

**Daniel**  
**Chapter 12**

**The Prince of this World, The Prince of Israel, and The Prince of Peace**

**Daniel 12**

**The End Times**

**12) 1 "At that time Michael, great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. 2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake:some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. 4 But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."**

**5 Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank. 6 One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?"**

**7 The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever,saying, "It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy peoplehas been finally broken, all these things will be completed."**

**8 I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, "My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?"**

**9 He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because the words are rolled up and sealed until the time of the end. 10 Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.**

**11 "From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. 12 Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.**

**13 "As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance."**

**Introduction**

As we come to the final chapter in the book of Daniel, we begin with the opening phrase, "**At that time...**". The time referred to here by the angel is the time of the last king, the Antichrist. He will preside over the final chapter in Israel's history. His seven year reign will be divided into two halves. During the first half he will appear as a friend to the Jewish people, but during the last half of his reign he will become the greatest persecutor that the nation of Israel has ever known. The final three and one half years of unimaginable horror is known as "The Great Tribulation" and will be the worst days that this world will ever endure. Satan's final assault of hatred for the chosen people of God will be poured out like a sea of molten lava destroying any who find themselves in its path, but just like a refiners fire, it will purify those who endure causing them to shine like sparkling jewels among the stare of heaven (**vs. 3**). Even in Israel's darkest hour God has a plan for them. The purpose of the great tribulation is to remove the wicked from Israel, and to redeem those who will turn in their hour of need to the Savior, Who has long desired to shelter them under his wings like a hen gathers her chicks (**Matt. 23:37**).

The prophet Jeremiah spoke of this as a time of "labor pains" for God's chosen (**Jer. 30:3-7**). He says, "**It will be a time of trouble for Jacob (Israel) , but he will be saved out of it."** (**verse 7**). The Apostle Paul writes in **Romans 11:26** that "all Israel" will be saved at the end of this great tribulation. This statement is completely true, because the only Jews who will survive the tribulation period will be those

who trust Christ as their Savior and Messiah. The rest of the Jewish people will be unable to endure this horrible period of testing, and according to the prophet Zechariah, two thirds of the nation will perish as a result (**Zech. 13:8-9**). The third that remains will truly be "all of Israel" because they are to be the remnant that endures to the end to enter into the millennial kingdom of Jesus Christ. The Word of God will be fulfilled just as He promised. As we conclude our study in Daniel, we come face to face with the three major forces that will be engaged in the struggle for the salvation of "God's Covenant People"; The Prince of this World, The Prince of Israel, and The Prince of Peace.

### **The Prince of This World**

When sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, Satan took over the dominion of the earth. He is called "The Prince of this World" by Jesus Himself in **John 14:30**. Satan has one desire, and that is to subvert the perfect will of God in any way that he can. God created mankind in order to have perfect fellowship with him. Satan broke that fellowship by enticing man to sin, thereby breaking his spiritual bond with God. God then promised that a redeemer would come to restore the bond of communion between God and man (the promised "Seed" in **Genesis 3:15**). Satan would then endeavor to keep that child from ever being born. That is why such hatred exists from Satan toward the nation of Israel, for it was from these children of Abraham that the Messiah Deliverer would descend (**Genesis 22:18**). Satan has tried and failed repeatedly to destroy the chosen people, at first to prevent the Messiah from coming, But when He came nonetheless, Satan then tried to destroy Him, but again failed miserably. He has since tried to destroy the Nation of Israel, motivated solely by an endless and uncontrollable rage that will eventually lead to his own undoing (**Rev. 12**). He simply cannot get over this hatred of the Jews. This is the reason that so much inexplicable hostility has been directed toward the Hebrew race dating back to their origin. The world despises the Jews simply because the Prince of this World despises them. There is no other credible explanation. In his final assault upon the chosen race, Satan will raise up his "beast", the Antichrist to do his bidding. This demon possessed lunatic will find, just as Hitler, Antiochus, Xerxes, Nebuchadnezzar, Pharaoh, and all Satan's other lackeys have found, that the Jews WILL endure. God will see to it. For a very short and predetermined time, the Antichrist will appear to be prevailing. But God will break him, just as He has broken all who have tried to devour Israel before. One thing will however, be different; when the Antichrist ultimately gets what is coming to him, Jews will never be persecuted again from that day to eternity. It will be a glorious day with no more night for the people of God.

In our study of the book of Daniel, we have been given insight into the many Satanic assaults that were to befall God's holy people. History has repeatedly shown the mighty hand of God in the protection of these ever-enduring children of Abraham. God in His sovereignty, has assigned them a protector, one to constantly strive against Satan in his merciless vendetta against the chosen. This protector is the "Prince of Israel", and he is a mighty warrior indeed. In the days of Antichrist, this warrior will once again arise in the defense of Israel.

### **The Prince of Israel**

Daniel is told in verse one that during the great tribulation period Michael the Archangel, will arise once again in defense of the nation of Israel. This is undoubtedly a reference to the war that will occur in heaven between Michael and his angelic warriors versus Satan and his demonic host written of in the **twelfth chapter of Revelation (Rev. 12:7-9)**. As a result of his crushing defeat at the hands of Michael, Satan will be permanently expelled from heaven. Most Christians are unaware of the fact that although the devil is a fallen angel, he is currently allowed access to the throne of God where he continually hurls accusations against the people of God. During the tribulation however, Satan will no longer be allowed to appear in heaven, and it is Michael who will be called upon to enforce this new order from the throne.

Satan must be terribly afraid of Michael, the great protector prince of Israel, for he has done battle with him before. It was Michael who denied Satan access to the body of the prophet Moses (**Jude vs.9**). We can only speculate as to why the devil wanted the body of Moses. Perhaps his intent was to possess

it with a demonic spirit in an attempt to lead the nation of Israel astray, in order to seal their doom and prevent the Messiah from coming. Whatever the reason, Satan was thwarted by The Archangel, and his plans came to ruin there on Mount Nebo.

Michael has never failed in his duty to protect the nation of Israel, who will stand against the Antichrist and the forces of Satan in the last days. One hundred and forty-four thousand Jewish preachers of the gospel will be sealed for protection, perhaps by the great Archangel himself during these perilous times. These men of God will stand for The Gospel of Jesus Christ during the most intense persecution any believer has ever faced as they convert multitudes from every nation to a saving faith in Christ (**Rev 7:1-10**). This is what the angel is speaking of to Daniel when he tells of "**the wise who will shine like the stars of heaven, leading many to righteousness**" (**vs.3**). These Jewish "stars" will be a great source of irritation to the Devil, The Antichrist, and The False Prophet, who will be ineffective in extinguishing their brilliant light as they stand for the gospel of peace. With the aid of Michael the great prince of Israel, the chosen people of God will truly light up a world in its darkest hour.

### **The Prince of Peace**

Upon revealing to Daniel the sequence of events culminating in the end of the world as we know it, the angel who had been speaking, turns to a higher authority and poses the question of how long will this final chapter in Israel's history last. The shining one clothed in fine linen, the one whom I believe to be the Lord Jesus Christ, lifts his arms toward heaven and swears by the Living God that the time allotted for the great tribulation, the time of Jacobs trouble, will last for three and one half years. It is fitting that the angel turns to the Lord to answer this question, for He is the only One with the authority to determine such a thing. It is the Godhead Who has permanently ordained for these things to take place, and the Godhead Who will determine their duration. The power of the holy people must be broken (**vs. 7**) in order for them to humble themselves before the Prince of Peace and find salvation. Jesus tells Daniel that many will be saved because of this great time of tribulation that will befall the holy people. He goes on to say the wicked, or "lawless ones" in the original text, will never understand the prophecies that have been given to Daniel in this book. The wicked natural man is completely unable to comprehend the words given in scripture for it can only be spiritually discerned (**1 Corinthians 2:14**). Jesus understands this full well, and it is for this reason that He would one day tell his disciples, "**No one comes to Me unless the Father draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.**" (**John 6:44**).

It is Jesus Who will see to it that those who are led by the Spirit to faith in Him will be raised from the dead. The angel had spoken of this resurrection to Daniel in **verse 2**. He stated that some would rise to everlasting life, while others would arise to shame and everlasting contempt. Most Christians become confused when talking about the resurrection of the dead, for they often mistakenly believe it to be a "one size fits all" kind of event in which everyone will rise from the dead at precisely the same instant. This is not borne out in scripture, however. There are actually multiple "resurrections" as it were. The first resurrection occurred when Jesus Himself rose from the dead, for were He unable to do so, then the rest of us would have no hope of the resurrection. As Paul so eloquently stated, "**And if Christ has not been raised... we are to be pitied above all men.**" (**1 Corinthians 15:17-20**).

The second resurrection will occur at the rapture of the church when all the believers who are living in the last days are "caught up" in the air with Christ to meet those who have died in the faith (**1 Thes. 4:13-18**). This event will take place PRIOR to the tribulation period because we the church have not been appointed to suffer wrath (**1 Thes. 5:9**). It is unnecessary for the church to endure the tribulation, simply because its sole purpose is to save all who will accept Christ. The church has already done this, so why would God wish for us to suffer for no reason? Loving Fathers never punish their children when it is unnecessary, and our God is the most loving father of them all!

Yet another resurrection will occur at the end of the great tribulation when the martyrs who refused to worship the beast are raised from the dead to reign with Christ in the millennial kingdom (**Rev. 20:4-5**). This resurrection is necessary, because the dead in Christ will have already risen at the rapture of the church. The martyrs of the tribulation all died after the rapture of the church.

The final resurrection will take place after the millennial reign of Christ upon the earth. It will be reserved for those who have rejected the gospel as they all one by one stand before the Great White

Throne of Judgment and hear Jesus say to them, "**depart from me, for I never knew you**". It will be a horrific day when the judgment for sin will be pronounced upon the wicked as they are cast forever into the lake of fire.

At the conclusion of this powerful revelation, Daniel humbly asked the Lord for further explanation of the time of the end (**vs. 8**). The old prophet who was by then most likely in his nineties, had seen and heard far more than he was able to comprehend. The Lord instructed the old prophet to "go his way," which is another way of telling him that there would be no further explanation given at this time for these prophecies concerned matters in the distant future, and Daniel would not be around to see them. So his full understanding of these matters was not relevant. This prophecy was given so that future generations would be able to discern its meaning when the time for its fulfillment was at hand. Daniel is promised that he too, would rise from the dead to receive his eternal reward (**vs. 13**).

The Lord Jesus did leave Daniel and his future readers with one final revelation regarding the great tribulation. He declared that those who survive the three and one half years, will be exceedingly blessed at the end of 1,335 days, which is an additional two and one half months after the beast will be thrown into the lake of fire (three and one half years by the Jewish "lunar" calendar is 1260 days). We are not told the reason for this delay, so we can only speculate as to why it will take this additional time to usher in the millennial kingdom after the battle of Armageddon. A possible theory is that it may take this long to bury the dead after the great battle. Whatever the reason, the message to those who wait upon the Lord is clear. They will truly find rest when the Prince of Peace comes to reign upon the earth. We must make ourselves ready, for our Prince is coming soon.

## **Conclusion**

Now we come to the end of our study of one of the greatest books of the Bible. We have seen that Daniel was a man of faith, a man of compassion for his people, and a man fully devoted to his God. Many have tried to discredit his writings, but their efforts have been in vain for this great book of both history and prophecy has weathered the storm and has stood the test of time. In his final vision, the angel told Daniel to "**seal up the scroll**" until a future time, for in the last days, "**many will go here and there to increase knowledge**" (**vs. 12:4**). Some have said that this is a reference to our ability to now travel the globe coupled with the increase of knowledge in this modern age where information is so readily available to those who live upon the earth, during what I believe to be its final days. I am inclined to believe however, that when taken in context with the angels instruction to "seal up" the prophecies, what is truly being communicated here is simple; "**None of this will make much sense to you now Daniel, but in the future, when the end is drawing near, many seekers of truth will go back and forth through the scriptures to get insight into this coming 'end of days'. By studying what you and the other prophets have written down (running to and fro in the scriptures), they will be able to increase their knowledge and wisdom as they prepare for the second coming of The Lord Jesus Christ.**"

It is my sincere hope, that as you have read through this in depth study of Daniel, that I have been able to assist you in your endeavors to run to and fro seeking knowledge and understanding from this beautiful, wondrous, prophetic book of the Old Testament. It has been a blessing for me to compile this study, and I hope that you have been blessed for taking the time to get reacquainted with Daniel, the faithful servant of the Sovereign God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob! May this same God be with you and richly bless you in all that you do. Amen.