

DANIEL 12 | The Time of the End

Israel's Time of Distress

1 At that time [the great tribulation]¹ Michael (מִיכָאֵל) the great prince (הַשָּׂר הַגָּדוֹל), the protector (הַעֲמִיד) of the sons of your people [Israel],² shall arise. There shall be a time of distress (צָרָה) such as has never occurred since nations (גוֹי) first came into existence.³ But at that time your people [Israel] will flee to safety (מַלְטָה),⁴ all [the recent of Israel] who are found (מְצוּאָה) written (כְּתוּבָה) in the (סֵפֶר) book [of life].⁵ 2 Many (רַבִּימָה) of those who sleep in the dust of the earth will wake up (קִיּוּץ) [resurrection], some to everlasting life (חַיֵּי עוֹלָם) [believers at the first resurrection],⁶ and some to disgrace (תְּרַפָּה), to (דְּרָאוֹן עוֹלָם) everlasting

¹ The time the antimesiah of Revelation, not the time of Antiochus IV Epiphanes.

² The archangel Michael is the chief angelic protector of the nation of Israel.

³ Michael will arise during the tribulation to protect the remnant of Israel. Israel will need the protection because the tribulation will be a time of distress such as never occurred since the flood. **Joe 2:1-2** 1 Blow a trumpet in Zion. Sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of Yahweh is coming. It is near, 2 a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people. Their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations. **Mt 24:21-22** 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. 22 And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect [believers] those days will be cut short. **Mk 13:19** 19 In those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be.

⁴ See *The 12 R's of Israel's Future*. **Mt 24:15** 15 When you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

⁵ Based on his foreknowledge, God already knows who will comprise the tribulational Jewish remnant. God has written a book based on his foreknowledge of all human history. This book is not causative but descriptive. It doesn't cause what happens; it describes what happens from God's viewpoint outside of time. There are several books that God keeps (Ex 32:33; Ps 69:28; Mal 3:16; Lk 10:20; Re 20:12, 15). **Zec 13:8-9** 8 In the whole land, declares Yahweh, two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one third shall be left alive. 9 And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. **Ro 11:26** 26 And in this way all Israel will be saved.... **Re 13:8** 8 All who dwell on earth will worship [the beast], everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the *book of life* of the Lamb who was slain.

⁶ This is the first expression of "eternal life" in the Old Testament, and it's used in a messianic kingdom context.

abhorrence (וְאֵלֶּה לְחַרְפוֹת לְדַרְאוֹן עוֹלָם) [unbelievers at the second resurrection].⁷ 3 Those who understand (שָׂכַל) [disciples] will shine (זָהַר) like the shining (רָקִיעַ) of the firmament (זֹהַר),⁸ and those assisting many (רַבִּים) towards righteousness (צְדָקָה) [disciple makers] like the stars (כּוֹכָבִים) forever and ever (לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד).⁹ 4 But you, Daniel, keep the words preserved and the book sealed until the time of the end.¹⁰ Many shall run to and fro,¹¹ and knowledge (דְּעִתָּה) [of these things (progressive revelation)] shall increase.¹²

⁷ All human beings will rise again. Resurrection is universal. Believers will rise at the end of the tribulation to enter everlasting life. Unbelievers will rise at the end of the messianic kingdom to enter everlasting abhorrence. This verse strongly supports the idea unbelievers will not be annihilated in the lake of fire. Just as life is eternal for believers, disgrace and abhorrence are eternal for unbelievers. **Job 19:26** 26 And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God.... **Ps 17:15** 15 As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness. When I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness. **Ps 73:23-24** 23 Nevertheless, I am continually with you. You hold my right hand. 24 You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. **Is 25:8** 8 He will swallow up death forever, and Lord Yahweh will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for Yahweh has spoken. **Is 26:19** 19 Your dead shall live. Their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead. **Ho 13:14** 14 I shall ransom them from the power of Sheol. I shall redeem them from Death. O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting? **Mt 25:46** 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. **Jn 5:28-29** 28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment. **Re 20:4-6** 4 Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Messiah for a thousand years. 5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Messiah, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

⁸ **Da 11:33-35** 33 And the wise among the people shall make many understand, though for some days they shall stumble by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder. 34 When they stumble, they shall receive a little help. And many shall join themselves to them with flattery, 35 and some of the wise shall stumble, so that they may be refined, purified, and made white, until the time of the end, for it still awaits the appointed time.

⁹ Believers who understand God and his plan and worldview will receive special rewards, as will those who win many to faith in Jesus. Implied is that not all believers will receive these special rewards. **Mt 13:43** 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the [earthly messianic] kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

¹⁰ This means Daniel is to deposit the revelation in a safe place for preservation, not that he should keep the information to himself. It was customary for scribes who wrote important documents, such as contracts, to run their cylinder-seal across the bottom of a scroll to guarantee authenticity. That is what Daniel is instructed to do with this contractual promise from God. By sealing it, Daniel is certifying that what was written was exactly what God had revealed to him. **Da 8:26** 26 The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true, but seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now. **Re 22:18-19** 18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

¹¹ **Am 8:12** 12 They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east. They shall run to and fro, to seek the word of Yahweh, but they shall not find it.

¹² **Mt 24:15** 15 So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand)....

*Go Your Way, Daniel*¹³

5 Then I, Daniel, looked, and two others [angels? the two witnesses of Re 11?] appeared, one standing on this bank of the stream [the Tigris] and one on the other.¹⁴ 6 One of them said to the man clothed in linen who was upstream [Jesus],¹⁵ How long shall it be until the end of these wonders (פְּלִאָוֹת)?¹⁶ 7 The man clothed in linen who was upstream [Jesus] raised his right hand and his left hand toward the sky. And I heard him swear by the one who lives forever [God the Father] that it would be for a time, two times, and half a time [3 1/2 years], and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people [Israel]¹⁷ comes to an end [at Jesus' second coming], all these things would be accomplished.¹⁸ 8 I heard but could not understand.¹⁹ So I said, My lord [Gabriel?], what shall be the outcome of these things? 9 He [Gabriel?] said,

Go your way, Daniel, for the words are to remain secret/preserved (סֵתֵם) and sealed (חֲתֵם) until the time of the end. 10 Many [believers] shall be purified, cleansed, and refined, but the wicked [unbelievers] shall continue to act wickedly.²⁰ None of the wicked [unbelievers]

¹³ The book ends with a question and answer session (vv. 5-7, 8-13). **1 Pe 1:10-11** 10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Messiah in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Messiah and the subsequent glories.

¹⁴ **Da 10:4** 4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris)....

¹⁵ There are three persons here, perhaps four: one on one bank, one on the other bank, one upstream, clothed in linen, and perhaps Gabriel. **Da 10:5** 5 I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a *man clothed in linen*, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. **Eze 9:2** 2 And behold, six men came from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with his weapon for slaughter in his hand, and with them was a *man clothed in linen*, with a writing case at his waist. And they went in and stood beside the bronze altar.

¹⁶ This is essentially the same question the disciples ask. **Ps 6:3** 3 My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, Yahweh—how long? **Mt 24:3** 3 As [Jesus] sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately saying, Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age? **Ac 1:6-7** 6 [The apostles] asked [Jesus], Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel? 7 He said to them, It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.

¹⁷ See Da 11:36-45. **Zec 14:2-3** 2 For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. 3 Then Yahweh will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle.

¹⁸ **Da 7:25** 25 He [the little horn] shall speak words against the Most High, wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change the times and the law. And they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. **Da 9:27** 27 [The prince who is to come] shall make a strong covenant with many [Jews] for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering [in Jerusalem]. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.

¹⁹ This is completely understandable.

²⁰ **Re 22:11** 11 Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.

will understand (בִּינָה), but those who are wise [disciples] will (בִּינָה) understand.²¹ 11 From the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that desolates is set up [at the midpoint of the seven-year tribulation], there shall be one thousand two hundred ninety days [43 months].²² 12 Blessed (אַשְׁרֵי) are those [Jewish and Gentile believers] waiting (חֹכֵה) who reach (נִגַּע) the one thousand three hundred thirty-five days [44 1/2 months].²³ 13 But you [Daniel], go your way and rest (נִוָּח). For you will stand (עֲמַד) for your allocation by lot (גִּזְרֵי) [inheritance/reward]²⁴ at the end of the days (לְקֵץ הַיָּמִים).²⁵

Overview

1. The church age was unknown to Daniel. It was a mystery revealed much later by Jesus and the Holy Spirit to the apostles (Mt 16:18; Eph 3:1-13) after Israel's rejection of Jesus at his first coming.
2. Our faith is to be strengthened as we perceive the ancient prophecies of Daniel being fulfilled.
 - a. **Jn 14:29** 29 And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.
3. We learn from *Daniel* that man cannot and will not be able to usher in a utopia under any humanly-devised system, be it capitalism, socialism, communism, liberalism, globalism,

²¹ A wise person is one who understands God's word and lives accordingly. **2 Th 2:9-12** 9 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power, false signs, and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 11 Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, 12 in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

²² This is 30 days longer than 3 1/2 years. This extra 30 days must take place immediately before or immediately after the 3 1/2 years. Perhaps the antimessiah will announce the termination of sacrifices and the setting up of the abomination of desolation 30 days before he carries out those acts. **Re 13:5** 5 And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.

²³ This 45-day interval likely refers to the period between the end of the tribulation and the inauguration of Jesus as the Davidic king. Much will take place during this 45-day period, probably including the resurrection and regathering of all Jewish believers for entry into the messianic kingdom. **Da 2:44** 44 In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. **Da 7:18** 18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever. **Da 7:22** 22 ...Until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom. **Da 7:27** 27 And the kingdom, the dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High. His kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

²⁴ In the messianic kingdom, Jewish believers from all generations will possess their allotted inheritance in the land of Israel.

²⁵ As for Daniel, he is to shut up (סָתַם) and seal (חָתַם) the revelation he has received until the time of the end (vv. 4, 9). He is to go his way (vv. 9, 13) and rest (v. 13) knowing he will stand in his allotted place at the end of the days (v. 13). He will rest (v. 13), be resurrected (v. 2), and be rewarded (vv. 3, 13). The messianic kingdom is in view.

secular humanism, totalitarianism, or any other -ism. We must never place our ultimate trust in political parties, the next election, or a change in government.

4. The book of Daniel reinforces that the times of the Gentiles (Lk 21:24) will come to an end, and the Israel-centric messianic kingdom will begin. The kingdom will be earthly, literal, and physical. We are to look forward with anticipation to the messianic kingdom and pray for it to come (Mt 6:10).
 - a. **Mt 6:10** 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
5. That God has fulfilled promises literally in the past (see Da 11:2-35) gives us confidence he will fulfill the remainder of his promises literally in the future.
6. Given the end is coming, we as church age believers must urgently carry out our great commission responsibilities (Mt 28:19-20).
 - a. **Mt 28:19-20** 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.