

CONCERNING THE WAY

March 3, 2009

LESSON 50: PROPHECY SERIES — THE BOOK OF DANIEL



Chapter 12

With this lesson we finish the book of Daniel. Daniel 10-12, the last section of Daniel, the culmination of his revelation, dealt with the rise of the beast, the antichrist, the man of sin, the one individual in history who will show more clearly than any other person who has ever lived what total depravity means. He will be given opportunities under God's sovereignty to reveal just how bad the human race really is in all of its "good" because the program of this beast will be one of social reform, world government, supposed world peace, one in which all the schemes that man has tried to give him security, to give him peace on a human viewpoint basis, all these schemes will be allowed to come out and really show themselves for what they are, so that in eternity no creature can raise an objection to God's plan.

This is going to settle all the desires to make a go of it on our own; God, you never gave us a chance to choose, God, you never allowed us to really use our ingenuity apart from your grace, God, if you had allowed us to do that we could have come up with something equal or better than Your plan. But all of those objections will be silenced by the demonstration at the end of history of man and his own schemes. That's the significance of the beast.

Then beginning in Daniel 11:36 we saw his kingdom begin to break up. Verse 40 was the invasion from the king of the south and the king of the north, which happens, apparently, at the mid point of the tribulation, and it may be the first phase of the breakup of the kingdom of the antichrist. It is to show that man's schemes of world peace simply will not hold together; it always eventually goes to pieces. And finally we saw that as a result of this last campaign all the armies of the world will be brought together in the valley of Armageddon in preparation for the great day of the battle of the Lord God Almighty spoken of in the book of Revelation. The last chapter that man will write in history will be war, not peace, forever again showing the truth of James 4 that we war because, not of social conditions, not because the political system is wrong, but because basically mankind is wrong, and that all the schemes of the modern revolutionaries, whether the French Revolution of 1789 or the Russian Revolution in 1917, or others, whatever the radical movements are they are always the same old story; same old song, and that is that if we would change the institutions we can change man. God's theme is exactly the opposite, you must change man first to change his institutions.

This man who will eventually ascend to political leadership will on the surface be very moral and ethical. He will have many areas of human good. He will not appear to be some sort of a serial killer or something. He will be an individual who has "community respect," and so many well-meaning people will be deceived by him.

We have seen that when this man ascends into prominence world wide he will have certain characteristics which we have studied; he will be basically amoral, not immoral, just amoral. Today in this country the area of foreign policy is an amoral position. In other words, it is no longer what is right and what is honorable; it is what is convenient that counts. We did this unofficially before but now we apparently are doing it as a matter of official policy. We have seen that this man relies more and more on power for security. The goal of man always has been for happiness and security apart from God. And the beast will promise security and can only deliver by using tremendous military power.

Out of all these passages we have studied in Daniel about the 4th kingdom in the end times, here's what it looks like when you put it together. There will be a time of tribulation seven years long, actually the last three and a half years is called the great tribulation; seven years will be started by a treaty between the antichrist and the state of Israel. This treaty will go for three and a half years and then be broken, and then history will go on for three and a half more years and then Christ will come again. That's the picture and outline of the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

After the antichrist makes his treaty at the beginning of the tribulation he brings a period of world peace and then this world peace begins to break up because remember, peace that is grounded on human viewpoint and not divine viewpoint will always destroy itself. There is no peace apart from the Lord Jesus Christ. And any peace that is built apart from being based on God's Word is going to cave in, always has, always will. That includes peace within a marriage relationship, peace within a family relationship and peace between nations. The same principle always applies. We'll repeat the last verse of chapter 11 for context:

Daniel 11:45 "He will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him."

So he plants a tent, his encampment, his command post, "between the seas" that's between the Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea, "the beautiful holy mountain" is Mount Zion, and "he will come to his end, and no one will help him." That's a summary verse of the next verse; there should not be a chapter break here, it should go right on to Daniel 12:1. The opening four verses of this chapter clearly are part of the revelation given in the previous chapter in verses 36-45. Those verses were about the military conquests and activities of the antichrist. And now we'll be told that these activities would be resisted by the angel Michael when they pertain to the nation of Israel.

Daniel 12:1 "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."

"Now at that time," this explains the end of the previous verse, remember Hebrew gives you a summary verse and then it gives you details of how that summary verse is fulfilled. Your summary verse is "he will come to his end." How? Because then Michael arises. Michael is an archangel, possibly the most powerful angel in heaven. His name means "who is like unto God". He is the angel that helped Gabriel overcome the Prince of Persia and he will be the angel who will help cast Satan out of heaven down to the earth.

It says he is the great prince who stands guard over "your people". Who is "your people"? Daniel's people, the Jews! Now the people who are not premillennialist students of the Bible, those who believe in an amillennial or postmillennial position, that is people who believe history is going to go on until Christ comes again, and then that's the end of history, or people who believe that history is going to improve until Christ comes again, both of those positions have a problem at this point with the words "your people."

And who are Daniel's people? Daniel's people is the nation Israel. It is not the Church, so we're talking sometime down in the future about a resurgent nation Israel. But you have some people who don't accept the literal Old Testament, and they try to miraculously change the meaning; someone waves a wand and "your people" becomes the Church, in some strange way. But I will never teach the Bible that way, I believe that we should interpret the Bible literally and contextually throughout and when it says "your people" it obviously means Israel. This is not that difficult, folks!

"At that time" is very important, it means that at the time the antichrist does these things in the previous verses, the angel Michael will rise up to support and defend Israel in a special way at the midpoint of the

70th week. "There will be a time of distress such as never occurred" fits with other descriptions in scripture about that last 3 ½ years, the Great Tribulation (Revelation 12, Matthew 24:21, Deuteronomy 4:30, Joel 2:1-2, Zechariah 11:15-16, 13:8-9, Jeremiah 30:7). In the Holocaust under Hitler, one-third of the world's Jewish population died. Under the antichrist's persecutions, it is prophesied that two thirds of the Jewish population will die (Zechariah 13:8-9). These events spoken of have to be in the future, they do not fit anywhere else in history. For example, they could not have occurred in AD 70, because the Holocaust under Hitler killed many more Jews than the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in AD 70. The only place this logically fits is in the time described in Revelation 6-19, where there are catastrophic and global judgments unleashed upon earth. Revelation 6 says that one quarter of the world's population will be destroyed, then Revelation 9 says of that, one third of the world's population is eliminated through these judgments. So, half the world's population will be destroyed. This has never occurred in history.

The assumption here is that if not for Michael's support, the nation of Israel probably would be completely wiped out. Michael comes to ensure that the Abrahamic Covenant would be finally fulfilled. In fact, in these scriptures I just mentioned it is clear that Israel will be delivered through this tribulation, and, though many will die, many others will eventually come to faith in Jesus Christ. As verse 1 says, everyone who is found written in the book will be rescued. Remember God's purpose for the 70th week that He spelled out in Daniel 9:24-27. Israel must be brought to repentance before Christ comes back and then He will fulfill all His promises given to Israel.

"Everyone who is found written in the book will be rescued" That means not all of Israel but the godly remnant of Israel, those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ. Keep in mind that "the book" mentioned here, even though it looks like it is the Lamb's Book of Life (Revelation 13:8, 20:15), may not be the same book. There are a number of books mentioned in scripture and they're not all the same. Whether it is the same book or not, the result is the same. The ones who are rescued are obviously redeemed people.

Question: what is it that activates Michael? It had to be something. If you paid attention earlier in the book of Daniel what did I say about those angelic powers that operate in history? What does this book keep on telling us? That the intercessory prayers of the saints, your prayers, activate angelic powers that you can't see but that manipulate and work in history to bring strange things about.

So we deduce from our previous study that Michael begins his activity because at those last three and a half years one of the greatest revivals in this history of Israel breaks out and you have a maximum number of Jews who trust the Lord Jesus Christ. Something, either it's the shock of seeing that temple desecrated, but something stimulates these people to trust in Christ and they begin to trust, more and more, one here, one there, then ten here, then ten there, then a hundred, then thousands begin to trust and a mass revival begins. Many Gentiles will trust Christ at this time as well.

If you'll turn to Hosea 5:15 we'll see some of the dynamics behind Michael arising. Michael begins to save the last remnant of believers, particularly Hebrew believers, those are the ones in the fore view of this prophecy, though there will be Gentile believers too.

Hosea 5:15 I will go away and return to My place Until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.

Now what do you think that's a prophecy of? Obviously that's a prophecy of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was rejected officially by the nation and He says in this prophecy I will stay away from this planet until Israel acknowledges me nationally; it doesn't mean every Jew, it means nationally they will accept the decision for Christ.

Hosea 6:1-2 "Come, let us return to the LORD. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us. (2) "He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, That we may live before Him.

This will be the prayer that will be prayed in the last days by the nation. Toward the end, as this revival grows and grows, finally a national confession is made in the last days of the tribulation. It's very likely that will happen in the fall of a year; on the day of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, because the spring part of the Jewish calendar has already been fulfilled. Christ died on the Passover, He rose on the day of Firstfruits, and the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost. But the Jewish calendar is made of two parts and the fall part has never been fulfilled; the glory of the trumpets, Yom Kippur and the Feast of Tabernacles; nothing has ever happened on those days, except the war that happened in 1973 but that's not a fulfillment. I believe Yom Kippur may be the day in which something clicks with the nation; the rabbis, the heads of the state of Israel, will then trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and within a seventy-two hour period ("the third day") Jesus Christ will appear in the heavens and return. So this is how intimate Christ's relationship is to history based on Israel's reception or rejection. In any case, we're not sure exactly when this will happen, but we know it will happen.

Early in that revival Michael begins to arise and defend the people. To show you what Michael is doing we've got to turn to another apocalyptic scene, Revelation 12.

Revelation 12:1-5 A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; (2) and she was with child; and she *cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth. (3) Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. (4) And his tail *swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. (5) And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

Up until verse 5 that's already happened, that is past history. What is this talking about? It's talking about the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ; who is the woman? Israel. Israel is always pictured as the wife of Jehovah. She's pregnant with the Messiah, and she delivers the Messiah.

And the dragon stood before the woman to devour her child. Think back to the Christmas story, remember Herod? He waited around for a while and the second year he decreed that every child be destroyed. Herod was going off his rocker and secular historians tell you this, he killed his own son, he was crazy, he just goes bananas at that point. He becomes a demon-possessed man. He becomes an agent of Satan.

Notice in verse 5 – "and her child was caught up to God and to His throne." There's the ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now from verse 6 you have the Second Advent. It skips to the future.

Revelation 12:6-11 Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she *had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days. (7) And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, (8) and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. (9) And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. (10) Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation,

and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. (11) "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. (12) For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time." (13) And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child. (14) But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she *was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

What is all that symbology talking about? In Daniel, Michael at that time stands up to defend his brethren. At that three and a half year period all of a sudden everything starts again. Between verse 5 and verse 6 you have the whole Church Age in this prophecy, just skipped, he doesn't even deal with it because again when you deal with prophecy you're dealing with history and primarily that has to do with the nation Israel in apocalyptic literature. So the Church Age is skipped. Who is the woman that flees into the wilderness? That's the remnant of Israel, the faithful Jewish remnant. Where did you just read last chapter that the antichrist is going to leave an area alone? Edom, Moab and the chief part of Ammon. So there's going to be a safe zone in that area. That area is a wilderness and they are all going to flee there. And notice it is a "place prepared by God". So amid all the chaos of the Great Tribulation, God's sovereign hand takes care of His own, and there's a place, a free zone of refuge created.

At that time there's the most fantastic angelic conflict man has ever seen. Whether there's going to be geophysical manifestations we don't know, but at that point Michael bumps Satan to the earth; that means that Satan can no longer be in the angelic council mentioned in 1 Kings 22 and other passages, he is no longer in the council that runs the universe, Job 1, Job 2, 1 Kings 22 and other passages. From this point on Satan is confined to the planet earth, and that's what makes hell on earth. Historians and men have never seen what's going to happen in those last three and a half years; we think we've got problems, wait till Satan himself is confined here to aggravate, to agitate, to control men himself personally, not just demons but himself here, then you will see incredible things that will occur.

Daniel 12:2 "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.

Verse 1 spoke of those who would be rescued by the Messiah's coming. These verses appear to be speaking of those who will die before Messiah comes back. They died before Messiah came to rescue Israel from Satan and the antichrist.

Notice there are two distinct groups spoken of here. The ones who sleep will awake to everlasting life, these would be the believers. The metaphor of sleep for death is used exclusively in scripture for deceased saints. The wicked are never said to be sleeping, but just referred to as "those over there" (the "others to disgrace").

The "these to everlasting life" are the "many". The Bible teaches there are different resurrections at different times (1 Corinthians 15:20-24, Revelation 20:4-6). Some interpreters have tried to make the Hebrew word "rabbim" to mean "all", so they can use this verse to teach a general resurrection for all people throughout history, but this verse is not speaking of that,

However, John 5:21-29 does teach that ALL will be resurrected.

John 5:28-29 "Do not be amazed at this, because a time is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice (29) and will come out — the ones who have done what is good to the resurrection resulting in life, and the ones who have done what is evil to the resurrection resulting in condemnation.

There will be a resurrection to life for the believer, and a resurrection to condemnation for the unbeliever. Also see Acts 24:15, Revelation 20:4-5, 11-15. These verses in Revelation teach that there will be 1,000 years between these two resurrections. This is one of the evidences for the premillennial position; Daniel 12:2 teaches a partial resurrection; when does the other part happen? Turn to Revelation 20:4, this speaks of the same thing as Daniel 12:2:

Revelation 20:4-6 Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (5) The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. (6) Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Then after the thousand years, it says Satan will be released for a while and he will convince the rebellious people to actually attack Christ in Jerusalem, and of course they will be wiped out. Then it goes on and describes this other resurrection, the resurrection of damnation.

Revelation 20:11-15 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. (12) And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. (13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. (14) Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (15) And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

So Revelation 20 solves the issue left up in the air by Daniel 12; that is, you have the partial resurrection at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, you have one thousand years of the millennial kingdom, and then you have a resurrection of the unsaved dead. So you have two major resurrections separated by the thousand years; one at the beginning and one at the end.

Let's discuss "those who sleep a little more" Who are these that are dead at the end of the tribulation? There are two categories, Old Testament saints and tribulational saints who have died. So this is a very interesting point but if you believe in the Pre-Tribulational Rapture, if you are a believer you'll get your resurrection before Noah, Daniel, Abraham, and all the great men of the Old Testament. Now what gives you the privilege of receiving your resurrection body before they do? Only one thing, God's grace, He has put you in union with His own Son; you are in the body of Christ and those men were not; they were saved and will live eternally in the kingdom, but not as Christians. You have a unique privilege joined to the body of the Lord Jesus Christ and one of these privileges is that you will receive your resurrection body first. That's nothing we earn, nothing that we deserve, it's grace all the way.

Other Old Testament references to physical resurrection are Genesis 22:5 with Hebrew 11:19, Job 19:25-26, and Psalms 16:9-10.

Now, the resurrection to life takes place in three phases. 1 Corinthians 15:20-23, Paul analogizes these three phases to Israel's harvest cycles. First, Christ is resurrected, He is the firstfruits. Secondly there is the rapture, where all believing persons living or dead since Pentecost (the Church) will be resurrected, this is the general harvest, and the third resurrection is the resurrection of the Old Testament saints and the Tribulation martyrs, that's the gleanings. After the full harvest is taken in, you have the resurrection to condemnation, the unsaved, at the end of the Millennium.

Daniel 12:3 "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."

This verse teaches that the group of believers that are resurrected to everlasting life will be rewarded. The "those who have insight" means those who know the truth of God and are living according to that truth. This concept of rewarding of believers is much more developed in the New Testament, and is connected with the return of Christ (Revelation 22:12, Matthew 16:27). The "forever and ever" indicates that the rewards are not temporary, but will last for all eternity.

Some read this verses as meaning those who have insight will see through the antichrist's deception, and see him for what he really is, and lead others to Christ during the Tribulation period.

"God says that during that time of awful trouble on the Jewish nation, he is going to raise up some who are going to be teachers of righteousness. Can you imagine what it will cost a person to stand up in the Tribulation Period with a Bible in hand and declare the righteousness of God? Those people know that when they teach the truth of God, their heads could roll at any moment. There is a special place in God's kingdom for those who accurately teach God's Holy Book."

Dr. David Jeremiah

I believe this may also refer to the prophets of the Old Testament era; , the great priests and prophets that taught the people the Torah, that caused them to know the doctrines of the Word of God. These people have a place of honor in eternity; they are the ones that stood up for the Word when it was unpopular.

And with those promises, the vision ends. Jewish believers would have been greatly encouraged by these last few verses, it would have given them great hope.

Daniel 12:4 "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."

This does not mean that Daniel was to keep the message hidden from God's people, but that the prophecies should be preserved and protected until the right people came along that would understand them. Jesus Himself exhorted believers to come to an understanding of the prophecy of Daniel (Matthew 24:15). As the centuries went by, God would raise up other prophets to reveal further details of this prophecy, making it more clear as time went on. The book of Revelation clarifies much of what is written in Daniel. John, after being given the visions in Revelation, was specifically told NOT to seal up his book, because now all Revelation had been given, all the prophecies could now be understood and fulfillment could begin at any time.

So now, 3500 years later, the prophecies of Daniel have been preserved, we have received additional prophecies since then, and we have the accumulated understanding of godly people who have studied

these prophecies. God's prophetic truth is now open to us to understand.

The last part of this verse has been interpreted many different ways. Some see it as a prediction of our modern world, where men's ability to travel back and forth has increased, and advancements in technology have increased. It is more likely to be connected to the first part of the verse, and is simply saying that those who were near the Tribulation period would understand these things. They would want to know what was happening, and would search the Bible for answers. Knowledge would be increased over time by further revelation from Zechariah and John, and fulfilled prophecy by the time of the end would make them easier to understand. God will make sure that these prophecies become more understandable as it gets closer to the time of the end.

Men like Hal Lindsey, Tim LaHaye, and others have made prophetic truth more understandable and more available to the average person. You may not agree with all they have written, but God has used them to reveal these prophecies in the end times. Dr. Walvoord said, when asked about the "Left Behind" series of fiction books, said that it proves God has a sense of humor. Why? Because it shows that God will use even a fiction series to teach prophecy to accomplish what the church should be doing and has not done. Churches should be teaching prophecy, but ultimately it doesn't matter, God will find a way to get His truth to people who want to hear it and receive it. It is interesting to note that no expositor made any attempt to publish a verse by verse study of Daniel until the 20th century.

The "many will go back and forth" could be referring to the fact that more and more people are studying prophecy as we get closer to the time of the end. And how do you study the Bible? You go back and forth through the text, turning pages back and forth to connect the different future revelations in the whole Bible.

God is making prophecy easier to understand as we get closer and closer to the time that they will be fulfilled. We can understand these prophecies better than Daniel could. What a privilege!

Another interpretation of this verse is that when this book is finally understood, that men will be going across the face of the earth seeking God's Word, but not finding it. There's a parallel reference to check the interpretation of this verse. Amos 8:12 talks about a future time to Amos' day, but the language is identical to the passage in Daniel 12.

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.

What is this talking about? It's talking about the fact that men will begin to hunger and thirst for the content of revelation, and there will be no revelation given to them. When that stage is reached, when believers are under such tremendous pressure, not because they don't have the Bible. The Bible will be read during the era at the end. In the tribulation, some people will recognize that what is going on has been prophesied in the Bible. So many people will be looking around for more detailed information.

They're going to be asking, "What is happening to history?" People are going to be terrified about these events that are happening and taking place, and they're going to seek all over the place for understanding, what is going on. This man comes out of nowhere to lead a world empire, he begins to set up a culture we've never seen before, we've got all of these cosmic disturbances, we've got geophysical disturbances that we've never seen happen before, we've got physical phenomena occurring on a catastrophic scale, we need information. So the angel says Daniel, write this book because this book will finally be understood only in that future hour when men are in the state of panic. "Running to and fro" is panic, they will be panicking for insight into the Scripture. And when men reach this stage, then they will understand, says the angel. And they will run around looking for further revelation from God, but they won't get it.

Daniel 12:5-7 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. (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?" (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.

"The angel's question indicates he was curious about these future events. It is interesting to observe there are things that even angels do not know but desire to learn (1 Peter 1:12)."

Stephen R. Miller

The man dressed in linen – remember Him? That's the same person that appeared to Daniel at the beginning of this vision in chapter 10. Again, this most likely is the pre-incarnate Christ making another appearance here. The fact that He is the one that has the insight to answer the question that is asked, and He is above the waters, speaking of His power and authority, gives more credence to this interpretation.

Christ's answer shows that the "wonders" asked about have to do with the events in the 2nd half of the 70th week. And the answer to the question was "until these wonders "shatter the power of the holy people". Remember that the purpose of the 70th week is to break the pride of Israel, end their rebellion, and turn them to repentance. **We should all be in support of the nation of Israel, but let's not forget that Israel today is in a state of blindness, stubbornness, and unbelief, having rejected her own Messiah.** Individual Jews are coming to Christ, but the nation as a whole is still in unbelief. **That is what is holding back the 2nd coming of Christ (not the Rapture)!** (Matthew 23:37-39) Do you realize that even if the whole world comes to Christ and Israel remains in unbelief, Christ will not return? Conversely, if Israel turns to Christ, and the rest of the world rejects Him, the 2nd coming will happen. The 2nd coming is NOT based on what the world does, or even what the church does, but what Israel does.

I believe that the event that will turn them ultimately will be the desecration of the temple. When they see the man they have trusted as their Messiah enter the temple and repeat the thing that Antiochus Epiphanes did, it will be a huge blow to their pride. They will see that they have it all wrong. This event will humble them and God's spirit will work among them, the blindness will be lifted (Zechariah 12:10), and they will weep, "look upon Him whom they've pierced, and they will recognize Jesus as their Messiah

Usually you raise one hand to take an oath, but Christ wanted us to see that this was doubly binding; He raises both hands and takes a solemn oath that what He was saying was true. And here we see the phrase "time, times, and half a time", used, which was also used in chapter 7:25 in the prophecy of the four beasts. There we concluded that it is referring to the last 3 ½ years of the 70th week (Revelation 11:2,3, 12:6, 14, 13:5). Again, this would have been a sign of hope to Jewish believers. The oath taken here by Christ is that the apostasy of Israel will end at the conclusion of the 70th week, and a humble, repentant nation will turn in faith to their Messiah.

Daniel 12:8-10 As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, "My lord, what will be the outcome of these events?" (9) He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time. (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.

Daniel didn't really understand Christ's answer, so he asks a question. The answer was similar to verse 4, that there would be further clarification later on, in the prophecies of Zechariah, Paul, and John. Daniel is

basically being told it was none of his business, these prophecies were not for him.

The answer to Daniel could be extended to many other Bible scholars throughout history. For example, John Calvin wrote commentaries on every book of the Bible except the book of Revelation. Why? Because it wasn't the right time period, he wasn't living in the time that prophecy became more understandable. Many people attack prophecy teaching because they say that these doctrines weren't found with the early church fathers, or in the creeds, or in church tradition. **The answer is in verse 9, God designed it that way.** Prophecy would become more and more understandable as we get closer and closer to the time of fulfillment. The next generation will understand it even better than we will, if the Lord tarries until then. The people living in the Tribulation period will have the best understanding, because they'll be living right in the middle of it. Revelation will be like reading the newspaper. So, the argument against prophecy using church history is very shallow. Church history is not a good guide to eschatology (the doctrine of end times). Eschatology was the last systematic theology to be developed, which makes sense, God was saying that would happen right here in verse 9.

Verse 10 is telling us that many people will come to know the Lord, but those who reject God will grow more and more wicked until there is basically no hope for them. I believe that we who are studying Daniel right now fall into the category of verse 10. The prophecies are available for understanding today if you are willing to learn. Those who do will be purged, purified, and refined. There will be many people living in the time of the 70th week that will know the judgments are from God, yet they will blaspheme Him and refuse to repent of their wickedness.

But there will be great revivals during the Tribulation Period! One-third of the Jews and multitudes of Gentiles will believe the Word of God and accept Jesus as their Messiah. In the book of Revelation you see 144,000 Jewish evangelists, the Two Witnesses, and an angel teaching God's Word.

"Those whose "eyes of understanding" have been opened by the Holy Spirit see the End of this Age approaching, but the wicked who are blinded by "the god of this age" (Satan) see nothing about which to be alarmed. They live as though they plan to stay here forever. They have no time for God, and no desire to prepare to meet him. Things will continually grow worse as the end approaches." Oliver B. Greene

"What it really means is that the wicked shall do more wickedness, because they do not understand. They do not know the program; they do not know what God is doing, they do not believe that the end is near; somehow they feel that they are going to pull themselves up by their bootstraps, that everything is going to come out all right, that finally man will learn his lesson and bring in the man-made Utopian Millennium of peace. They are deluded by Satan who has blinded their eyes..." M. R. De Haan

Daniel 12:11-12 "From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!"

Then Daniel gets more information about the length of time of these events. But, wait a minute! We know that the abomination of desolation occurs halfway through the 70th week, so what are these time spans referring to? Half of the 70th week is 3 ½ years, which would be 1,260 days. Christ will return at the end of those 1,260 days. So what's up? These two periods of time extend past the time of Christ's return. The first period extends one month (30 days) past the 2nd coming; the other 75 days past.

Well, we can't be 100% certain, but we can make some educated speculation. We normally assume that the Millennium will begin immediately upon Christ's return, but that may not be. There may be some things that have to be taken care of before the Millennium can begin. For example, since the 1,290 days seem to

be associated with the abomination of desolation, there may be 30 days of cleansing and dedication of the temple, to rid it of the antichrist's desecrations (2 Thessalonians 2:4, Matthew 24:15, Revelation 13:14-15). There is precedence for this. King Hezekiah postponed the celebration of the Passover for one month "because the priests had not consecrated themselves in sufficient numbers" (2 Chronicles 30:2-4). Also, Judas Maccabeus and his army went to great lengths to cleanse the temple of the abominations of Antiochus Epiphanes in 164 BC (1 Maccabees 4:36-51). There may also need to be some renovations done to it to turn it into the temple that Ezekiel 40-48 is talking about.

Also, it is possible that there will be some judgments happening during this 30 day period, judgments that are necessary before the Millennium can begin. There will be the judgment of the antichrist. He will be killed by Christ when He returns (2 Thessalonians 2:8), but will be raised again so he can be judged (Revelation 19:20). Then, Satan must be bound and cast into the abyss (Revelation 20:1-3). This has to happen before the Millennium can begin, so that there can be complete righteousness in Christ's kingdom.

Then there is the judgment of living Gentile peoples, known as the "sheep and goat" judgment (Matthew 25:31-46). This may last for the 30 days and extend even into the next 45 days, until the 1,335 day period is complete, which might explain why it says blessed is he who makes it to the 1,335 days. If you make it through this period, then you go into the Kingdom. In fact, this language of blessing is the exact language Christ uses in Matthew 25:34. This is the judgment of Gentiles who made it through the Tribulation period alive, and will determine who the true believers are. They will then be welcomed into the Kingdom. The proof of their genuine faith will be how they treat the Jews during the Tribulation, if you truly love Christ, you will love the Jews. There will also be a judgment of living Israelites. Even though most Jews have come to faith in Jesus by this time, there will be some survivors that refuse to accept Him and will be removed from the Kingdom (Ezekiel 20:33-38, Matthew 8:11-12).

Ezekiel 20:33-38 "As I live," declares the Lord GOD, "surely with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out, I shall be king over you. (34) "I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out; (35) and I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face. (36) "As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you," declares the Lord GOD. (37) "I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; (38) and I will purge from you the rebels and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they will not enter the land of Israel. Thus you will know that I am the LORD.

So you have the cleansing of the temple, the judgment of the antichrist, the binding of Satan, possibly the renovation of the earth (which has gone through tremendous devastation), and you will have the judgment of the nations. All of these things could occur within those seventy-five days before the Millennium begins.

What else will happen in those extra days that add up to the 1,335 days? Well, in verse 12 this period is associated with blessing. We can assume that this is when the Millennium actually starts, because what better blessing could there be than to enter Christ's kingdom? Maybe it will take time to properly set up the administration of the kingdom. There will need to be governmental structure set up, many people assigned to kingdom positions of responsibility and leadership. This is only speculation, but it seems to make sense. It would definitely take some time to set up the organizational structure of the earthly Messianic kingdom.

Daniel 12:13 "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."

This last verse in the book of Daniel is one of the most interesting. Daniel is told that he will be resurrected and given a reward in the Messiah's kingdom. Daniel is guaranteed his place in that coming kingdom. Again, this would have been great comfort to Jewish believers, promising them that no matter what happened to them, they would be resurrected and enter into the kingdom of the Messiah. And this message to Daniel is also a message to believers:

Don't just sit around like many Christians do, always worrying, is the rapture going to happen tomorrow? Ohh, the world is getting worse and worse. What is going to happen to us? Jesus is telling us, "Go your way, do your calling. I will come back, that's My business; I'm not telling you when I'm coming back, all I said is I'm going to come back at the proper time, until that time, mind your business, which is getting on with the task at hand, don't stop; don't stop and don't retire. Go your way. When you die you will rest from your labors. But you will rise again and receive your reward!"

That's the end of the book of Daniel. What comes next? Well, my plan is to continue the series on prophecy by taking a short tour through some prophetic portions of Ezekiel and Zechariah. Then we will do a lesson on Matthew 24, Jesus' private briefing with His disciples on what would happen in the end times. Then a tour through 1 & 2 Thessalonians, the apostle Paul's main treatise on the end times, and finally we will conclude the series with a chapter by chapter detailed study of the book of Revelation. I pray that God will continue to bless you through the study of His Word!





