

Daniel 12 - The Tribulation & Millennium; Duration of the End Times

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Daniel 12

(f) Tribulation and millennium (12:1-13)

(i) Michael's protection (12:1a)

(ii) Great tribulation (12:1b)

1 "Now **at that time****Michael**, the great prince who stands *guard* over the sons of **your people**, will arise. And there will **be a time of distress** such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and **at that time****your people**, **everyone who is found written in the book**, will be **rescued**.

1 "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands *guard* over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.

1 "At that time, Michael will arise, the great prince who will stand up on behalf of your people, and a time of trouble will come like there has never been since nations began until that time. Also at that time, your people will be delivered—everyone who will have been written in the book.

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.

- Jesus quotes this verse in Matt 24:21; Mark 13:19; Rev 7:14...

- "...at that time" [2x] - this refers back to Dan 11:36-39 where the angel was telling Daniel about the reign of the Antichrist and his activities during the Tribulation; specifically, the second half of the Tribulation. It introduces additional information about this end time, not a chronologically subsequent event.

— The chapter division here is misplaced...we should look at 11:36—12:13 as a single section, describing future end times events

— "...Michael" - Michael is the angel who oversees and protects Israel. He was mentioned one other time in Daniel (10:13) when he was dispatched to help another angel, who was being held up by the kings of Persia. Mentioned 4x total in Scripture; he is an archangel (Jude 9).

— This will be a time when Michael will "stand up," indicating he will defend Israel against her enemies

— God is a God of order...in the family, in the church, in the business world...God provides structures and roles that He expects that we submit to and respect. Angels evidently have a similar hierarchy and roles.

— Who is he always battling? Satan or his host (Rev 12:7-9).

- "...your people" [2x] - clearly identifies Daniel's people, the Jews, not "all believers" or the Church (Cf. 9:16,19,24; 10:14; 12:1). The Jews will be the focus of this intense persecution, though many Gentiles will also suffer. Israel's land will become an international battlefield (Cf. Matt 24:22).

- "...be" - during; a continuation

- "...a time of distress" - describing the Tribulation period, and specifically the second half of the Tribulation. The first prophet who referred to this time was Joel (Joel 2:2; Cf. Jer 30:7; Matt 24:21).

- There are very dark storm clouds on the horizon for the world, and particularly for Israel. Two-thirds of the world's Jewish population of that time will be killed (Zech 13:8-9).
- "...everyone who is found written in the book" - through this intense persecution, all Jews whose names are written in "the book" will be rescued (Cf. 7:18,27; Job 1:6; 2:1-7; Jer 30:7,11; Is 14:12-17; Zech 3:1-4; 12:10; 13:8-9; Rev 12:6-7)
- This is not a promise of spiritual regeneration (that only comes through faith in Jesus Christ); it is a promise of national deliverance from human enemies (Cf. Zech 12:10; 13:8-9; Rom 11:26)
- "the book" - a book that contains the names of all the Jews who will experience physical deliverance (Cf. Rev 12:13-17). It connotes a divine record, written beforehand, that is the basis for this physical rescue. God keeps several books (Rev 20:12; Cf. Ex 32:33; Ps 69:28; Mal 3:16; Luke 10:20; Rev 20:15; et al.).
- Since God is omniscient, He does not need books to keep records. These books are metaphors for records of what God knows.
- "...rescued" - every single Jewish believer during this time of unparalleled persecution and tribulation will be protected (Ps 34:7). Church Age believers today are also protected by the power of God (1 Peter 1:5).
- Doesn't mean we won't endure persecution or tribulation or sufferings in life, but that our arrival in heaven is protected by both the Father and the Son (John 10:27-29). Nothing can derail our destiny.
- God has a program in store for Israel during this time, specifically for the believing Remnant, in which He will protect them and provide for them during this time period

How bad is this time period?

- 1/4 of the world's population will be killed (Rev 6:8)
- 1/3 of the world's population will be killed (Rev 9:18)
- Combined, this is half of the world's population...today, it would represent about 3.5 billion people (minus those believers removed beforehand in the Rapture)

Whereas the previous verses (11:36-45) focused on the Antichrist, this passage focuses on Israel. Here we learn that this "end time" will be a time of intense persecution of Jews. This section constitutes the climax of this revelation (Dan 10-12), as well as the climax of the whole series of prophecies that this book records. It highlights God's faithfulness to His promises to His chosen people Israel.

(iii) Resurrection (12:2)

2 And **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**.

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.

2 Many of those who are sleeping in the dust of the earth will awaken—some to life everlasting, and some to disgrace and everlasting contempt.

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.

- This is not a good translation...some better translations of this verse are:

— *And many from among the sleepers of the dust of the earth shall awake; these shall be unto everlasting life; but those, the rest of the sleepers, those who do not awake at this time, shall be unto shame and everlasting contempt.*

— *And, at that time, many of, your people [v1], shall awake, or be separated out from among the sleepers in the earth's dust, some, who awake shall be, to everlasting life, and some, the rest of the sleepers who do not awake at this time shall be, to shame and everlasting contempt.*

- This passage draws a clear distinction between the resurrection of the righteous and the resurrection of the unrighteous. Only righteous saints will be resurrected at this time, in order to partake in the blessings of the Messianic Kingdom.

— The Hebrew sharply separates two classes of resurrections; the resurrection of OT saints described here occurs *after* the Tribulation (v1). This is the first hint in the OT of a two-fold resurrection.

— Daniel is unaware at this point that there is a 1000 year time gap between the two resurrections he describes here (Cf. Rev 20:4-5). Only the righteous saints will be resurrected at this time, in order to partake of the blessings of the messianic kingdom.

— These are the friends of the bridegroom who will be invited to the wedding feast (John 3:29), which will take place at the beginning of the messianic kingdom

— There is no passage in Scripture that teaches the OT saints will be raised *at the time the Church is raptured*, before the final Tribulation

- "...many" - Daniel states "many," a term that may be interpreted as leaving some behind. Christ clarifies the totality of this resurrection by using the term "all" (John 5:28).

— This verse clarifies the time of physical resurrection of saved Jews, who lived outside of the Church Age (saved Jews during the Church Age will be raptured). This refers to OT saints, as well as martyred Jewish Tribulation Saints, if there are any.

- "...those who sleep in the dust of the ground" - refers to believers who have died; OT saints

- "...everlasting life" - *ôlām*, believers are resurrected to everlasting life, to forever live in heaven with the Lord. This is the first mention of "everlasting (eternal) life" in the OT (Ps 16:10; 49:15; Is 25:8; 26:19; Hosea 13:14; Heb 11:17-18; Cf. Dan 11:33).

- The same Hebrew word used to describe eternal life is used to describe eternal damnation, thus invalidating the idea of annihilationism. The same Hebrew word (*ôlām*) is used to describe God (Ps 90:2). The same idea is of eternity of both heaven and hell is found in the NT (Matt 25:46).
- This event will take place at the Second Coming
- "...everlasting contempt" - *ôlām*, everlasting; modifies both shame and contempt. An *eternal* state for the wicked!
- Unbelievers are resurrected to everlasting contempt; after being judged for their works at the Great White Throne judgment, they will be sent to the Lake of Fire for eternity
- While this verse teaches that there will be a resurrection of the wicked, it does not say that this will occur at the end of the Tribulation, as amillennialists believe. It only says that others will awake to disgrace and everlasting contempt.
- Rev 20:12-14 makes clear that the resurrection of the wicked will occur at the end of the Millennium, not at the end of the Tribulation
- In the context of this verse, the emphasis is on the hope of the Jews who will die in the Tribulation. The destiny of the wicked is brought in simply to clarify that they too will be raised, not to specify when.

Resurrection: The Opposite of Death

- Death is the separation of the body (material) and the soul (immaterial) (Matt 27:50; Acts 7:59)
- Just like the body has different aspects to it (sight, smell, hearing, etc.), the soul has different aspects (volition, personality, preference, intellect, conscience)
- When we die, the soul waits for a reunion with a body; as that soul is placed back into a body, it's the body that God intended (our resurrection/glorified body)
- Resurrection is when the body (material) and the soul (immaterial) are joined back together
- When we're resurrected in Christ, our body will be as God intended it. Our bodies will no longer be under decay from sin and separated from the effects of the curse.

(iv) Reward (12:3)

3 And those who have insight will shine like the **glow of the expanse of heaven**, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

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.

3 Those who manifest wisdom will shine like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who turn many to righteousness will shine like the stars for ever and ever.

3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

- Daniel moves from resurrection (v2) to reward (v3), describing what the child of God can anticipate after their resurrection

— All children of God will be resurrected, but only some will be rewarded. In this verse, it is only the ones "who have insight" and "who lead the many to righteousness" who will "shine."

- "...glow of the expanse of heaven" - *zachar*, means "to be brilliant"

— This emphasizes hope for the Jews living during the time of the Tribulation, that rewards will follow resurrection. Those Jews who have the wisdom and insight into the importance of remaining faithful to God, and who do so, will receive glory (Cf. 11:33,35). Those who lead others to do right will too.

— Their glory will involve the privilege of reigning with Christ during His millennial kingdom, and from then on, forever (Cf. Matt 25:14-30; Luke 19:11-27; Rev 20:4). Other OT passages that teach this doctrine include: Job 19:26; Ps 16:11; 17:15; 73:23-24; Is 25:8; 26:19).

(v) Preservation of the prophetic word (12:4)

4 But as for you, Daniel, keep these words secret and **seal up the book** until the **end of time**; many will **roam about**, and **knowledge will increase**."

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."

4 Now as for you, Daniel, roll up your scroll and seal your words until the time of the end. Many will rush around, while knowledge increases."

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.

- A better translation of this verse is: *Many [Jews] shall run to and fro in their desire for knowledge of the last things, and, finding it in Daniel's book, because it will have been preserved to this end, their knowledge shall be increased.*

- A common misinterpretation of this verse goes something like this: knowledge will increase during the end times...this refers to the internet, the spread and progress of technology, computers/phones, etc.—but that's not what this verse is talking about.

- "...seal up the book" - does not mean that Daniel should keep it to himself, but that he should preserve this revelation because it was important (Cf. 8:26; Jer 32:9-12)

— It was customary for the scribe who recorded important documents, such as contractual promises, to run his cylinder-seal across the bottom to guarantee authenticity. That is what the angel instructed Daniel to do with this contractual promise.

— By sealing it, Daniel would certify that what stood written was exactly what God had revealed to him and had promised would happen (Cf. Rev. 22:18-19)

- Daniel was probably very frustrated...he had received all of these great truths and faithfully recorded them just as they were given, but yet he didn't have any insight into what these things meant. But God's response to Daniel was to write it down, conceal it, and don't worry about it anymore. Daniel was not given permission by God to understand what he had received.
- God tells Daniel that there is a future generation that is going to "roam about" ("go to and fro" [KJV]) who will understand the prophecies
- In 7:28, after Daniel saw the vision of the four beasts, Daniel concealed the matter within himself as he was physically and mentally unable to understand what the vision meant
- In 8:27 in the vision of the ram and goat, Daniel was "astounded" at the vision, but didn't understand the meaning
- Verse 4 is very similar to 12:9: And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for *these words will be* kept secret and sealed up until the end time.
- "...end of time" - 5x in the OT, all in Daniel (8:17; 11:35,40; 12:4,9)
- What timeframe does "end time" refer to? Since this phrase is unique to Daniel, it refers to the end time sequence found in Daniel's book, namely, the Tribulation period just before the Second Coming (the final timeframe for the Times of the Gentiles).
- "...roam about" - "go back and forth" [NASB95]; "run to and fro" [KJV] - to search for something with considerable effort, especially information (2 Chr 16:9; Jer 5:1; 49:3; Amos 8:12; Zech 4:10). It has to do with seeking to understand what God says, what Scripture actually says. In its most basic form, it means to read God's Word.
- Same phrase is used in Amos 8:12 to refer to a vain search for spiritual knowledge during a time period when it is inaccessible. When Amos 8:12 is taken into consideration, going "back and forth" or "to and fro" is a reference to reading, studying and understanding revealed Scripture. As people, specifically Jews, give themselves in the last days to reading and studying prophetic truth, Daniel predicts that God's obscure end times program will become increasingly understandable, especially as the time period for the predicted events draws even nearer (Cf. v8-9; 1 Peter 1:10-11).
- Even though Daniel and his people did not understand this book's prophecies as well as we do, simply because we have seen many of them fulfilled, these predictions did comfort them. They reassured them that *Yahweh* would ultimately deliver Israel from the hostile Gentiles, and thus fulfill His covenant promises.
- "...knowledge will increase" - *hadda'at*, meaning "*the knowledge*" and referring to Scripture, not knowledge in general
- This is not a reference to the ever-increasing knowledge, scientific and otherwise, of mankind in general, specifically over the past five decades. It also does not refer to technological advances over the past 200 years. In context, this knowledge can refer to

nothing else other than the understanding of the prophecies that Daniel was commanded to seal up until the time of the end.

— Some pastors will preach sermons on this verse to describe the obvious, referring only to technological advances today. However, this verse does not refer to technology, it refers to an explosion of prophetic knowledge and understanding that will increase. Biblical prophecy will become more clear the closer the time comes to these prophecies being fulfilled.

— The Bible is a jigsaw puzzle. Daniel was given important, but incomplete information about the end times. This is why the angel tells him to seal up the book because it was much too early to reveal additional prophetic revelation.

— Even though Daniel was told to seal up and preserve the book for the end of time, specifically for the Jewish people during the Tribulation, it does not mean that no one will be able to understand these prophecies until that time. Daniel's prophecy can be understood today by born again believers who study and search out their meaning.

— However, in context, this passage is specifically saying that the Jewish people, as a whole, will not come to understand the prophecies of the book of Daniel until the end time. The reason is because of the spiritual blindness that currently exists among all Jews, except the elect Remnant during the Church Age, when it comes to understanding even their own OT (2 Cor 3:14-16).

— Israel's blindness to be relieved (Rom 11:25)

— The unrighteous will never understand these things and they will be purged out or removed from Israel, so that all that are left by the end of the Tribulation will be those Jewish people who become believers in Jesus as their Messiah (v9-10)

Amos 8:12: "People will stagger from sea to sea And from the north even to the east; They will go **to and fro** to seek the word of the LORD, But they will not find *it*.

Three Ways God Speaks

1. Revelation - a disclosure of divine truth to a particular person; God reveals something to that person.
 - God is not giving people new revelation today of the quality of Scripture (Jude 3; Rev 22:18-19)
2. Inspiration - once a person is given revelation about something, God then tells that person to write it down; it's the recording of divine revelation (2 Tim 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)
3. Illumination - not new revelation, but an understanding of what has already been revealed by God. It's when the Spirit of God guides us as individual children of God in our understanding of the Bible.

- When the Holy Spirit does this, He does not circumvent the laws of language. God has ordained that His will be communicated to us in linguistic form. The moment God made that decision, He bound His communication with us by the ordinary laws of grammar, context, language, and communication.
- To receive the gift of illumination, you must respect the laws of language, context, grammar and communication.
- An unsaved person, without the indwelling Holy Spirit, can try to read the Bible and they simply won't understand it (2 Cor 2:14).

"About the time of the end, a body of men will be raised up who will turn their attention to the Prophecies, and insist upon their literal interpretation, in the midst of much clamor and opposition." [Sir Isaac Newton, cited in Nathaniel West, *The Thousand Years in Both Testaments*, 462.]

Progressive Illumination

- Canon completed: 180 AD
- Christology: 500 AD
- Atonement: 1100 AD
- Salvation: 1500 AD
- Eschatology: 1800 AD

There's a mindset in the church today that if you can't find a doctrine in the writings of John Calvin, Martin Luther, or the early church fathers, you can't believe it. This mindset doesn't understand the doctrine of progressive illumination or the Holy Spirit's role in illuminating the Bible for believers.

There are things we know today that John Calvin and Martin Luther had no clue about...not because we're smarter than they are, but because we are living in a different era. John Calvin was brilliant in many areas, and wrote a commentary on the entire Bible except the Book of Revelation.

Martin Luther could not understand the Book of Revelation, so much so that he included it (along with Hebrews, James and Jude) in the appendix of his Bible.



Martin Luther

Preface to the New Testament, 1522.

"I miss more than one thing in this book, and this makes me hold it to be neither apostolic nor prophetic...I think of it almost as I do of the Fourth Book of Esdras, and can in no way detect that the Holy Spirit produced it...It is just the same as if we did not have it, and there are many far better books for us to keep. Finally, let everyone think of it [Revelation] as his own spirit gives him to. My spirit cannot fit itself into this book. There is one sufficient reason for me not to think highly of it — Christ is not taught or known in it; but to teach Christ is the thing which an apostle is bound, above all else, to do, as He says in Acts 1, 'Ye shall be my witnesses.' Therefore I stick to the books which give me Christ, clearly and purely." In 1545, Luther printed the Book of Revelation with Hebrews, James and Jude as an appendix to the New Testament.

(vi) Questions and answers (12:5-13)

(a) First-round (12:5-7)

(1) Question regarding length of persecution (12:5-6)

5 Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, **two others were standing**, one on this bank of the stream and the other on that bank of the stream.

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.

5 "Then while I, Daniel, continued watching, suddenly two others stood there, one on this side of the river bank and one on the other side.

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.

- Daniel continued to see the vision that he began describing in 10:5. The final stage of the vision is a Q&A session (Cf. 1 Peter 1:10-11).

- "...two others were standing" - obviously two angels, one standing on each side of the "stream" (the Tigris River) (Cf. 10:4). These were two other (new) angels, other than the one who had been addressing him since 10:11.

6 And someone said to the **man dressed in linen**, who was above the waters of the stream, "How long *will it be* until the end of *these wonders*?"

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*?"

6 One asked the man dressed in linen clothes, who was standing above the waters of the river, 'How long until the fulfillment of the wonders?'

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 two angels asked a question of the man dressed in linen (Cf. 10:5-6)

- "...man dressed in linen" - many believe this is Jesus Christ, mainly because this man is described in the same way John described Jesus in Rev 1. But some good scholars believe He was an angel (see notes on 10:6,10). It's hard to believe how Jesus could be withheld for 21 days by the prince of Persia (Cf. 10:13).

- One of the angels asked how long it would be until the end of the events just described (11:36—12:3), namely, the events having to do with Israel's final persecution and deliverance.

(2) Answer: 3 1/2 years until the completion of the shattering of Israel (12:7)

7 And I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, as he **raised his right hand and his left toward heaven**, and swore by Him who lives forever that *it would be for a time, times, and half a time*; and as soon as they finish **smashing the power of the holy people**, all these events will be completed.

7 I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these events will be completed.

7 "I heard the man dressed in linen clothes, who was standing above the waters of the river as he lifted his right and left hands to heaven and swore by the one who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and a half. When the shattering of the power of the holy people has occurred, all these things will conclude."

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 sware 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.

- This verse discloses the duration of the time period in which the Jews will be persecuted, and the ultimate conversion of Israel: 3-1/2 years, which refers to the second half of the

Tribulation

- "...raised his right hand and his left toward heaven" - the sign of a solemn oath
- Whether there is solemn oath or not, we should believe it because it is contained in Scripture, but sometimes God gives us an extra layer of confirmation that what is said is true and will indeed take place
- "...a time, times, and an half *a time*" - 3-1/2 years; this is the second time the length of this time period was given (7:25; Rev 12:14; Cf. Rev 13:5). This same time period is also referred to as "1,260 days" and "42 months"). This is the length of the second half of the Tribulation
- This was good news: even though the future enemy of the Jews (the Antichrist) would be in control for one week (seven years, 9:27), intense persecution would only be the Jews' fate for the last half of that period (Cf. Zech 14:2-3)
- "...smashing the power" - better translated as "shatter" the power; it doesn't say that the holy people will be "smashed" but rather that their "power" will be smashed
- Notice what God is doing to His chosen yet unbelieving nation during this future time period: He is smashing their power. In other words, He is breaking them down during this future time of unparalleled distress so that they will look up and thus trust in Him alone and consequently be saved (Cf. Jer 30:7).
- Israel's problem today is pride...pride that they have survived as a people, pride in their natural resources, wealth, business acumen, technological advances—they think they've done it all themselves.
- God will use the Tribulation to break that pride and get His people to understand that through their 2000-year hiatus, He has been watching and protecting them, and He's the one who has regathered them back in their land and blessed them.
- The Tribulation will put Israel in so much distress that they will finally realize that all they have is God (isn't this how God works with everyone?)
- This verse gives proof for a pre-Tribulational Rapture because it clearly shows that the purpose of the Tribulation is related exclusively to national Israel. Because of this, the Church cannot be present during this future time.
- Since the Church is already in faith, there is no need for it to be present during a time period when God is trying His people for the express purpose of bringing them to saving faith. The program of belief after distress is unrelated to the Church, which already believes.
- Israel is the only nation on earth promised a national revival...no other nation is promised this. For this to occur, God has to overcome two things:
 1. Israel's spiritual blindness (Matt 13:14-15; Acts 28:25-28; Rom 11:7-10; 2 Cor 3:14-16)
 2. Israel's self-sufficiency (Cf. "living securely" Ezek 38:8; they are rich, Ezek 38:12)

- Unfortunately this "smashing" will result in two-thirds of Jews (unbelievers) to be killed (Zech 13:8-9)
- "...holy people" - the Jewish nation

(b) Second round (12:8-13)

(1) Question regarding outcome of these events (12:8)

8 But as for me, I heard but **did not understand**; so I said, "My lord, what *will* be the outcome of these events?"

8 As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, "My lord, what *will* be the outcome of these events?"

8 "I heard, but I didn't understand. So I asked, 'Sir, what happens next?'

8 And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what *shall* be the end of these *things* ?

- "...did not understand" - Daniel did *not* understand. Sometimes people will say about hermeneutics that we have to understand what the writer understood. Be cautious about confining the Word of God through the understanding of the person who wrote it.

- Since Daniel did not fully understand the revelation, he respectfully asked the messenger how everything would end

— He may have been particularly interested in receiving more information about the resurrection and rewards that was mentioned earlier (v1-3)

(2) Answer (12:9-13)

a. Vision to be fulfilled in the future (12:9)

9 And he said, "**G**o *your way*, Daniel, for *these words will* be kept secret and sealed up until the end time.

9 He said, "Go *your way*, Daniel, for *these words* are concealed and sealed up until the end time.

9 "He answered, 'Go on your way, Daniel, because these matters are wrapped up and sealed until the time of the end.'

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

- To fully understand this verse, you have to link it with 12:4: "But as for you, Daniel, keep these words secret and seal up the book until the end of time; many will roam about, and knowledge will increase."

- "...Go" - talks about Daniel's mental attitude

- The Lord reminded Daniel that much of what he had received would remain obscure until the time of the end (v4). At that time, people would be able to look back, marvel at the total fulfillment of prophecy, and glorify the Most High God.

- So in Dan 12:4,9, we see the principle of progressive illumination. God has taken prophetic understanding and sealed it, making it undecipherable. Daniel himself couldn't understand it.
- God's design is that as history moves closer and closer to the time period predicted in God's Word, His prophetic word gets progressively more and more clear and understandable.
- So I can understand Daniel's prophecies better than he did...is that because I'm smarter? No, it's because he was living in the wrong time period. I'm living in the right time period or season of the Lord's return, so I can look at the world and understand what John or Daniel meant in both Revelation or Daniel.
- If the Lord tarries and we die, the next generation will understand prophetic Scripture even better than us. And those who go through the Tribulation period will understand it even more so because they will experience it firsthand.

Progressive illumination is very different than progressive revelation. Revelation is closed (Jude 3), there is no new revelation from God today. Revelation from God was closed at the closing of the canon. There are no more books of the Bible to be written. But what is happening is that the content in those books, particularly in regards to eschatology, starts to get more and more clear and understandable. See [Rapture 04_ Ten Truths About the Rapture - Part 4 \(Dan 12:4,9\)](#).

b. Righteous will have understanding (12:10)

- 10 Many will be **purged, cleansed, and refined**, but the wicked will act wickedly; and **none of the wicked will understand**, but **those who have insight will understand**.
- 10 Many will be purged, purified and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand.
- 10 Many will be purified, cleansed, and refined, though the wicked will continue to act wickedly, and none of the wicked will understand. Nevertheless, the insightful will understand.
- 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.
- "...purged" - the Tribulation will purge a great number of non-elect Jews
- "...cleansed...refined" - the troubles coming to the earth during the Great Tribulation will wake up many Jews to belief in their Messiah
- "...none of the wicked will understand" - their lack of understanding will be due to their rejection of Jesus (Cf. Ps 14:1; Rom 1:18-22; 2 Peter 3:5)
- As we get closer to the end and God has gradually and progressively illuminated prophetic Scripture, the wicked will ignore it

- "...those who have insight will understand" - the righteous, who have spiritual insight, will understand these prophetic passages (Cf. Prov 1:7)
- God never designed us to live in independence from Him. If you're living outside of God's design, things do not work as they are supposed to because you're out of your designed purpose. When you start living for the purpose in which you are created, your ability to understand the things of God accelerates.
- If you're at the same place now that you were 2-3 years ago, the issue is not intelligence, the issue is your heart. Are you in submission to the authority of the Word of God in all areas. If that is not happening, the spiritual understanding is short-circuited because the fear of the Lord is the *beginning* of knowledge.

"The understanding of prophecy peculiarly requires spiritual insight and the teaching of the Holy Spirit. Even though the Scriptures describe in great detail the time of the end, it is obvious that the wicked will not avail themselves of this divine revelation; but it will be a source of comfort and direction to those who are believers in God. Divine revelation is often given in such a way that it is hid to the wicked even though it is understandable by those spiritually minded." [Walvoord, *Daniel/Commentary*, p294.]

c. Survivors of the sheep and goat judgment will enter millennial kingdom (12:11-12)

11 And from the time that the **regular sacrifice** is abolished and **the abomination of desolation is set up**, *there will be 1,290 days*.

11 From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there will be* 1,290 days.

11 There will be 1,290 days from the time the regular burnt offering is rescinded and the destructive desolation established.

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.

- Now the divine Messenger concedes to Daniel's request and provided a little more information...

- "...regular sacrifice" - *tamid*, regular ceremonies (8:11; 11:21)

- "...the abomination of desolation is setup" - describes the abomination of desolation, which occurs at the midpoint of the seven year Tribulation period: 1,260 days after a covenant is confirmed and 1,260 days before the Second Coming.

— Technically speaking, the Abomination of Desolation occurs at the midpoint of the Tribulation, but it is also ongoing throughout the duration of the second half of the Tribulation, through the Second Coming

- "...1,290 days" - includes an additional 30 days, over and above the 3-1/2 years (1,260 days) spoken of throughout Scripture. This verse indicates that the Abomination of Desolation will remain set up in the Holy of Holies for the entire second half of the Tribulation, and for 30 days after the Second Coming.
- Scripture does not tell us why the Abomination is allowed to remain in the temple another 30 days after the Second Coming. It should be noted that there is no urgency to cleanse this particular Temple since this is the "Tribulation Temple" and is never sanctioned by God like the other temples were (Is 66:1-5). This temple will ultimately be destroyed because this will not be the Temple of the Kingdom (which Jesus Himself will build).
- 30 days after the Second Coming, the Abomination of Desolation is destroyed and the Temple with it, bringing it to an end
- This desecration will be a stench in the nostrils of God, so it will take time to restore that temple and remove the desecration
- How the Antichrist's temple will be transformed into the Millennial Temple is unknown...will the Antichrist temple be completely destroyed and rebuilt, or will it be "remodeled and expanded" to match the millennial temple described in Ezek 40-48? We'll have to wait and see.
- Some believe that the Antichrist's temple will be destroyed in the 6th Bowl judgment (Rev 16:18-20)
- After Antiochus IV Epiphanes desecrated the temple, 1 Maccabees 4 tells us that Judas Maccabeus and his army went to great lengths to cleanse the temple in Jerusalem of the abominations. That re-dedication ceremony is now celebrated as Hanukkah.
- Hezekiah postponed the Jewish calendar for 30 days (2 Chr 30:2-4). He postponed the celebration of the Passover for 30 days because the priests had not consecrated themselves in sufficient numbers.
- God so values a properly consecrated temple that He postponed Passover for 30 days to obtain that objective. If God did this in the OT, what would stop Him from the same 30-day postponement at the start of the Millennial kingdom?
- Application: today, there is no temple in Jerusalem; for the Church Age believer, our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19), and God values a pure and consecrated temple (body) today just as much as He did so in the OT, and will do so again immediately after the Second Coming.
- A consecrated, clean, pure temple is something God wants to work in and through. This becomes an injunction to Church Age believers to live a moral life in Christ.

The 75 DAY Interval

Daniel 12:11-12



12 **Blessed** is the one who is patient and attains to the **1,335 days**!

12 How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!

12 Blessed is the one who perseveres and attains to the 1,335 days.

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

- "Blessed" - those who are blessed are those "sheep" who made it through the Sheep & Goat judgment, and will enter the kingdom in their mortal bodies

- "...1,335 days" - this verse adds another 45 days on top of the added 30 days in v11, making a total of 75 days between the Second Coming and the inauguration of the millennial kingdom

- In Israel's feast calendar, Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement) occurs in the Fall; 75 days later is Hanukkah. It could be that the 75 day interval corresponds with Yom Kippur (date of the Second Coming) and Hanukkah (feast of dedication).

- Apparently there will be many who will fail and die before the 1,335th day comes, although they survived past the 1,260 days

A number of events will transpire during this 75-day period, although the sequence is impossible to determine from Scripture:

1. Consecrate the Tribulation temple (remodel/rebuild) into the Millennial temple (v11)
2. The Antichrist & False Prophet thrown into Lake of Fire (Rev 19:20)
3. Satan bound in the Abyss (Rev 20:1-3)
4. The Judgment of the Jews (Ezek 20:33-44)
5. The Judgment of the Gentiles (Joel 3:1-3; Matt 25:31-46)
6. The Resurrection of OT Saints (Dan 12:2) & Tribulation Martyrs (Rev 20:4-5)
7. Rewarding of OT Saints & Tribulation Martyrs (Dan 12:3)

Some other events that may take place during this period include assigning responsibilities for the administration of His kingdom, and possibly mop up operations of the vast armies that were deployed from both the east and west at Megiddo. See [Hitchcock - 75 Days to Glory](#) and [The 75 Day Interval](#) for more information.



Paul Benware
Daniel Commentary (p. 275)

“Time will be needed to set up the governing administration of His kingdom after the rewarding has taken place. Once the judgments determining who can enter the kingdom have been concluded, it may take another forty-five days to form the government structure necessary to operate in the kingdom...After the saints and unbelievers have been separated, it will take time to appoint saints to different government posts and to inform them of their various responsibilities.”

d. Daniel to be resurrected (12:13)

13 But as for you, **go your way** to the end; then you will rest and **rise for your allotted portion at the end of the age.**"

13 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."

13 Now as for you, keep on going until the end—you'll rest and then rise to receive your reward at the end of the age."

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.

- Personal care by God is now shown to Daniel in this last verse...

- "...go *your way*" - Daniel was told twice in this chapter (v4,9) that God didn't will for Daniel to understand the prophecies he was given. He was living in the wrong generation, much too far away from the fulfillment of them for God to want him (or Daniel to need) to understand.

- "...rise" - Daniel just wrote about a prophecy of the resurrection of OT saints (12:2); the angel is telling Daniel once he dies, he will "rest" then "rise" with the rest of the OT saints

- "...your allotted portion" - God is promising Daniel directly here that he will indeed participate in that great resurrection and take his seat in the millennial kingdom

— It may also be a reference to Ezek 47 and the division of the land in the kingdom, not just referring to Daniel's entrance into the kingdom, but also his reward. Daniel will not only be granted entrance into the kingdom based on God's grace, but will also be rewarded because of a life well-lived.

— Matt 19:28 says, And Jesus said to them, **"Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**

- "...the end of the age" - at the Second Coming (Cf. Rev 20:4-6)