

- **Chapter 12 now concludes the vision** that began back in chapter 10. We need to remember that this is all one vision, and what we were told about it: *“Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come.”* (10:14). We need to understand the three things the angel is saying here:
  - He is telling Daniel what will happen to HIS people – the Jews
  - It will happen at the end of the time of the Gentiles – the latter days
  - It is a long way off (at least 2500 years so far!)
- This chapter also concludes the book of Daniel.

<sup>1</sup> *“At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book.*

- *“At that time ...”* This is the time of the vision of chapters 10, 11, and 12. It connects the verses in chapter 12 to what has just preceded, the final days of the Tribulation period on earth.
- *“Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people...;”* Scripture indicates that Michael is charged with the protection of Israel, and the Jewish people. This appears to be his chief responsibility. His name means “who is like unto God.” He may even be one of, if not the most powerful angel in heaven. Those who come against Israel or the Jews will be challenging one of the most powerful spiritual forces in heaven.
- *“And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time....”* This period of time will be the worst in all of Israel’s history. It will be a time unlike any other time. This most likely refers to the last 3 ½ years of the final “week” (7 years). The last half of the Tribulation is often called the **“Great Tribulation”** because this is how Jesus referred to it when He told the disciples the signs of the end: *“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place”* (whoever reads, let him understand), *“then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.”* (Matthew 24:15-22).



- It is clear from a comparison of Daniel and all the New Testament references regarding this time that these words speak of this last time of earth's history. This last half of the seven-year tribulation period will be one of great horror, and will be what is also called the "time of Jacob's trouble," unparalleled difficulties for Israel and the Jews. There are many references in scripture to this time, especially to the last half, and then to the time when Jesus returns to finish out these final days. That time is often referred to in ways that give us a good idea of **the nature of these days** (*these are just a few*):
  - *A day of vengeance*
  - *A time of trouble for Jacob (Israel)*
  - *The 70<sup>th</sup> week*
  - *The great day of the Lord*
  - *A day of wrath*
  - *A day of distress and anguish*
  - *A day of trouble and ruin*
  - *A day of darkness and gloom*
  - *A day of clouds and blackness*
  - *A day of trumpet and battle cry*
- **The "time of Jacob's trouble"** is a label for these times by the prophet Jeremiah: "*Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it. For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him.*" (Jeremiah 30:7-8, KJV) Notice, however, in all these references to this time, there is the promise that Israel will be saved.
- "***And at that time your people shall be delivered,...***" While Jews and other believers will be terribly persecuted during this time, God will spare many lives, and save many through the blood of Jesus. The deliverance promised here is not just freedom finally from their enemies who have sought to wipe them out since the beginning. This is the ultimate deliverance, the deliverance from their sins and the guarantee of eternal life with God.
- The prophet Zechariah offers a beautiful, yet terrible, picture of this time for Israel: "*It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn*". (Zechariah 12:9-10) God will not only destroy those who come against Israel, He will save those Jews who "look upon" the one they pierced, Jesus Himself. The next chapter of Zechariah details how God opens up a "fountain of cleansing" for the House of David, for the Jewish people. To get a better picture of these events, we highly suggest you read the book of Zechariah, especially chapters 12 and 13 that deal with the salvation of Israel, just as Paul wrote in Romans 9, 10, and 11 (see Isaiah 59:20-21, Romans 11:26-27). All of these chapters indicate strongly that God has definitely NOT abandoned the Jews. He will save them in the end, and He will go on to fulfill all the covenants He has made with the Jews. These passages are a strong refutation of the lie (what is called "replacement theology") that God has replaced the Jews with the Church in His covenants. Chapter 13 of Zechariah also indicates, however, that the **Jews will be horribly persecuted during this time, and two thirds of them will die**. These days will offer both deliverance and salvation, but will come during horrors beyond our comprehension now.
- In reading these verses, however, we must understand that **this does not mean that Israel is granted a "free ticket" to salvation**. As for everyone else, there is one criterion that must be met: they must believe that Jesus is the Messiah, and died to save them. (Hence the reference in Zechariah 12 that they will look upon Him whom they pierced and mourn for Him.) The Jews will finally realize that the most famous Jew is Yeshua HaMashiach, the salvation of God, the Anointed Messiah.
- "***Every one who is found written in the book.***" This "book" is probably the book of life, referenced many times in scripture. This is the book that most believe God has inscribed the names of every human ever born. However, those names are "blotted out" when one turns away from God and rejects Him.

- There is also **the “Lamb’s Book of Life,”** which is like a subset of the first book. These are believers who have accepted the free gift of God’s Son, Yeshua, and make Him their Savior. The Jews who go through this terrible time already have their names in the “book.” If they accept Yeshua, they are not blotted out, and are then also inscribed into the Lamb’s book. This indicates that no one will be lost through this time, except by their own choice. God will be faithful to save them all, unless they chose not to be saved.

<sup>2</sup> *And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

- *“And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake,...”* Here God provides Daniel some information about the **resurrection of the dead**. This is the great hope of all believers. The resurrection is not a new concept here. The Jews were well aware of this, from the very beginning. We have sung the words of Job’s (*perhaps the oldest book in the Bible – many think he may have been a contemporary of Abraham*) declaration on the celebration of Jesus’ resurrection: *“For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!”* (Job 19:25-27) These words clearly describe several facts. First, Job had a redeemer, and knew he needed one. Job also knew that one day He would stand on the earth, to be seen by everyone. He also knew that even though he (Job) had died and his flesh destroyed, he would be raised again with a new body and would himself look upon that redeemer. He yearned for this day, as do we. These words tell us that as early as Job, the Jews knew of their need for a redeemer (someone to save them, redeem them from eternal death), and the fact that He would give them everlasting life after the resurrection of the dead.
- As with many great spiritual concepts, **details about things like this are given in pieces and scattered through the Word of God**. It is only when we put all the pieces together that we can get an idea of the whole picture and plan of God. Just like the passages that deal with these end times, the resurrection of the dead is one of those events that is not detailed fully in any one place. Daniel is given details, Job knew some, others knew of other details, and much is told to John about this in his vision of the Revelation of Jesus. There will definitely be a resurrection of the dead, and we know from other scriptures that those living at the time will be changed in an instant. The complete nature of this resurrection, and even its timing, can only be known by putting all the scriptures together. And even then, much remains a mystery to us until it actually happens. We are not going to do a lesson here on this topic. That’s up to you, but it is indeed rewarding and well worth your time (as are all lessons in scripture!)
- *“Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.”* Now comes a little “kink” in this promise of the resurrection. Everyone will be brought back to life, but not everyone will like it! Based on the choices that we each make in life, some will be raised to eternal life with God, and others to eternal separation from Him (“everlasting contempt”). The word used here for “contempt” means something to be abhorred. Those who do not choose life with God, will be damned to life without Him, and this condition is beyond our ability to conceive in its horror. Based on these few words, and many other passages in scripture, we know there are two phases to the resurrection – one for those who will live in everlasting life with God, and one those who will live without Him.
- **We should pay attention to the fact that ALL will be resurrected, and ALL will have life, and that life will be eternal.** This, and other scriptures, clearly tell us that there is life after death. We do not just cease to exist. Many people today are hoping that once they have lived this life, they simply cease to be, escaping judgment. That is simply not true. God has made it clear that all are raised to life. We choose where we will spend that eternal life.

- One of those choices is clearly **abhorrent, full of shame and contempt**. Even worse than this, however, is the fact that this eternal life will not be with God. We cannot imagine how horrible that will be.
- Because of the two “phases” seen here, and the clear information provided in many other scriptures, we believe there will be **two such resurrections**. One is for those who go to “everlasting life” and one is for those who go to “everlasting contempt.” It is important to understand that even those in everlasting contempt are alive, but it is not the “life” that is waiting for those who choose God and the gift of His Son. One resurrection is for the righteous (righteousness only comes through the covering of atonement, the blood Jesus), and the other is for the lost. From Revelation 20:4-5 we know there will be an interval of 1,000+ years that separates these two resurrections.

- The first phase, the resurrection of the righteous, will happen in two waves. When Jesus returns to earth (His second coming), He will bring the saints with Him (*those who were removed from the earth in what we often call the “rapture” which includes the resurrection of the dead who are believers in Jesus*). The saints (the righteous of God) in the Old Testament are not raised at the removal of the Church because this is the time of the



- marriage of the Lamb, and involves only the believing Church, the Bride of Christ. This is the time of the 7-year “sequestering” period. The Church spends the Tribulation period “sequestered” from the rest of the world. *It is helpful to understand the Jewish marriage customs to fully appreciate the plan of God for the Church and understanding His timing*. The Old Testament saints, including Daniel, are raised after this time, at the end of the Tribulation (when Jesus return to earth to establish His kingdom), because they are destined to enter the Kingdom of God on earth when the Messiah reigns. Scripture is clear about this.
- In some ways then, **we could consider THREE resurrection events**. The first being when Jesus meets the Church in the air (and the Church is removed), which includes both living and dead believers in Him. The next would be the raising of the Old Testament saints at the end of the seven-year sequestering, the end of the Tribulation period. The final resurrection, the third in sequence, would then be the resurrection of the lost, which we hear of in the Great White Throne judgment scene in Revelation 20. This final resurrection is the one Daniel hears of here as “*some to shame and everlasting contempt*” at the end of the Millennium (see Revelation 20:11-15). The resurrection of the righteous dead is then in two phases, whereas the resurrection of the lost dead is a single event by itself.

- We should mention that **there is controversy among believers about the timing of the removal of the Church** (what is commonly called the “rapture”). The removal itself is scriptural truth and cannot be debated: *“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. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 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. 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. 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. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”* (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17)
- The **timing of this event**, however, is not as easily determined. There are many scriptures that must be studied to come to any position on timing. Some believe this removal will be at the beginning of, or at some time prior to, the Tribulation. Others believe it will come at the mid-point of the Tribulation, and still others believe it will be at the end. We believe there is ample scripture (and coupled with a knowledge of Jewish marriage customs) to suggest the removal of the Church happens before the Tribulation begins. Whatever your position, we know the Rapture is a sure thing, and at that time all true believers in Jesus the Messiah, those who have accepted His atoning death as a covering of their sins, will be raised from the dead, and the living will be changed in the “twinkling of an eye.” The Old Testament saints will be raised after this, at the beginning of the Millennial reign of Jesus.
- To **summarize all of this**, here’s a brief accounting of the order of the resurrection:
  - 1) Removal of the Church (rapture), resurrection of the righteous dead, and changing of the living at this time
  - 2) Raising of Old Testament saints (Godly people of the Old Testament) at the end of the Tribulation, and start of Millennial Kingdom
  - 3) 1,000 Year Interval, the Millennial Reign of Jesus
  - 4) Raising of the lost to the Great White Throne Judgment, and eternal separation from God, at the end of the Millennium

<sup>3</sup> *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.*

- *“Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament,...”* Even in the midst of the very dark and terrible days shown to Daniel and predicted here, there is this promise that many “who are wise” (*true wisdom comes only from God*), will shine a light into this darkness. Paul made a similar statement, an exhortation to the saints of that time, and the time of which Daniel speaks: *“Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.”* (Philippians 2:14-16) This is an encouragement for all believers in all times, but will be especially true during the Tribulation. Because of such terrible and complete darkness, those who love God and live for Him will indeed shine like stars.
- *“And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.”* And those who are devoted to turning others to God, to be used by God in their salvation, will shine even more, for all eternity. This is also a reminder of our most important mission on earth – to point others to the saving power and gift of Jesus. This implies not just a turning *from* sin, but a turning *to* God. Salvation comes only from belief in the atoning work of Jesus our Savior. We can try to be good, to not sin, but we will never succeed in that lofty goal. Only the righteousness of Jesus will enable us to stand in the Kingdom before God.

- These beautiful words of encouragement and promise are **the closing of this multi-chapter vision**. It will be awful in those times, but God is still on His throne, and still empowers those who love Him. Those who love Him and are persecuted in this time will also serve Him and shine before Him forever.

***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.”***

- ***“But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end...”*** Now, after seeing and hearing things that would confuse, startle, horrify and shock others, Daniel is told to just seal it up. It concerns the time of the end, and he has already been told that end is many years away. This is a somewhat unusual command. There are no other books sealed in scripture. Even the book of Revelation is not sealed, though there is one section that John was told to seal (what the seven thunders uttered in Revelation chapter 10). Daniel did not just hide this book away, however. Obviously, over the years, this book was passed down as part of the Old Testament, the Jewish Tenach, and was included in the first Greek translation of the Old Testament scriptures in the Septuagint about 275 BC. It has been part of our holy scriptures every since its writing.
- **So what did it mean to have the book sealed, and the words “shut up?”** Daniel could not do this by himself. This means this book is divinely protected. God sealed it....until the time of the end. This is a very important phrase. Many believers think this time now is that time of the end, or we are rapidly approaching it. One commentator indicated that it was not until the time of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that people started to make attempts to explain this book verse by verse. It was never attempted before this. Very interesting! Perhaps this book is becoming slowly “unsealed.” Many also believe that the book of Daniel will become the most important reading matter on the subject of end times during the Tribulation. It will be read in conjunction with Revelation, Zechariah, and many other key end times scriptures to give those who live during this time a complete picture of what can be expected.
- ***“...many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”*** This is a much quoted part of Daniel, especially by those who study end times (eschatology). On the surface, this certainly seems to be true of our physical world. Knowledge has exploded to the point that we cannot keep up with it. And, travel has become so fast and available that we can circumnavigate the globe in hours and be anywhere in the world within a day. This increase of travel and knowledge has yielded a world that is truly global in nature. There is no question that the physical and literal meaning of these worlds has been fulfilled within the last century. Up until that time, knowledge was said to double about every 2,000 years. Now some say it doubles every 10-11 hours! Modes of transportation were still horses, mules and camels, as it had been in ancient times. Now it is SSTs and spaceships, trains, cars and jetpacks. How we have changed.
- However, there are many who believe there is more to these words than a literal physical world implication. While it is certainly true that knowledge has increased dramatically and many travel freely and quickly around the globe, there is most likely another meaning here. This may also have reference to the sealing of this book. In the end times, God is unsealing the book of Daniel, opening it up for study and comprehension. It was not possible before this time. Now, there are people literally running to and fro across the scriptures, increasing their knowledge of God’s plan. This is the serious study of prophecy being made by not just scholars, but all those who desire to know what God has said about these times.

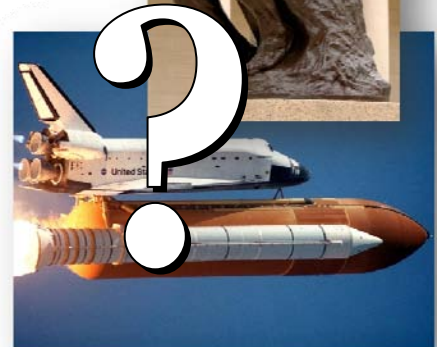
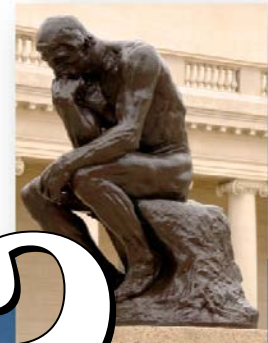
- The times are troubling, and **we naturally want to know what God has to say about it.** And we are finding He has MUCH to say! He is indeed **unsealing the comprehension of prophecy**, including this book of Daniel. There is a serious study of prophecy being made by many today that has not been done in the past. Different great doctrines of the church have been studied and developed during different periods of the history of the church. Today we are seeing more study of prophecy than ever before. Also, our current world of events and technology is giving us more clues, and we have a better understanding of the possibilities to meet these prophecies. In these times, which many believe to be the times the angel spoke of to Daniel, our knowledge of God's plan is increasing dramatically.

▪ **COMMENTARY: "Some writers have taken this sentence as a prediction that in the last days there will be a great increase in travel and also in knowledge. Most interpreters, however, starting as early as St. Jerome, have considered the second clause as closely connected with the first, so that the increase of knowledge would be a result of the fact that many "go here and there," hunting through the document, and comparing Scripture with Scripture to find God's truth." (Allan MacRae)**

- There are also many scholars who believe these words apply mostly to the Jewish people, who will, during the Tribulation, open the scriptures, running to and fro in a new search for Messiah, and they will find Him. The veil will be lifted from their eyes and their knowledge of Him shall increase. The prophecies given to Daniel have been labeled as those specifically affecting the Jews, so this is likely.

▪ **COMMENTARY: "For many years when I lived in the Washington, D.C. area I would often attend events where Jews and Christians would come together in support of the modern state of Israel. Whenever I would encounter orthodox Jews I sought to ask them their interpretation of the seventy weeks prophecy of Daniel 9:24- 27. It was common for these orthodox Jews to answer something like the following: "My rabbi does not allow us to study that passage." What? No wonder many Jews currently reject the Messiahship of Jesus, since they are not allowed to study many of the passages that prove that Jesus of Nazareth is their Messiah. However, Daniel 12 teaches us that his prophecies are being preserved and there will come a time during the tribulation period when the Jewish people as a whole will excitedly study these prophecies and come to realize that the Man from Galilee has been their Messiah all along. What a great day that will be, when God's first-born, Israel, comes home after years of wandering." (Thomas Ice)**

- As is true with much of Bible prophecy however, **ALL interpretations may be right.** Literal knowledge and travel have increased beyond our understanding. That is a fact. And it is also a fact that whether Jew or Gentile, when we run to and fro throughout the Scriptures in earnest study and a desire to know God better, we are rewarded with greater knowledge of Him. These are all facts. The likely chief implication of these words, however, is probably for the Jews who will find their Messiah during this time. There are multiple fulfillments in this one verse.
- Because we have not fully entered the "time of the end," it is **very likely that God has not fully unsealed these words to our comprehension, and that we still have much to learn.** Whether Jew or Gentile, when we study the Word of God, especially in these times, we will be rewarded with more knowledge of Him and His plan. Because of the vast differences in interpretation of much of the scriptures on end times, we can assume that there is still much to be revealed. For that reason, we need to all be doing the one thing that matters most, *"Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ."* (Titus 2:13).



- When Daniel heard and saw these things, and wrote them down, he did not have a clue about what they meant. They were a confusing glimpse into the future, filled with terrible things he did not want to see, and certainly did not want to happen to his people. They were not what Daniel was hoping or expecting, yet here they were. As time marches on, and God’s plan is executed with precision against these and other prophecies, our comprehension increases. It is safe to assume there is much more for us to understand than what we think we already know!

*<sup>5</sup>Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank. <sup>6</sup>And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?” <sup>7</sup>Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.*

- *“Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank. ...”* With these verses, we are now returned to the vision Daniel had seen at the beginning of chapter 10. Although these “two others” are not identified here, they are obviously spiritual beings, angels. It is possible one of these Daniel sees is the awesome pre-incarnate vision of the glorified Lord we discussed at the beginning of chapter 11, although we cannot be sure. Perhaps the Lord here is now accompanied by two other angels. Whoever they are, Daniel sees them standing on both sides of the riverbank. It seems likely that the one who was “above the waters of the river” might be the Lord Jesus. But maybe not (*more on this in a moment*).
- *“And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?”...”* One of these angels asks how long it will take to fulfill all the “wonders” Daniel has heard here. He addresses his inquiry to the “man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river.” This inquiring angel apparently does not have all the answers, and needs to ask one in higher authority. This question is one that was of great interest to Daniel, too. These prophecies concern his people, the Jews, and he is troubled and confused by all that he has seen and heard. It certainly is not what he was expecting or hoping in his prayer in Chapter 9.
- *“Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever,...”* **The one in linen now takes an interesting oath.** It is normal to raise one hand when swearing to something, but here this being raised both hands and swore by the One who lives forever – by the Ancient of Days. He could not swear by anything greater or higher. However, this raises a question as to his identity. Is this Jesus, and is He swearing by God? Is He in effect swearing by Himself? There is evidence in scripture that God has done this before. The writer of the book of Hebrews tells us that when God entered into the covenant with Abraham, He swore on Himself, since there was none higher to swear by: *“For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.”* (Hebrews 6:13-14) So is this Jesus, swearing by Himself, or an angel? There is some debate about this. We just don’t know, and quite frankly, that is not important at this point.
- *“...that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time;...”* The awesome being taking this oath informed Daniel that these things would be completed in **“a time, times, and half a time.”** We have previously discussed this marking of time, as it is consistent with that mentioned in the book of Revelation - “time” is a year, “times” indicates two years, while “half” refers to one-half of a year. The total, three and one-half (3½) years, represents the duration of the time of Jacob’s Trouble, the concluding half of the Tribulation (Daniel’s “70<sup>th</sup> Week”), the period Jesus called the “Great Tribulation.” These events spoken to Daniel by the angel will be concluded at the end of this time.

- ***“...and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.”*** The “power of the holy people” is a strange and confusing phrase. It might refer to the rebellion of Israel, her “power” in attempting to live apart from God, rejecting His Messiah. That pseudo-power will be broken during this time, as Israel finds and accepts her Messiah. There will be a great turning to God at this time. In other words, they will no longer rely on their own strength to meet the Law given Moses, but will rely upon the blood of Jesus and His grace to do it. It may also mean that the military might of the nation of Israel, which is formidable right now, will be broken so that they have nothing to rely upon EXCEPT God. Throughout history, although Israel has been persecuted and tormented by every nation, she has still held some power just in her ability to survive (only by God’s power!). It would seem at the end of the Tribulation that the only power she will have will be her belief in God, and in Yeshua. This speaks to both facts, that Israel’s rebellion and “stiff-necked” nature will be broken, but also that she will be helpless and powerless without God.

***<sup>8</sup>Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, “My lord, what shall be the end of these things?”<sup>9</sup>And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.***

- ***“Although I heard, I did not understand...”*** Daniel indicates he has heard all of this, but **he is still confused, and still worried and concerned about his people.** It doesn’t sound like a very good ending to him. In his frustration he again asks ***“what shall be the end of these things?”*** He wants to understand fully what will happen, and how it will all end, so he tries asking the angel’s question in a little different way.
- ***“Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.”*** Daniel is not going to get an answer, at least not the answer he wants. The words of the prophecy are finished, and Daniel will receive no more information. The angel pretty much says that’s all he’s going to hear. The command to “go your way” indicates that Daniel will not fully comprehend any of what he has heard, and neither will anyone else until God unseals the words. The angel indicates that God has already sealed it, and Daniel didn’t do anything at this point. This points to divine protection of this book. Daniel is to leave this alone, and leave it in God’s capable hands to fulfill, whether Daniel understands or not.
- For Daniel, having heard all these things at that time in history, it **was all a great puzzle and mystery** to him. We have the perspective of over 2500 years of history and precisely fulfilled prophecies, and the assistance of the Holy Spirit, to better understand what Daniel heard so long ago. This was true of many of the Bible’s prophets. They heard and recorded what God said, but did not fully understand it. Today we have a much better idea of what these prophecies mean, and how they may be fulfilled. But there is still much we do not know. We can well imagine Daniel’s complete frustration and sadness at not being able to comprehend what he has been shown and told.



<sup>10</sup>*“Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.”*

- The angel does give Daniel **a bit of encouraging news**. He hears that many will be saved from this point until the end. The use of the “words purified, made white” clearly refer to their salvation. That is the only way we are purified. The phrase “and refined” unfortunately points to continuing persecution and trouble for Daniel’s people, especially during these final years.
- **Refining is painful**. While we are covered in the blood of Jesus and appear as righteous before God because of that blood, while alive here we enter into a never-ending refining process. Refining requires fire, as the impurities of gold and silver are burned away. How does the refiner know when the process is complete? Simple – when he sees his image in the material being refined. That is a profound thought. Our refinement is complete when God sees His image in each of us. Until then, the fire and heat of refinement will continue, and that is often painful.
- We hear of the refining of Daniel’s people during the Tribulation several places in scripture. This time and the refining process are especially detailed in Zechariah 13:8-9: *“And it shall come to pass in all the land,” Says the LORD, “That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it: I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, ‘This is My people’; And each one will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’”*
- *“...but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.”* The angel tells Daniel that the wicked will continue in their wickedness, and none of them will ever understand these prophecies. It is impossible to understand and comprehend God’s Word, any of it, without God’s help, without the Holy Spirit to lead and guide our learning. The wicked never seek Him, so they will never understand Him or His plan. Paul told us this: *“The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”* (1 Corinthians 2:14) The wise indicates those who are wise in the Lord, and not the wisdom of the world which is no wisdom at all. Man’s wisdom is foolishness. Only God can make us truly wise. Those who know Him will understand all that Daniel heard, when it is the right time, as God reveals it. He has told us repeatedly that if we seek Him, we will find Him. Those who never seek, will never find, and will never understand. Lovers of God and His Son Yeshua have something no one else has, a personal tutor in the Word of God: *“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”* (John 16:13)

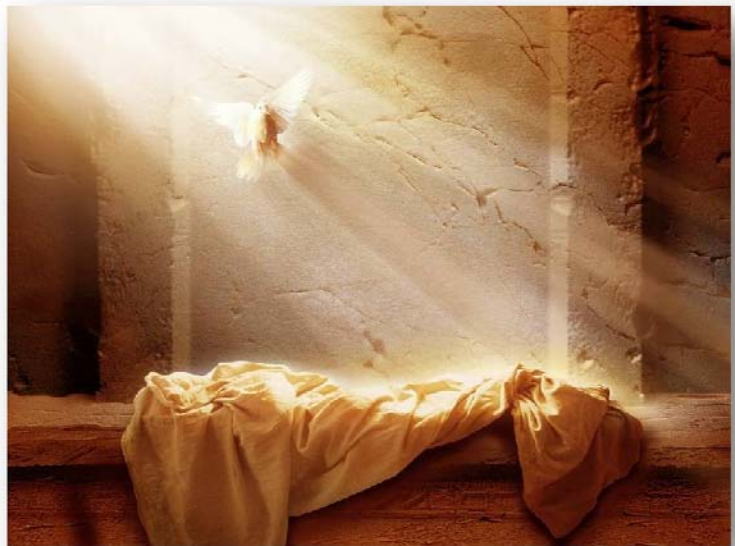
<sup>11</sup>*“And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.”* <sup>12</sup>*“Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.”*

- *“And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days...”* And now, seemingly after the completion of the vision and its message, Daniel is given one last tidbit, one parting insight to write down. He is told that when the daily sacrifice is taken away (the abomination of desolation) there will be 1,290 days. We are not speaking here of the abomination of desolation caused by Antiochus Epiphanes at the end of the Greek Empire in 164 BC. This **message concerns the end of time**, which obviously did not happen under Antiochus. The angel is speaking of the SECOND abomination, the one set up by the final world ruler, the same one Jesus warned about.

- This period of time is one of great debate. Scripture does not clarify what it is, since it is **30 days or one month longer** than the usual designation of 1,260 days (the 3½ year period). We have waded through all kinds of speculation about what this might involve, none of which seem probable or conclusive. The fact remains, no one knows. This is part of the sealing process. We cannot relate it to anything yet, and speculation at this point isn't really worth much. And to complicate the entire mystery is the statement made in the next verse.
- *“Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.”* In verse 12 we now have an **additional 45** days after the first mentioned 1,290 days. The strange reference to the blessedness of those who came through the 1,335 days **may relate to judgment**, because the verse implies that not everyone will make it through that time. This extra 45 days is apparently after Jesus returns. Remember, Jesus took an oath and swore that the end of all these prophecies would be 1,260 days after the abomination of desolation, or the mid-point of the Tribulation. Whatever these extra days mean, they are either immediately before or immediately after the Great Tribulation. Remember, any comments about this verse are purely speculation. The ultimate fulfillment of these last verses (11 and 12) are apparently still sealed to our full understanding, and may not even be known until they actually occur.
- **COMMENTARY: “Another series of days is given to us here with no other explanation than “blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh” to them. No one has the interpretation of this—it is sealed until the time of the end. I think sometimes we try to know more than is actually given to us.”** (McGee)

<sup>13</sup>*“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 is told that **what he has just heard will not be his concern during his lifetime.** He is told to go back to his life, and live out his days on earth. He will “rest,” then will be resurrected to receive his “inheritance” at the end of time. Can you imagine being Daniel at this point? He has heard and seen the most remarkable things. He is worried and concerned about his people the Jews, and the coming terrors that God has shown him. Yet now he is told to just “go your way?” That must have been difficult for Daniel. He had great faith in God, and trusted Him implicitly, but to have seen all these things and know he will not be around for their fulfillment must have been an emotionally difficult experience.
- *“...arise to your inheritance ...”* While Daniel may not be part of the final days on earth when many of these prophecies are fulfilled, he is assured that he will be present to participate in the wonderful events that follow, the kingdom of God and the resurrection of all the faithful.



*(see concluding thoughts, next page)*

## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

The book of Daniel begins with the fall of Jerusalem and the southern kingdom of Judah. It opens with several young men in captivity in a strange land, not the best of times for the Jews. It ends with the restoration of Israel, and the beginning of the Millennium. But in between those events the Jewish people will go through some terrible times under various Gentile powers. It spans the time of Daniel, about six centuries before Jesus walked the earth the first time, until He comes again, thousands of years later. This book covers the entire period we call the “Times of the Gentiles.”

We know through scripture that Israel and her history is the signaling flag, God’s time clock. If we watch Israel, we will always have some idea where we are, and the events that surround Israel will be the signal of the times of the end of days. For many years “scholars” said the events forecast in this book and other places regarding the restoration of Israel could never happen, that they were impossible. However, on May 14, 1948, Israel was restored as a nation again. Nothing is impossible to God. The Jews have suffered terribly at the hands of their Gentile masters, throughout time and in various countries, and they will indeed suffer more as the times draw close to the end. But their return to the land of Israel is a miraculous event, and a certain indication that the end of human government is in sight.

Much of what is written in this book has already been perfectly fulfilled with amazing accuracy and precision. That is why this book is the most attacked in the Bible. But man’s puny rebellion cannot stop God’s plan from happening exactly as He said it would. What still remains in the future will come to pass with the same precision as that already in the history books. God has a most amazing plan for our reunion with Him. Some terrible times will come first, but we have the promise of eternity with Him. There is nothing in this world that is trustworthy. Nothing, and no one. Those who put their trust in the Most High God alone will find the sure Rock of their salvation for all eternity.

As we see the events predicted in the book of Daniel beginning to unfold, we should remember the words of Jesus:

***“Now when these things begin to happen,  
look up and lift up your heads,  
because your redemption draws near!”***

(Luke 21:28)

