

Survey of the Bible **Daniel 12:1-4**

Daniel 12:1-2 ^{NAU} "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. 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.

Daniel now begins to wrap things up as he is given a vision from God about the very end of redemptive history in this present world.

This is language every believer in Jesus Christ should be familiar with as we are told of a great tribulation, a people who are written in the book being rescued, and a resurrection of all men at the very end of this present age.

This is eschatological language that is tied to the previous visions Daniel has shared regarding the Prince and His Kingdom to come.

Daniel 8:25-26 ²⁵ "And through his shrewdness He will cause deceit to succeed by his influence; And he will magnify *himself* in his heart, And he will destroy many while *they are* at ease. He will even oppose the Prince of princes, But he will be broken without human agency. ²⁶ "The vision of the evenings and mornings Which has been told is true; But keep the vision secret, ***For it pertains to many days in the future.***"

Daniel 9:25-26 ²⁵ "So you are to know and discern *that* from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince *there will be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. ²⁶ "Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end *will come* with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

Our Prince, the Messiah, is going to issue in His everlasting Kingdom and Daniel has made this clear throughout this prophecy as he compared the temporal kingdoms of this world and the eternal kingdom of our God and Savior.

Daniel 2:44 ⁴⁴ "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

Daniel 7:24-27 ²⁴ 'As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings. ²⁵ 'He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. ²⁶ 'But the court will sit *for judgment*, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever. ²⁷ 'Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of *all* the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom *will be* an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.'

There has always been two kingdoms at war with each other since the fall of man found in the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent.

And Daniel is giving the final chapter of this war as God makes clear that it will not go on forever, but His Kingdom will and those who are a part of this Kingdom will be rescued from the enemy as they are delivered from the distress of the world and its hatred toward the King of kings along with His subjects who are written in the book.

Regarding the tribulation that Daniel addresses this theme is picked up by Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry as He speaks of the end of His will to bring all of His people into the final consummation of His Kingdom.

Matthew 24:7-9 ⁷ "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. ⁸ "But all these things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs. ⁹ "***Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.***

This tribulation will find its final expression when God brings an end to it as He judges the world and rescues His people from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Matthew 24:29-31 ²⁹ "But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. ³¹ "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

This is what Daniel is being shown. And we know who those elect are as John also paints a similar eschatological picture of this end time event as he addresses those whose names are written in the book.

Revelation 3:5 ⁵ "He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from *the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.*

Now, don't lose the context here in Daniel. He is being given visions by God as it relates to the remnant of Israel getting ready to go back to the Promised Land. And so, this has two senses of fulfillment. On the one hand Israel is being encouraged to realize that God is with His people.

But on the other hand the Israel that Daniel shows in the last days are all of those whose names are written in the book.

What Israel is that?

It is the same Israel that will be raised from the dead to everlasting life on the last day.

Daniel 12:2 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.

How do we know when those who sleep in the dust of the ground awake on the last day of this present world?

Because Jesus Himself tells us so.

John 6:39-40 ³⁹ "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but *raise it up on the last day.* ⁴⁰ "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself *will raise him up on the last day.*"

Jesus and Daniel are talking about the same day regarding the same Israel that is prophesied as a people who are going to receive a nation and a Kingdom.

Daniel 7:27 ²⁷ 'Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of *all* the kingdoms under the whole heaven ***will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One***; His kingdom *will be* an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.'

Who are these saints? The Jewish nation of Israel?

Obviously not, since the saints being spoken of are the same people in the book of Revelation whose names are written in the book of life.

And who are these people?

The same people that Jesus addresses in the beginning of the book of Revelation as those belonging to the seven churches throughout Asia who represent all churches throughout all ages in whom is located the remnant of both Jew and Gentile, one new man made up of all the saints.

Ephesians 2:13-19 ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who ***made both groups into one*** and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, ¹⁵ by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is* the Law of commandments *contained in* ordinances, so that in Himself ***He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace***, ¹⁶ and might ***reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross***, by it having put to death the enmity. ¹⁷ AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; ¹⁸ for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but ***you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household***,

The Israel that Daniel prays for is the Israel that rebelled against a holy God, but it will become the Israel whose kingdom will be ushered in at the end by Messiah, the Prince who brings all of Israel together as one new people made up of all peoples of the earth at all times in history, both Old and New Testament saints.

Daniel 12:3 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.

Those who are given understanding have the light and shine brightly in that light and we know who that light is.

John 8:12 ¹² Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "***I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.***"

We who are in Christ have been given the mind of Christ by the Spirit of God. Until He revealed Himself to us by causing us to be born again we were in the darkness and would have willingly stayed in the darkness because the natural man loves the darkness.

John 3:19-20 ¹⁹ "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and ***men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.*** ²⁰ "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

Daniel is dealing with a people who fall into both groups of light and darkness and He pleads with God to deliver those of the darkness into the light. And this is why he prays the way he does for Israel.

Daniel 9:11 ¹¹ "Indeed all Israel has transgressed Your law and turned aside, not obeying Your voice; so the curse has been poured out on us, along with the oath which is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, for we have sinned against Him.

Daniel 9:20-21 ²⁰ Now while I was speaking and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God in behalf of the holy mountain of my God, ²¹ while I was still speaking in prayer, then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision previously, came to me in *my* extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering.

It was during this prayer that Daniel is given the gospel of deliverance for Israel and the Messiah who would accomplish this.

Daniel 9:23-24 ²³ "At the beginning of your supplications the command was issued, and I have come to tell *you*, for you are highly esteemed; so give heed to the message and gain understanding of the vision. ²⁴ "Seventy weeks have been decreed

for your people and your holy city, *to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.*

This is what the entire book of Daniel is about. It is an announcement of fulfillment that was first promised to Adam and Eve after the fall. And now, after all of these years a promise is given that God is faithful to come to the aid of all of His people and it will come to pass in time.

The writer of Hebrews addresses the timing that Daniel prophesied.

Hebrews 1:1-2 ^{NAU} *God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ² in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.*

One of the prophets was of course Daniel and now Jesus has come to speak for Himself and as true to His word as He was to Adam and Eve, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and Daniel as well, He is faithful and true to His word to come again in judgment and blessings.

The judgment and blessing is seen in what Daniel says at the beginning of chapter 12.

Daniel 12:2 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.

That last day is coming when all men who are in their tombs will come forth.

John 5:28-29 ²⁸ "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, ²⁹ and will come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment.

But notice what the Lord tells Daniel next.

Daniel 12:4 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."

Why would God tell Daniel to seal up the book until the end of time?

Part of what this means must include the idea that these things will be hidden from all men until at which time God gives people eyes to see and ears to hear.

Matthew 13:14-17 ¹⁴ "In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, 'YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE; ¹⁵ FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.' ¹⁶ *"But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.*

Only God can open the eyes of those who are blind and unstop the ears of those who will not hear.

1 Corinthians 2:6-10 ⁶ Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; ⁷ but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory; ⁸ *the wisdom* which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; ⁹ but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM." ¹⁰ **For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.**

This is a work of the Spirit of God as He reveals the things of the Spirit relating to those truths that Daniel has revealed, some of which will be hidden until the end.

And this does mean that there are certain things that even God's people may not fully understand until God makes them clear.

And so, there is a sense in which much has been revealed as Christ Himself has spoken in these last days, but for Daniel and the other prophets much of this was still clouded which is precisely what Jesus says in the passage I just read in Matthew 13.

Matthew 13: 17 ¹⁷ "For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*."

Here the revelation was given by these prophets but was not fully understood. But we have been given much of this understanding now that Christ has come and as we approach the end of this age Christ has made it clear that He and He alone will reveal all things once and for all as He demonstrates His power in glory.

Revelation 5:1-10 ^{NAU} I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. ² And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. ⁴ Then I *began* to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; ⁵ and one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, ***the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.***" ⁶ And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. ⁷ And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. ⁸ When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, "***Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals***; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. ¹⁰ "You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

The seals of the book that John describes in Revelation are the final chapters being opened up at the end of the age and the only one with the power and authority to break those seals, thus establishing His will and work, is the One who has revealed Himself as our God and Savior.

This revelation took place at the cross and in the subsequent resurrection of Jesus Christ all power and authority has been given to Him by the Father.

Matthew 28:18 ¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

This is God's way of explaining that there is more to come and as knowledge is revealed and increases it will demonstrate the reality of God's will which is to bring an end to the evil and the sin and the curse on mankind and God's entire creation.

And we are now told to take this revelation and give it to the world.

Revelation 22:10 ¹⁰ And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

What was hidden in the time of Daniel is revealed in Christ and as His people we are commanded to take this good news to the world, for the time is near.