

## Daniel

## "A Resolute Man God Greatly Loved"

(Daniel 12:4-13)

**The Last Prophecy Given to Daniel:** The prophecy given in Chapters 11-12 is long and complex. The first 35 verses of Daniel 11 were prophecy in Daniel's day but are now history. In Daniel 11:36-12:3, the prophecy shifts from Antiochus Epiphanes to the Antichrist, the last world dictator. This portion of the revelation was not only prophecy to Daniel, but it is prophecy yet to be fulfilled for us as well. The following seven events are predicted: (1) The Rise of Antichrist (11:36-39), (2) The Tribulation (12:1), (3) War and Invasions, (11:40-43), (4) The Battle of Armageddon (11:44-45a), (5) The 2nd Coming of Christ (11:45b), (6) The resurrection of the dead (12:2), (7) The Glorious Kingdom (12:3). The prophecy now closes with a command and some questions.

**The Outline:**

- A. The Command to Preserve the Revelation (12:4)
- B. An Angel's Question (12:5-7)
- C. Daniel's Questions (12:8-13)

"Too often in an intellectual world the Scriptures, which are the fountain of all truth about God and his plan for the universe, are neglected."

-John Walvoord-

**The Command to Preserve the Revelation:** The angel now tells Daniel to seal the book until the time of the end. Gabriel told him to do the same thing after he had revealed the meaning behind the vision of the Ram and the He-Goat. This does not mean to conceal it or to hide it away, but rather to "preserve as authentic." In other words, this is and will continue to be an important document. Although much of what Daniel has just been told will not be fulfilled in Daniel's time or observed, or even understood by him, what has been revealed to Daniel will be important in the future. At some point in time, many will run about willy nilly scurrying to find answers. What better way to find truth than to look into the word of truth. When Jesus was praying to the Father he said, speaking of his disciples, "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." According to theologian Renald Showers, "Instead of running to and fro to psychics, so-called modern-day prophets and speculators, the people should turn to the written Scriptures to obtain knowledge about the future." He is the omniscient sovereign God who created all things and controls all things, and he has left us his word.

**An Angel's Question:** Daniel now sees two angels on either side of the river as well as the awesome vision of a man clothed in linen, first appearing to him as recorded in Daniel 10:5. This man is now located above the waters of the river. It is a possibility that this is a theophany, or a preincarnate appearance of Christ. One of the angels asks this man how long these "astonishing things (Daniel 11:36)" will last? In other words, he was asking how long Antichrist would be permitted to antagonize Israel. At this point the man clothed in linen raised both his hands heavenward and gave his answer; "for a time, times, and half a time." According to noted Old Testament scholar Leon Wood, "The gesture of raising one's hand to heaven carried the purpose of showing solemnity and importance for an oath about to be spoken. Normally, only one hand was raised, which means when this angel raised two, he was indicating special stress to the end." We have seen this previously in Daniel 7:25 regarding the three things that Antichrist would do: (1) He will blaspheme God, (2) He will wage war against the people of God (For a time, times and half a time), and (3) He will attempt to make changes in the times and law. This phrase, of course, refers to three and a half years (a time, or a year, times, more than one time, or two years, and a half a time, a half a year, or three and a half years in total). The man indicated that Antichrist's

persecutions of Israel would end as soon as Israel's stubborn rebellion against God is finished. In other words, Antichrist's reign of terror when God has achieved his six purposes for the 490-year period of judgment prophesied in Daniel 9:24-27.

**Daniel's Questions:** After all this time, poor Daniel, the resolute man, was still confused. He wanted more information and so he asked more questions. He wanted to know how it would all end. As a man who loved his nation, he was most interested in the outcome of it all. But the angel's response is both comforting and somewhat of a rebuke. The comfort came from the fact that Daniel did not need to occupy his time with thoughts of the end. These events were far in the future, and he would not be there. He could take comfort in the fact that because of his efforts, those that would need to know about the end when the time came, would know, and they would be much better off because of it. Besides, by the time that this information became pertinent to his countrymen, they would have further information available to him provided in the Book of Revelation. The rebuke is sensed because although he would have liked to have known more, he had in this revelation all the information that God had deemed necessary, and this would have to do. Now, he would need to go on in faith, and live out his life.

**Will ALL Israel Be Saved?** Yes! But all Israel amounts to those elect Jews that are alive at the end of the Tribulation period (70<sup>th</sup> week) that have placed their faith in Messiah. This revelation to Daniel indicated that many Jews would get saved during the latter half of the seventieth week. Antichrist's purging activities will weed out the rebellion of the Jews and point them to their Messiah, Jesus Christ. But some, who still will not believe, will continue in their wickedness. They will be lost.

**Some Curious Numbers:** There are two time periods spoken about in Daniel 12:11-12, a period of three and a half years plus 30 days (1290 days), and a period of three and a half years plus 75 days (1335 days). The information provided regarding these time periods is limited and likely not meaningful to Daniel. It is also likely though, that when the time comes, the future readers of Daniel 12 will understand their meaning. The best we can do today is speculate about their meaning until the reality of history unfolds. Daniel is told the starting point (When the sacrificial system is taken away and the Abomination is set up), and the fact that those that are left at the end of the 1335 days will be blessed. Prophecies in Matthew's Gospel (24-25) and the Book of Ezekiel (20:33-38) speak of judgments on the Gentiles and Jews respectively, at the time of the Second Coming of Christ. Most scholars believe that these time periods are related to these judgments and the time required to establish the Theocracy at the time of the Millennium.

**A Hearty Goodbye to a Man Worth Studying:** While it is fascinating and fun to study the prophecies that were given to Daniel it is equally if not more important to study the man himself. He truly was a hero of the faith and we as Christians should strive to be like him. As a teenager, he resolved in his mind, during the utmost of challenges of life, to honor the God of his youth; the God of Israel. He did so in an upright and respectful way and represented his God well. Of Daniel, Warren Wiersbe says he (1) believed in a sovereign God, (2) had a disciplined prayer life, (3) studied the word of God and believed it, (4) had an understanding of spiritual warfare, (5) sought only to glorify God, (6) realized that he had work to do, (7) was tactful and considerate, (8) had insight into human history, and (9) lived up to his name. World Magazine® based in Ashville, North Carolina, is a publication that presents the world news from a Christian perspective. While its main competition, Time Magazine®, routinely places its man, now person of the year, on the cover of its first issue of each year, World® elects to do a similar "Daniel of the Year," honoring those Christians that most exemplify the legacy of the man that God greatly loved. Let us all strive to be on that cover!

**Next Week: "Christmas & New Years Break"**