are studying and then almost always make application of the principles. I learned this from Paul in 1 Cor 10:1-11 who says Israel went through what they went through to be an example for us so that we would learn from their mistakes and not repeat them.

**Q:** Does the timing of the Rapture and Tribulation depend upon when the Jewish people believe in Christ as their Messiah? God knows but that could take another 2,000 years or more, maybe!

**A:** No. You are living in a very unique time. It is not going to take another 2,000 years. I'm not a prophet or the son of a prophet but in the last 71 years we have seen the entire stage set for the end-times drama to unfold. To me it is unthinkable that God would somehow now put things on hold. What has happened in the last 71 years was utterly unthinkable 75 years ago. Israel wasn't even a country; they were being exterminated across Europe. Now they are a thriving State with Jerusalem as its capital leading the world in virtually every field of thought. This means that God is at work preparing the stage for end-times events to unfold and He is not going to slow down now. Look up for your salvation draws near.

To answer your other question, neither the Rapture nor the Tribulation is dependent on when the Jewish people believe in Jesus as their Messiah.

As for the Rapture, the timing of the Rapture depends on the plan of God. Presumably, when the last person who is to enter the Church believes the gospel the rapture will occur (Rom 11:25; Eph 4:13?). From the human standpoint nobody can know this because God has not revealed it. Therefore, we can't predict the Rapture. This is why it is presented in Scripture as something that can happen at-any-moment. For example, in 1 Thess 1:10 it says we are "to wait for His Son from heaven." The word translated "wait" is from *αναμενω* which means "to wait expectantly." When you're waiting expectantly for someone you know they are coming but you don't know exactly when. That is the point. We are to be waiting expecting for Him to come for us.

As for the timing of the Tribulation, the timing of the Tribulation depends on when the anti-Christ enters a covenant with the leadership of Israel. For that to happen he has to be a major world politician. Dan 9:27, "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week." "He" is the anti-Christ; "the many" are the leadership of Israel. He will enter this covenant sometime after the Rapture. This will begin the Tribulation.

As for the Second Coming, the timing of the Second Coming depends, from the divine view point, exactly seven years after the beginning of the Tribulation, and from the human standpoint, on the Jewish people uttering the Messianic greeting. Jesus taught this human condition in Matt 23:39 where He said, "You [Israel] will not see Me until you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." That is a quote from Ps 118:26. It means Jesus will not come back until the Jewish people welcome Him back. When they do He will return to earth at the Second Coming and rescue them from their enemies.

So the timing of the Rapture depends on when the last person to believe and be a part of the Church which is only in the unrevealed plan of God; the timing of the Tribulation depends on when anti-Christ makes the covenant with the leadership of Israel and the timing of the Second Coming depends on when the Tribulation runs its course and Israel utters the Messianic greeting.

**Q:** If the Jews will be protected in Petra for the last three and a half years of the Tribulation then what will keep enemy aircraft from destroying them from the air?

**A:** This answer has two aspects. First, modern military equipment may be inoperable due to catastrophic seal and trumpet judgments. These judgments shake the whole heavens and earth and will therefore incapacitate satellites, power lines, etc., necessary to modern weaponry. During the sixth seal an earthquake that shakes the entire earth will take place. The sixth seal is easily within the first half of the tribulation. Israel will be in Petra during the second half of the tribulation. Therefore, modern weaponry that depends heavily on technology, such as fighter jets, will not be operational during the second half of the tribulation when Israel is at Petra. Second, their protection and provision at Petra will be supernaturally provided for by God. Rev 12:14-16, "But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent." The expression "wings of the great eagle" comes from Exod 19:4 where it is a figure of speech depicting "miraculous assistance." It does not refer to the US or Israeli Air Force. Verse 15, "And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood." The serpent is Satan and he is trying to destroy Israel as they flee. But, verse 16, "the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth." The earth opening up is the miraculous assistance God will provide Israel during that time. So one answer with two aspects, enemy aircraft will not be operational during that time due to the catastrophic global judgments and also God will miraculously assist them as He did at the Exodus.

Alright, we're coming from Daniel 11:40-45 into Daniel 12 and today we'll finish the book and next week we'll review so this is a good opportunity to get questions answered about Daniel. In Daniel 10-12 an angel is explaining to Daniel things to come. This is one of the most awesome prophecies because in Daniel 11 alone there are more than 150 prophecies. And we have record that was fulfilled quite literally in Herodotus, Josephus, and 1 and 2 Maccabees. In this revelation the angel predicted the wars of the Seleucids and Ptolemies, he predicted Antiochus Epiphanes IV who heavily persecuted the Jews and he predicted a greater than Antiochus whom we refer to as anti-Christ, the final ruler of the Roman Empire and most extreme persecutor of the Jews. If the Seleucids, Ptolemies and Antiochus were all fulfilled literally then we expect anti-Christ to be fulfilled literally. In Daniel 11:40 the angel is explaining that when the anti-Christ comes on the scene he will rise to power meteorically through warfare. There will be an Arab alliance involving Syria and Egypt that storms against him. This could take place after the rapture but before the formation of the seven-year covenant giving the anti-Christ credence in the eyes of Israel. In verse 40 he's victorious and he enters into other countries and conquers them too. In 11:41 He also enters the Beautiful Land, which is Israel, and this is when he would presumably enter into the covenant with the leadership of Israel. Isaiah calls it a covenant with death, a pact with Sheol, because this will come back to haunt them at the mid-point when he turns on Israel and persecutes them. He will also enter other countries and defeat them, expanding his empire further in the Middle East. However, three lands are

mentioned as escaping his hand; Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon. These are all in modern day Jordan. They are territories that will be left unconquered. In 11:42 he will stretch out his hand against other countries, and the land of Egypt to the south will not escape. In 11:43, he will take over the riches of Egypt of Libya and Ethiopia, all in North Africa, but his military machine will be halted in 11:44 when he hears rumors from the East and the North. The East could be Iran; the North could be Russia. The directions are with respect to Israel, the prophecy could relate to the Battle of Gog and Magog described in Ezek 38-39. He will be disturbed and go back to the land of Israel only to find these armies completely destroyed supernaturally. Because his military advance was stifled he will commit the abomination of desolation and turn against the Jewish people with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many. In 11:45 he will pitch his royal military tent in between the seas at the beautiful Mt Zion and after three and a half years he will come to his end and no one will help him. Nobody can help him because Jesus will come back and destroy him. Another possibility is this could refer to his being assassinated and then coming back to life. I don't know. In any case this brings us to Dan 12 and the angel Michael and this we know is at the mid-point.

**Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise.**

Apparently if he has to arise to guard he's been lying down and that's simply because there's nothing to do during the first half of the seven years; Israel will be at peace under the anti-Christ but at the mid-point the situation turns against Israel and so **Michael will arise**. This shows angelic involvement in history. We saw that in Daniel 10 where Daniel prayed and fasted for twenty-one days, the prayer had reached the throne room of God instantly and God dispatched an angel to go and answer Daniel's prayer, but the angel got tangled up in a battle with the prince of Persia, which is Iran, in the air space over Persia for twenty-one days and that was the explanation for the delay in answered prayer. The prince of Persia was evidently a demon serving under Satan and given the responsibility of protecting the airspace over Persia. Now we see another angel, **Michael**, and this time it's at the mid-point of the seven years. He will arise on behalf of Daniel's **people**. Daniel's **people** are Israel so it follows that Michael is the guardian angel of the nation Israel. Angels have many functions, one of which is to guard God's people, to protect them. I have no evidence that every believer is assigned a guardian angel at the time of their salvation but I do have evidence that God sends angels to minister to us. And here we see an angel sent to minister to Israel in her time of distress.

One of the doctrinal fallouts of Michael's protection of Israel here is obviously that God intends to fulfill His covenants to Israel. God promised them a land, a seed and a blessing and those promises will ultimately be fulfilled, but the means of protecting Israel's existence in history so that they can be fulfilled is Michael, the great prince. So God is using this angel to protect them until that time. By application we should know that God often uses means to accomplish His will in our lives. He doesn't always act directly, He may, but He often uses responsible creatures to carry out various things in our lives. He prompts us to pray, He uses angels to answer our prayers, He uses our preaching of the gospel to save people, He uses economics to shift global power, He uses all kinds of things in His creation to bring about His purposes. So there are means that God uses to bring

about His plan in history and this means prayer is important, preaching is important, economics is important, angels are important, never downplay these things because God has decided to use them to bring His plan to pass. And here He is using Michael to protect Israel until the time for Him to fulfill His covenants to Israel.

Another doctrinal fallout of Michael is seen by his being called the **great prince**. This shows there is a hierarchy among the angels, there is rank and angels are very concerned about rank. That helps explain some difficult passages in the NT. For example, it helps explain why Paul instructed the women at Corinth to wear a head covering. He says, "because of the angels." And people say, "What does that mean?" Why do women have to wear head-coverings because of the angels? Well, it had something to do with the rank of male and female in God's order such that when that rank was not recognized in that culture then the angels were offended. Good angels are offended by breaking rank. And isn't that what Satan did from the beginning? He broke rank. So I take it that this hierarchy among the angels is very important and here we have a high, high ranking angel, **Michael, the great prince**; he's assigned to protect Israel in this difficult time.

So **at that time Michael, the great prince...will arise**. He's been laying down, no reason to arise but now there is a reason. **there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time**. The **time of distress** is because anti-Christ has moved his military headquarters into Jerusalem, that's Daniel 11:45. Rev 13 says that by this time he will be indwelt personally by Satan. Satan hates Israel. Satan wants to destroy Israel at this time because he's already been kicked out of heaven and his only move is to stop Israel from issuing the Messianic greeting, welcoming Jesus' coming. So this time of distress is due to His attempt to annihilate Israel at this time. His vehicle is the anti-Christ, a genuine human being who, like Judah's, will be personally motivated to destroy the Jews.

So at this time Israel will face an unparalleled **time of distress** and since there can be only one unparalleled time of distress then we link in Jer 30:6-7, "Alas! for that day is great, There is none like it; And it is the time of Jacob's distress, But he will be saved from it." Matt 24:21, "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will." All three passages described a period of unparalleled distress and all three are referring to the period of time the angel describes in verse 7 as "a time, times and half a time," which is the last half of the seven-year tribulation.

So **Michael** arises to protect during this time and now we see how God will supernaturally protect and nourish the nation Israel during this time in Petra and along the routes of escape. He will do it by means of Michael. Again, God often uses supernatural means to accomplish His plan.

So Satan is attempting to prevent Christ from fulfilling His covenanted program with Israel by destroying them all but the verse promises that **everyone who is found written in the book will be rescued**. The verb **rescued** refers to a physical deliverance or rescue away from the persecution of the anti-Christ. Scripture mentions several books where God keeps records. This **book** apparently contains the names of Jewish believers who will

be miraculously preserved through the time of distress so that they will enter the kingdom in mortal bodies. Not every Jew in that time is written in the book. Zech 13:8-9 says that two-thirds of the of the Jews in the land at that time will be destroyed and one-third will be rescued; so one-third of the nation living in the land at that time are redeemed and they will be the one's rescued and taken into the millennial kingdom in mortal bodies, Michael is the one who will protect them. It shows you how powerful an angel can be. Angels are powerful warriors that can protect millions of people. If your idea of an angel is a cuddly winged creature who sits around on a cloud and plays harp you don't have the biblical idea. In Scripture they are giant warriors who enter into fierce combat with demons that can last for weeks and years on end. So this note that Michael will arise and protect them during this time as a powerful warrior will give Jewish believers at the time hope. In the end he will be successful and the remnant will survive, every last one whose name is **written in the book**, and they will enter the kingdom and its covenanted blessings.

At that time, Daniel 12:2, **Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.** This indicates the timing of the resurrection of OT saints is at the Second Coming. NT saints are raised at the rapture. There are different times when believers are raised but they are all part of the first resurrection. The OT saints are raised to enjoy the fulfillment of their covenant promises in the kingdom.

Take note of the word **sleep** because it's a beautiful euphemism signifying physical death. When a believer dies we say they are asleep. The body sleeps; the soul does not sleep. When we die our bodies sleep in the dust of the ground. God said to Adam when he sinned, "from dust you came and to dust you shall return." So the body decays but the angel says those who **sleep in the dust...will awake.** For them to **awake** means they will be resurrected. So when your believing family and friends pass away their body is only asleep but one day they will wake up. And when you read in the NT, 1 Thess 4:13-18 and 1 Cor 15:50-55, both rapture passages, those NT saints who have fallen asleep in Jesus will all be made alive at the rapture, but they will not all sleep, but they will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. It's a unique church truth that one generation of believers will not die but will be transformed into resurrection bodies and together we will all be with the Lord. But that's the Church; here he's speaking of Israel and those of the believing remnant of Israel who die during the Tribulation **will awake**, be resurrected **to everlasting life** to enjoy the covenanted blessings in the kingdom along with those who are rescued and go into the kingdom in mortal bodies. So in the kingdom there will be Jews who are raised immortal and those who remain mortal entering into the covenant blessings.

And you might also take note of the expression **everlasting life** because this is the first use of eternal life in the entire Bible. And the first use refers to life in the millennial kingdom. That's why what John does with eternal life in his gospel is so radical because he says if you believe you have everlasting life right now and yet right now is not in the kingdom. This was a new revelation of everlasting life and it means that we are right now sons of the

kingdom and heirs of the kingdom and so the eternal life we have now is a down payment of the fullness of life we will enjoy in the kingdom to come.

Everlasting life is something worth studying out. If you really flesh it out you discover there are three facets to everlasting life; one, we possess it right now by faith alone, two, we can enjoy it right now if we live by faith and three, we will enjoy it to the fullest degree in the coming kingdom. And when you think about everlasting life most people think about duration of life, but actually the key component is quality of life. Eternal life does include the concept of duration but the core concept is quality of life. Believers have a higher quality of life simply by possessing eternal life. That quality is enjoyed as we live by faith. And the future belongs to us. Unbelievers have very shallow quality of life relative to believers. And please don't ever say what I've heard some Christians say; that unbelievers have eternal life because they will be resurrected too. No unbeliever has eternal life, they have eternal existence and eternal death but they do not have eternal life. Eternal life is something only those who believe possess. Jesus said, "He who believes in Me has eternal life." So if you don't believe in Him you don't have it. You have eternal death and will dwell forever in the second death. And here is the first usage of everlasting life in the Bible and it refers to life in the kingdom to come, but we know now that we can possess it and enjoy it now to some extent prior to the kingdom's arrival.

Note that **many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake**, they'll be raised, **these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt**. The **many who sleep in the dust that will awake to everlasting life** are OT saints, **the others** raised to **disgrace and everlasting contempt** are OT non-believing Jews. Jews, just like Gentiles, have to have the same faith as Abraham to be raised and enter the kingdom. It's always by faith, in all ages, in all times, salvation is by faith alone, the content a person believes may change with progressive revelation until the cross work of Christ, but the response of faith toward God has always been the same. And note that those who don't have faith will also be raised but not to everlasting life but rather to **disgrace and everlasting contempt**. The timing of unbeliever's resurrection isn't noted here but Rev 20 would be given later to teach that it will be after the millennial kingdom at the Great White Throne. So they will be raised to everlasting disgrace and everlasting contempt and you see the same Hebrew word is used of everlasting life as of everlasting disgrace so you can't say that the resurrection unto eternal death in the lake of fire is any less eternal than the eternal life in the new heaven and earth. Both are everlasting in duration. There is no such thing as annihilationism, the concept that unbelievers undergo some temporal punishment and are then annihilated. No, they must face everlasting punishment, a horror.

So Dan 12:1-2 says that all the believing remnant of Israel will enter the kingdom, some in mortal bodies, those who are alive and remain at the end of the seven years as well as those who died before. So both mortal Jews and immortal will go into the kingdom. Those who were part of the non-remnant will be raised later to experience everlasting disgrace and contempt.

Daniel 12:3, **Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.** Now the angel employs parallelism between **those who have insight** and **those who lead** them to insight. Paul in Romans says that right now in the Church age the nation Israel is partially blinded, they don't have insight and that's a partial blinding God put upon the nation for their failure to recognize their Messiah. But when the fullness of the Gentiles comes in at the rapture then their blindness will be removed and God will send the two witnesses and the 144,000 to lead **many Jews to righteousness**, that is, to faith in the Messiah.

Then those who **have insight** and understand the times in which they are living **will shine like the brightness of the expanse of heaven**, in other words, in the kingdom both those who have insight and those who lead them to insight will be rewarded. And there are different degrees of rewards that will be dispensed just like there are different degrees of brightness of stars in the heavens. So in the kingdom some will have more rewards than others. I liken the doctrine of rewards to everyone having a full cup of glory but some having a bigger cup than others. And yet those with smaller cups won't be comparing themselves with those who have bigger cups. Everyone will be pleased with their size cup. And the size of cup corresponds to the ability to glorify God for all eternity. So rewards are our capacity to glorify God; and the more rewards the more ability to glorify God. That's why there's nothing wrong with wanting rewards. Paul said, I run so as to win the prize. Paul wanted to win rewards. I want to win rewards. People say you shouldn't want rewards, that's selfish, and if your desire for rewards is selfish then they're right. But if your desire for rewards is so that you will be able to glorify God more fully then there is nothing wrong with that. Rewards are your ability to reflect and radiate the glory of God back to Him, so you should want to have all the rewards you can get and besides, they are the result of life by the Spirit and so life now is enjoyable as well as then. All verse 3 is teaching is that when believing Jews are raised to go into the kingdom they will be rewarded according to what they have done.

Daniel 12:4, **But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.** Now that has nothing to do with speed of travel. The speed of travel has increased; planes, trains and automobiles, but that's not what this is talking about. First of all, it's talking about protecting the Book of Daniel. It could refer exclusively to this final vision but I think he's talking about securing a written document recording all the visions and dreams he had so that those Jews who live **in the end of time** will have access to these prophecies which will be so important in explaining what is going on. It's interesting that when rabbinic students today ask their rabbi's what Daniel 9 is all about the rabbi's will tell them they can't study that Scripture. They're discouraged from reading Daniel. And really Daniel is a closed book to them, they don't understand it, we understand far more about it than they do, in fact we understand more about it than Daniel did if you scan down at verse 8. Walvoord used to say, we know more about Daniel than Daniel. And that's right.

We've seen so much of this unfold. But you can see in the **end of time** the Jews **will go back and forth**, they'll be searching for knowledge and they'll find it in the Book of Daniel and when they do **knowledge will increase**. They'll understand the prophecy of the seventy sevens, they'll understand they crucified their Messiah, they'll understand the times of the Gentiles is a period of divine discipline, they'll understand that Antiochus foreshadowed anti-Christ, they'll understand all of this as it is transpiring around them, but until then the nation won't understand because they are partially blinded, that's Romans 11.

Daniel 12:5, **Then I, Daniel, looked and behold, two others were standing, one on this bank of the river and the other on that bank of the river.** So now we're going to get a peek into an angelic conversation in light of all this. Angels have been listening in and so verse 6, **And one said to the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "how long will it be until the end of these wonders?"** Inquiring minds want to know and you can see that even angels have inquiring minds. Angels aren't omniscient, angels have questions, they're interested in God's plan for history and so this angel asks, **how long until the end of these wonders**, and I take it that he's referring back to 11:45-12:1, how long will it be from the time anti-Christ moves his military headquarters into Jerusalem and initiates the time of distress upon the people of Israel, how long until the end of that distress? And the answer is given, Daniel 12:7, **for a time, times, and half a time...as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these things will be completed.** So the answer is **a time, times and half a time.** **A time** is one year, **times** is two years, and **half a time** is half a year because I'm looking back at Daniel 9:27, the last seven years on Israel's calendar; and one plus two is three plus one half is three and a half years. So three and a half years from the middle of the seven-year covenant, that's how long the distress will go on. The Book of Revelation calls this period of time 42 months and 1260 days, so the years are 360 day years and that's the length of the original creation year as we pointed out in the Daniel 9 prophecy of seventy sevens.

Daniel 12:8, **As for me, I heard but could not understand.** Again, we know more about Daniel than Daniel. Daniel didn't understand. That can happen when you hear the word of God, you don't understand the word of God. Nobody said you were going to understand it all. It takes lifetimes of study. Daniel didn't understand this prophecy. So he had a follow up question, **My lord, what will be the outcome of these events?** That is, what is the end? The final situation? The final outcome? Answer verse 10, **Many will be purged, purified and refined,** that's the purpose of the last half of the seven years, to **purge many**, not all, but many Israelites to belief in Jesus as the Messiah. So that time period is designated by God as a period of fiery judgment upon the nation Israel in order to purge many of them to faith in Jesus as the Messiah and to refine them in preparation for rewards in the kingdom. So the **many** refer to the believing remnant, **but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand.** So there's your distinction between the remnant and the non-remnant. Those who understand are the remnant, those who are wicked do not understand. Understanding the Scriptures is the key for the nation Israel in the last days; it's interesting, they don't understand the Scriptures today, they understand Judaism but not the Scriptures, there are differences between Judaism and the Scriptures. Judaism uses the Scriptures but its interpretation is a distortion of the

Scriptures. So in the last days the two witnesses and the 144,000 will go forth and lead many to a proper interpretation of the Scriptures, particularly of the Book of Daniel. I take it that Daniel will be a key end times book and I base that thinking on verse 4. I'd add Revelation in there too! It's the NT companion volume.

So you have a division in the nation Israel there in verse 10 between those who understand the Scriptures and those who do not, between believers and unbelievers. Verse 11 and here I think the reference is back to the mid-point again, **From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.** This is reminding us of Daniel 9:27 again, when the anti-Christ stops **regular sacrifice**, Rev 13 adds that the false prophet will come along and tell the earth-dwellers to set up an image of the anti-Christ in the temple of Jerusalem. That image is **the abomination of desolation**. And the false prophet will even make this image speak. And from the time that the image is **set up** until it is taken down **will be 1,290 days**. You say, that's not three and a half years, that's 30 days longer than three and a half years. Right, so the image remains set up in the temple of Jerusalem 30 days longer than the second half of the seven years, that's 30 days after Christ has already returned and cast the anti-Christ in the lake of fire. And the reason for this extra 30 days is because there is a time of transition from Christ's return to the official beginning of the kingdom. Several things have to take place like the judgment of Israel, the judgment of Gentiles, the removal of this image as well as the tribulation temple, the renovation of the earth and the building of a new temple as described in Ezekiel 40-46, all preparatory events for the kingdom. So the image of the beast remains for 30 days into the transition before it is taken down.

Daniel 12:12, **How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!** The 1,335 is 45 days longer than the 1,290 for a total of 75 days from the mid-point until the kingdom officially begins. There are other explanations but the 75 days seems to be the time of transition and when it concludes the kingdom will officially begin. And so the one who keeps waiting and attains to that day will enter the kingdom and that is why he is blessed, not only is he blessed but the text says **How blessed is he who** makes it and the reason is because the kingdom is the period of the greatest blessing in all history. This is where history is going. The kingdom is the unifying theme of the Bible. In the beginning God intended the first Adam to rule the earth as God's mediatorial king but he failed and handed it over to Satan who reigns but it will be taken back by the last Adam, Christ, who will reign for a thousand years. How blessed is he who enters into this period of history!

But, verse 13, Daniel will not live to see the kingdom come in his lifetime. He was ~ 85 when he received this vision so understandably he will not see it. He's going to die, then all the things he saw relative to Israel's discipline under Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome including the rising of a confederation of ten kings and then an eleventh king, the anti-Christ who would persecute Israel for three and a half years, would transpire, after which the kingdom of God would come. **But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age.** When the angel says **as for you, go your way to the end** he is saying, go to the end of your life Daniel, then you **will enter into rest**, you will die, when you die

the body is at rest, **and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age.** Daniel would be raised **at the end of the age.** The Jews viewed history as having two ages; the age leading up to Messiah and the Messianic age, which is the millennial kingdom. At the end of the age leading up to Messiah is when OT saints like Daniel, Moses and David will be raised. This is right after the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel and corresponds with the timing of 12:2 where the resurrection of OT saints is described. At that time, they will also receive their **allotted portion.** This refers to their rewards and corresponds to 12:3 which they will be given at that time for use in the kingdom.

In conclusion, Daniel did not understand all these things. We know more about Daniel than Daniel. Daniel would go on and die and his body would enter rest during which time the times of the Gentiles would transpire until the events of the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel take place including the most difficult time for Israel under the persecution of the anti-Christ, then the end will come, Daniel will be raised and rewarded with all other OT saints and then the eternal kingdom of God will come.

Next time we'll review Daniel, the key to prophetic revelation, by organizing in sequence the framework of the prophetic picture God revealed to Daniel. Until that time refresh your memory by reading through Daniel and reviewing the questions. If you have questions put those in the box today.