

▶▶ Daniel 12

Just a reminder as we begin, that Daniel 10-12 are basically a unit. The angel begins a literal explanation of all of the visions that Daniel has had to date. This time, however, the only thing near apocalyptic prophecy are the time periods which are explained in a day for a year principle.

We covered some of that in the last session. We saw how the historical method of interpretation leads us steadily down the arc of history to the fulfillment of all prophecy, the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Let's read:

▶▶ Daniel 12:1 (KJV)

¹ And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which stands for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

▶▶ We saw how Michael is a reference to Jesus when he goes to bat for his people. He stands up, which refers to a new king coming on the scene. The imposters are in trouble, as Jesus Christ comes to take dominion of this earth.

▶▶ Now this verse does not say *this* happens and then *that* happens. It seems more like the events are simultaneous. There is a terrible time of trouble. At the same time as, or because of the events taking place on the earth.

Now let me ask you, "What is the one thing that would bring the most trouble to the atheistic, agnostic, and apostate powers on this earth?"

The one thing that an imposter fears more than anything else is for the real deal to show up.

Of that time it is revealed in

▶▶ Revelation 6:14-17 (KJV)

¹⁴ And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

¹⁶ And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

¹⁷ For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Once we see the common biblical scenario where the righteous are delivered by the destruction of the enemy.

Delivered by a just God, who knows the records, the facts, not the feelings, of the people that he is delivering with joy.

More on that Sabbath.

Back to Daniel 12:2

►► **Daniel 12:2 (KJV)**

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

Now this passage is interesting. When Jesus returns, we are told that all of the righteous will be resurrected. Jesus also said that there is a resurrection of the righteous and a separate resurrection of the wicked.

Jesus seems to refer to another resurrection, that some call the special resurrection. That is found in:

►► **Mark 14:61-62 (NKJV)**

⁶¹ But He kept silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"

⁶² Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."

Now we know that those at Jesus' trial are not still alive today. So for that to be fulfilled, they must be resurrected so that they can behold his physical coming.

But there is one thing beyond doubt in this verse: Our actions and choices in life determine our eternal home. Will it be heaven, or will it be the grave. Will we live forever cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ, or will we be defiled and destroyed? We literally make that choice in our lives over and over.

Then verse 3 gives us a poetic couplet. This is seen more clearly in the NKJV.

►► **Daniel 12:3 (NKJV)**

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.

Here we have righteousness compared with shining, like the stars which are bright in heaven.

And if you have ever been in an isolated area with the moon was not seen, then you can see in your mind exactly the picture of the righteous that the angel shares. That is how God sees you when you tell someone about him. It is what our savior desires for us: to be brightly shining stars for him. That is just a small vision of the glory that he wants to bestow upon his people.

►► **Daniel 12:4 (KJV)**

⁴ But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, *even* to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

From the earliest times when I first had Daniel read to me, and then when I could read it myself, I heard preachers and teachers go into the great things that had happened in this world starting with the industrial revolution. From my grandma's day to now, we have gone from horse and buggy for most, to trains, to cars, to airplanes. It is nothing to hop into a plane and end up in another country on another day. Some of you have no doubt done that.

So my concept used to be that this referred to jetting around and knowledge of the technical and scientific world would explode. And it has.

But the last 20-30 years, I have begun to realize that the knowledge that the angel is speaking of is a knowledge of prophecy in general and the Book of Daniel specifically.

That is because, even in my lifetime, the understanding of the Book of Daniel has grown. As I have shared already in this seminar, the material out there on Daniel is huge. I have shared a lot of that with you, but there is a lot more. And the implications for righteous living, and preparedness for the Jesus 2nd coming are immense.

►► Throughout the Bible wisdom is associated with those who love and obey God. The promise is given that if anyone lacks wisdom, let him ask of God; and it shall be given him." James 1:5.

►► Another assurance is that "if any man wills to do His will, he shall know of the teaching." John 7:17.

So we can ask for wisdom about God's word and then be assured that we will receive it.

I am sure we will never reach the depths of meaning in Daniel until we are in the kingdom. Then maybe the same angel who talked to Daniel will share with us, and then we will see the big picture. Just another good reason to make it there, amen?

Now the narration by the angel stops at this point. Daniel is now once again given a vision.

Daniel 12:5-7 (KJV)

⁵ Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river.

⁶ And *one* said to the man clothed in linen, which *was* upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?

⁷ And I heard the man clothed in linen, which *was* upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that lives for ever that *it shall be* for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these *things* shall be finished.

Daniel sees two men, one on each side of the river, and the one clothed in linen hovering over the river.

One of the beings on the river bank asked the one in linen about the time frame of the vision.

Now have you noticed that in Daniel 11, there is an interesting lack of dates given? We do not find any, even symbolically.

So the one of the 2 men on the river bank are asking the one in linen about time. How long shall it be?

We have seen several time prophecies in Daniel so far.

Of course the 70 years of Jeremiah that Daniel was so concerned about.

Then there was the 70 weeks/490 years prophecy.

Then the 3 ½ time of 1260 years.

Then the 2300 day prophecy.

►► Verse 7b and swore by him that lives for ever that *it shall be* for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these *things* shall be finished.

Here we have the time, times and half a time or 3 ½ years or 1260 years again.

The parallels are Daniel 7:25, Daniel 11:32-35, which is not specific on the time, and Daniel 12:7. They all refer to the same time period.

Now as you can see, these are not giving new time prophecies that extend past the second coming, but rather they are supplying time frames to the prophecy of Daniel 11.

►► **Daniel 12:9-10 (KJV)**

⁹ And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words *are* closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

¹⁰ Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

Again, Daniel is told that the book was to be sealed until the time of the end. Then he says "and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand."

This does not say that none of the wicked can make an interpretation. He says that they will not understand. Why would they not understand, even though they thought they did? Because they deliberately chose a method of interpretation that turned the focus away from Jesus Christ to some evil power at the end of time.

The wise are those who keep focused on Jesus, his deliverance, his judgment, his sacrifice, his kingship, and his second coming for his saints.

►► Now we are introduced to some new time periods.

We will not go into detail, but just touch on them briefly.

►► The first is 1290 days. This period started with Clovis who was the agent that the papacy used to uproot the three peoples. It ends at the same time as the 1260 day prophecy in 1798.

Then there is the 1335 day/year prophecy that starts at the same time as the 1290 day prophecy and extends to 1843 when people started preaching the second coming of Jesus with power and conviction.

Let's hold on for more details until next Tuesday.

►► **The last verse in the book. Daniel 12:13 (KJV)**

¹³ But go thou thy way till the end *be*: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.

Daniel 12:13 (NKJV)

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."

Daniel had been looking for the return to Jerusalem for his people. The prophecies that he was given caused him confusion, because they all stretched longer than 70 years.

But here Daniel is given the promise of an eternal inheritance just like Abraham before.

Hebrews 11:8-10 (NKJV)

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

⁹ By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

Instead of the earthly Jerusalem that Daniel was pining for, he is promised the New Jerusalem at the end of time. He was told that he would arise and inherit all that God has in store for his faithful prophet.

But his gift will be no greater than that of any of us who is faithful.

All the faithful will be given eternal life. All the faithful will walk the streets of gold. All of the faithful will be given mansions. All of the faithful will have access to Jesus Christ. And we will be able to talk to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah, Nebuchadnezzar, and I hope Cyrus and Darius. What an experience that will be.

What do we know about that city? First off, God is the builder. He supplies the plans, the labor, and the materials. Gold, sapphires, rubies, pearls, jasper, and on and on.

►► Then he supplies the medicine that we need for healing from sin. That is provided by the leaves of the tree of life.

►► Instead of the glazed brick walls of Babylon, we will walk along on streets of gold. Instead of a muddy river Euphrates running through the city, we will have a river of life as clear as crystal flowing from the throne of God. Instead of the hanging gardens that were

made with brick, we will have the tree of life that sustains eternal life. Rather than a den of lions, we will play with lions and all kinds of beasts without any fear or concern. Instead of brick temple to Marduk, we will live in the very presence of the God of the universe. Instead of wicked men constantly trying to "get" us, we will live in the peace and harmony of a perfect universe. Instead of mansions made of mud brick and plastered, we will have grand rooms in God's house. Instead of the tears of sorrow and captivity, we will have the joy of freedom from sin and evil. Instead of the curse of sin that brings death and disease, we will have the throne of God that has conquered all evil.

Daniel is sleeping now. That is what the angel said that he would do.

But when Michael the prince stands up.. Well we can do no better than the text we read Saturday night..

▶▶ **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NKJV)**

¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Daniel is a unique book. No other Old Testament book has more timely words for the fast recurring crises of our days. No other gives the exact dates clustering around the first advent of the Messiah. Every event has been proven true. No other book cements our need for Jesus Christ so strongly. Christ our sacrifice, Christ our High Priest, Christ our soon coming King.

Let us heed the words of Christ Himself, who in His Olivet discourse quoted from Daniel the prophet, and said: "Let him that reads understand." Matthew 24:15