

## Daniel Chapter 12

### Pastor Mike Wells Study Notes

**Overview of Daniel 12:** We made it; here is the final chapter of the book of Daniel. This chapter gives some specific markers of time that indicate the when and the length of the events prophesied. It also gives details on the resurrections and the specific time the Millennium will begin. It is important to remember that this is the same vision that began in Chapter 10 still.

**Daniel 12 : 1 - *And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth 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.***

- “*At that time*”—this is same time as the events at the end of chapter 11.
- Verse 7 indicates that these final events will take a “*time, times and half a time*” which is a Hebrew saying for three-and-one-half years.
- The time frame is used to refer to the separate halves of the seven year Tribulation period. (See Revelation 11:2,3; 12:6, 14; and 13:5)
- Because events have already raged during the Tribulation period as noted in the previous chapter, the time then must refer to the middle of the Tribulation.
- At this time *Michael* the archangel (which literally means, ‘Who is like God?’) stands up for the children of Israel.
- As the world war at the middle of the Tribulation rages in Israel and as the antichrist turns his wrath against Israel, Michael stands to protect them.
- In that day, there will be “*a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation.*”
- The last half of the Tribulation will be a time when the wrath of Satan is focused against Israel such as no other time in human history. (See Revelation 12:5-17)
- Israel will be on the verge of being exterminated.
- God, through Michael, providentially intervenes and delivers Israel—at least, those “*written in the book.*”
- This may at least be a reference to the preaching of the 144,000 of Revelation 7 and 14 as they preach Christ to the Jew first.
- There will be a multitude of Jews who receive Christ during the Tribulation as a result of the preaching of the 144,000.
- God providentially protects and preserves (at the very least) the redeemed of the nation of Israel during the Tribulation.

**Daniel 12 : 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.***

- The focus now turns to the resurrections.
- At the Rapture, the New Testament church is resurrected.
- However it appears that the Old Testament Saints may not be resurrected until the end of the Tribulation and just before the Millennium, there will be a resurrection of all Old Testament saints (*some to everlasting life*)

- Likewise, the unsaved (“*some to shame and everlasting contempt*”) will be resurrected to stand at the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15).

**Daniel 12 : 3 - *And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever.***

- Those truly wise before God by their faith in Christ, obedience to God, and godly living will someday (in the resurrection) shine as the brightness of the firmament.
- The thought is that in the coming Kingdom of God, these will shine with heavenly glory and brightness.
- The “*brightness of the firmament*” literally refers to the brightness of the sky above.
- Specifically, this promise is made to those who “*turn many to righteousness.*”
- The thought likely is to those who, in their life times, have been wise in winning souls to Jesus Christ and turning many to righteousness (Proverbs 11:30).
- They will shine as the brightness of the heavens and as the stars forever.
- There is eternal reward for serving God and specifically for winning others to Christ and true righteousness.
- Will you shine like the Sun or like a flashlight with worn out batteries in heaven?

**Daniel 12 : 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.***

- Jews, to this today, are blind to the prophecy in Daniel.
- It has been sealed to the Jew. (See Isaiah 6:9-11, 29:10,18 Matthew 13:13,).
- However, during the Tribulation (the time of the end), the spiritual understanding of the Jewish people will be opened and there will be mass conversions of Jews to Christ.
- The end of verse 4 tells how at this time (during the Day of the Lord) the Jews will go back and forth throughout the entire Bible, including the New Testament, searching the Scriptures.
- For the first time in history, their knowledge of Christ will be increased.
- Some try to apply this verse to the explosion of secular knowledge and technology which has taken place in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.
- However, the context clearly is of Israel in the end time. (See verse 1)
- Israel is presently blind to the truths of Christ and end-time events.
- It is shut up and sealed from them.
- However, the day is coming when they will begin to search the Scriptures and their knowledge of Christ and things to come shall be increased.
- This revealing of truth and increase of knowledge will be at the time of the end.
- That time is consistently described throughout the Bible as during the Day of the Lord.

**Daniel 12 : 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.***

- The vision and its explanation begun in chapter 10 is almost over as the final details are presented.
- Daniel sees two other individuals who are angelic messengers.
- They each stood on one side of the River Hiddekel (see Daniel 10:4).

**Daniel 12 : 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?***

- One of the angels spoke to the original angel clothed in linen.
- His question was simple; “***How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?***”
- The angel asked when these astonishing events of the tribulation would be accomplished.

**Daniel 12 : 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 liveth 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.***

- The original angel in preparing to answer then lifted up his hands and swore by the eternal God.
- The time unto the conclusion of these astonishing events (“***the end of these wonders***”) was for “***a time, times and half a time.***”
- ***A Time, times, and half a time*** is a Hebrew way of saying for three-and-one-half years.
- The starting time is that time when Michael the great prince will stand up (verse 1).
- This likely also is when the daily sacrifice and “***the abomination which maketh desolate***” is set up (verse 11).
- From Daniel 9:27 and other prophetic sources, we know that this all takes place at the midpoint of the Tribulation.
- Therefore, these final events take place in the last three-and-one-half years of the Tribulation known as the Great Tribulation.
- The wonders viewed by Daniel will end at the conclusion of the Tribulation.

**Daniel 12 : 8-9 - *8 And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? 9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.***

- Though Daniel heard what was said, he did not understand it.
- In response to Daniel’s question about when the end of it all would be, he was told the following.
- The words (***the understanding thereof***) would be closed and sealed till the time of the end.
- In other words, the Jewish people would not understand these things until the time of the end.
- We know that to be the Tribulation and the beginning of the Day of the Lord.
- In that day, the eyes of the Jews, long blinded by the veil of their hardness of hearts, will be opened.
- When they in that day turn to Christ (II Corinthians 4:15-18), the veil of spiritual blindness will be lifted.

**Daniel 12 : 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.***

- At that time, the wise (the godly converted Jew) will understand these things.
- They will be purified by the precious blood of Christ and made white before God.
- Their understanding of things spiritual, long darkened, will be enlightened.

- Likewise, those who continue to harden their hearts against Christ will continue in wickedness and will remain in their spiritual darkness.

**Daniel 12 : 11 - *And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.***

- The starting date for the events of Daniel 11:36 to the end is noted: “*the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up.*”
- The cessation of the daily sacrifice in the Temple during the Tribulation is at the exact midpoint.
- However, 1,290 days from the middle of the Tribulation will be 30 days more than the final three-and-one-half years (based upon the Hebrew lunar calendar).
- There thus are an extra thirty days (one month) attached after the end of the Tribulation.

**Daniel 12 : 12 - *Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.***

- Then there is mention of 1,335 days which is an additional 45 days beyond three-and-one-half years and the thirty days already mentioned in the preceding verse.
- These are all based upon the Hebrew lunar calendar of twelve thirty-day months for a total of 360 days.
- Some have suggested that these additional intervals are when the resurrection of the Old Testament saints will take place, along with the judgment of resurrected Israel.
- Also Matthew 25 mentions the judgment of the sheep and goat nations (which amongst the gentile nations have been converted during the Tribulation and will be allowed into the Millennium).
- This apparently will take place during one of these intervals.
- And, there no doubt will need to clean up of the mess of the battle of Armageddon.
- This may also be the time when the Jerusalem is renovated or at least made ready for the reign of Jesus Christ.
- We know from Isaiah and Ezekiel that there will be major topographical and geographical alterations to the land of Israel at the beginning of the Millennium—maybe to the entire earth.
- All these special events likely will take place during this seventy-five days from the end of the Tribulation to the official beginning of the Millennium.

**Daniel 12 : 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.***

- The angel tells Daniel that he will soon die and then will stand in his appointed order (*lot*) at the end of the days—the resurrection of Old Testament Israel after Christ’s return and just before the beginning of the Millennium
- And so ends the most detailed blueprint of end-time events in the Bible.