

EXILIC & POST-EXILIC PROPHETS OF THE BIBLE

Senior Adults & Friends Bible Study — Summit View Church of Christ
Spring 2022-2023

PART 6, SECTION 6 — DANIEL'S VISION OF A GREAT WAR, PART 3

DANIEL 12 — *Date:* 537 BC — Daniel received this vision in "the third year of Cyrus king of Persia" (10:1)

The End of the Prophecy — 12:1-4

12:1 — What encouragement does the speaker offer to Daniel and the Jews?

12:2-3 — What ultimate reward and punishment does the speaker foretell for the righteous and the unrighteous?

WHO IS MICHAEL?

- 10:13, 21 — one of the "chief princes," who supports the speaker's effort against the "princes" of Persia & Greece
- 12:1 — "the great prince who protects your people" (the Jews)
- Jude 9 — the archangel
- Revelation 12:7 — leader of angels in battle against the devil and his angels

TELESCOPING — When a person looks at two distant objects through a telescope, it is difficult to tell how far apart they are from each other. In prophetic telescoping, the prophet foresees two events and speaks of the second as if it will follow closely after the first, but in their fulfillment they turn out to actually be widely separated in time.

- 12:1, "At that time" refers to the Jews' struggle against the oppression brought by Antiochus IV, especially in 167-164 BC, culminating in Antiochus's death in about 164 BC (11:45). That would be "a time of distress" for the Jewish people, but Michael would arise to help them, and they would be delivered (12:1). The next event mentioned is the resurrection of the dead (12:2)—but even in our time, the great resurrection is still yet to come.

RESURRECTION IN THE OLD TESTAMENT — The rising of the dead is rarely foretold in the Old Testament, but becomes a central theme of the hope offered to God's people in the New Testament, after the resurrection of Jesus. These are the clearest prophecies of the final resurrection in the Old Testament:

Daniel 12:2-3 — *Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. 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.*

Daniel 12:13 — *As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance.*

Isaiah 25:7-8 — *On this mountain he [the Lord] will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken.*

Isaiah 26:19 — *But your dead will live, Lord; their bodies will rise—let those who dwell in the dust wake up and shout for joy—your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead.*

How Long Will It Be? — 12:5-13

12:5-6 — Two other beings (apparently angels) appear, and one asks how long it will be until the prophecy is fulfilled. *Even angels do not always know how God's will is going to be worked out, and when!*

- 1 Peter 1:12, on the working out of prophecy: "Even angels long to look into these things."

When would this prophecy be fulfilled?

- 12:7 — "It will be for _____, _____, and half a _____."
- 12:7 — These things would be completed when...
- 12:11 — From the time when the daily sacrifice is ended and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, it would be _____ days, and those who reached the end of the _____ days would be blessed.

1,290 days = a little over 3½ years (43 months, at 30 days per month)

1,335 days = 1½ months further (44.5 months, at 30 days per month)

"Various calendars were in use in the seer's day. The Babylonians used a lunar calendar that produced a year of 354 days, the Essenes a solar calendar of 364 days, the Hellenistic regimes a luni-solar one of 360 days; in each case the calendar was corrected to the true length of the solar year—just over 365 days—by intercalating months [an extra month added into the year every so often]... [Daniel's numbers of days] most straightforwardly fit the luni-solar calendar, but they can be understood in the light of the other systems. When allowance is made for intercalation, 1290 days can represent 3½ lunar years or 3½ solar years." — John E. Goldingay, Daniel (Word Biblical Commentary; Word Books, 1989), pages 309-310.

TIMELINE

175 BC — Antiochus IV began to rule Syria and Seleucid territory

171 BC — the high priest Onias III (deposed in 175 BC) was murdered

169 BC — Antiochus IV massacred thousands in Jerusalem

167 BC — Antiochus IV sent his tax collector to Jerusalem with a force of 22,000 troops; they attacked on the Sabbath, killing 40,000 men and enslaving another 40,000 people (mostly women and children); Jewish worship was outlawed and the daily sacrifices to God at the temple were ended

December 25, 167 BC — Antiochus IV had a pig sacrificed on the altar of Zeus that had been built over God's altar at the temple; war broke out as the Jews revolted against Antiochus

December 14, 164 BC — God's altar was reconsecrated on the 25th day of Chislev (December 14 that year)

164 or 163 BC — Antiochus IV died

Thoughts on Daniel 10-12

- 1) How was this prophecy intended to encourage the Jewish people? What prophecies, if any, has God given to encourage the church today?
- 2) This prophecy foretold great suffering for the Jews (11:32-35, 12:1). God would allow that suffering for a time. What purpose did he intend to accomplish by allowing this suffering? (Consider 11:35 & 12:10.)
 - Why does God sometimes allow his church to suffer at the hands of the wicked today?
- 3) What can we learn today from the example of Daniel in chapters 10-12? ...from the angels/spiritual beings who appear? ...from the outcome of the prophesied conflict?