

Survey of the Bible **Daniel 12:5-13**

Daniel 12:4-13 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." ⁵ 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. ⁸ 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. ¹¹ "From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there will be* 1,290 days. ¹² "How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days! 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."

As we close out the book of Daniel we are reminded that what Daniel was instructed to seal up until the end of time in verse 4, the apostle John was instructed not to seal up, which is to say, to now reveal, which is why the last book of the Bible is called the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:1 ^{NAU} *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things ***which must soon take place***; and He sent and communicated *it* by His angel to His bond-servant John,

What Daniel was shown was much of a mystery to him which is why he continually asked what all the visions meant.

Daniel 8:15-17 ¹⁵ When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, ***I sought to understand*** it; and behold, standing before me was one who looked like a man. ¹⁶ And I heard the voice of a man between *the banks of Ulai*, and he called out and said, "Gabriel, give this *man*

an understanding of the vision." ¹⁷ So he came near to where I was standing, and when he came I was frightened and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Son of man, *understand that the vision pertains to the time of the end.*"

So, what Daniel was shown was designed by God to give him a picture of what would transpire at the end of the age as it relates to the fulfillment of God establishing His everlasting Kingdom over all of the present and future kingdoms of this world which will bow to God at the end.

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.'

This is essentially what the entire book of Daniel is all about. And so, the closing remarks that are given to Daniel by the angel are designed to keep all previous visions of God, His people and His Kingdom in perspective.

At the end of Daniel 12:4 it makes mention of knowledge increasing in the last days and though this may include knowledge of mankind in general the knowledge that is inferred is a knowledge that Daniel has been gaining about the last days.

And it is this knowledge that will increase in the last days which was inaugurated by Jesus Christ Himself who is the fulfillment of the visions that Daniel has seen as he is given knowledge of that time.

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.

And so, we are living in the time of which Daniel speaks and we are benefitting in the increase of knowledge that has been revealed to us in Christ.

All of this knowledge is revealing the consummation of the Kingdom of God in time as time runs out for this age and time then continues into the new age.

And so, when Daniel is told to seal up the vision until the end of time in verse 4 he is not suggesting that time will come to an end,

as if his and our future will continue is a timeless existence in a Kingdom without time, but rather the time will come where we will transition from one time period to another as we will see in the rest of the book of Daniel.

So, let's finish things up.

Daniel 12:5-7 ⁵ 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 vision Daniel is given here has to do with the completion of all of the events that revolve around the issuing in of the eternal Kingdom of God, which is to say, the end of the present age where sin and the curse still reigns.

This particular vision is set at a river with two people standing on opposite sides of the river. One of the men is dressed in linen which is reminiscent of a previous vision.

Daniel 10:4-5 ⁴ On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I was by the bank of the great river, that is, the Tigris, ⁵ I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, there was ***a certain man dressed in linen***, whose waist was girded with *a belt of pure gold of Uphaz*.

This seems to be a similar picture of the river Tigris with the same man now giving Daniel a final vision.

This final vision is addressing a time frame that involves the end of the present age and what is to take place at the end of this age, which is what verse 6 infers when the question is asked, "How long *will it be* until the end of *these* wonders?"

The answer is given that the end will come at the conclusion of what appears to be an obscure amount of time; "it would be for a time, times, and half *a time*;" (**Daniel 12:7**)

Now, we've seen this same phrase used elsewhere in connection to the end of the age with certain events that ultimately lead up to the

eternal Kingdom of God being established as the kingdoms of this world are judged and destroyed.

Daniel 7:21-27 ²¹ "I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them ²² until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom. ²³ "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the *other* kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. 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.'

If you look at verse 24 we see 10 kingdoms arising just before the Ancient of Days comes to issue in His Kingdom. Out of these 10 there is one that stands out who then speaks out against the Most High and His people as he wears down the saints.

The time frame in which he wears down the saints is “a time, times, and half a time.”

There is a reason that this time frame is general in nature in this particular passage and it has to do with a long period of time between the saints being worn down and the issuing in of the eternal Kingdom of God when the time arrives according to God’s exact time which is alluded to a little later in this vision given to Daniel.

Well, what is this time frame of time, times and half a time?

Though this was hidden from Daniel it was revealed to the apostle John.

^{NAU} **Revelation 12:14** 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.

The serpent in this passage is the one who speaks out against God and His saints in Daniel 7:25 who is identified with a beast whose kingdom and king wears out the saints.

In other words, Satan is the one in the last days who will come against the people of God in Christ until the Kingdom of God is delivered over to the Son and His people, which is to say that the time frame mentioned as “a time, times and half a time”, is from the cross of Christ to the last day.

And thus far, a time, times and half a time has lasted over 2,000 years.

But at the end of this time frame everything will be completed which is precisely what Daniel is told.

Daniel 12:7 and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these *events* will be completed.

The shattering of the power of the holy people is an allusion to the end times in which the people of God will have undergone such tribulation that it will appear that they have been defeated. This is what Jesus addresses in the gospel of Matthew.

Matthew 24:21-22 ²¹ "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. ²² "Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

This is the picture that Daniel was given but was made clear to John in the book of Revelation.

Daniel 12:8-9 ⁸ 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.

This sealing up until the end of time does not mean that they are sealed up until the last day. That would be counter to the revealing of Jesus Christ's plans to John. Rather, this sealing up until the end time means that at the last stages of God's redemptive plan there will be sealing up of things until those things are unsealed and are made clear regarding the King and the Kingdom to come.

And when are the seals broken and opened up to the scrutiny of God's people?

Revelation 5:1-5 ^{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.*"

When were these seals broken?

Not on the last day, but during the last days of God's fulfillment of the promises made to Adam and Eve regarding the last Adam who would redeem His people and lift the curse from His creation. The lifting of these seals took place during the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 5:9 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.

The seals have already been broken and the rest of the book of Revelation give us a picture of what the breaking of these seals entail in the history of the church from the time of Christ's death and resurrection to His final coming, which we have seen is the time frame identified as "time, times and half a time."

One of the most beautiful pictures of this seal being broken by the risen Christ is clearly inferred in the description of Christ's tomb.

Matthew 27:64 - 28:1 ⁶⁴ "Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first." ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go, make it *as* secure as you know how." ⁶⁶ And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard *they set a seal on the stone*.

That seal was necessarily broken when Christ burst forth from the grave in His resurrection from the dead.

What was concealed to Daniel was revealed in Christ and John continues to increase our knowledge regarding the Christ as the Holy Spirit gives him further information about the coming Kingdom.

As we finish up the book of Daniel it is noteworthy that the man dressed in linen revealing these future happenings regarding the Kingdom of God now moves from a general time frame to what appears to be a specific time frame.

Daniel 12:10-13 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. ¹¹ "From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there will be 1,290 days*. ¹² "How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the *1,335 days*! 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."

Daniel is told that within the timeframe of 1,290 days a number of events will take place.

Daniel 12:11 ¹¹ "From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there will be 1,290 days*.

When Daniel wrote this the temple had not been rebuilt in Jerusalem. It wasn't until the captivity of the Jews was complete that a remnant returned to Jerusalem and rebuilt it.

After it was rebuilt a second time, in a less glorious state, it was destroyed by Antiochus Epiphanes as he blasphemed God and His people by sacrificing a swine on its altar, often referred to as an abomination.

And though there may be a reference to that event there is a more direct fulfillment to this prophecy as Jesus tells us what is described in this prophecy.

Again, speaking of the leading up to the end of the age Jesus says this.

Matthew 24:13-22 ¹³ "But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. ¹⁴ "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will

come. ¹⁵ "Therefore when you see the **ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION** which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ¹⁶ then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ "Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. ¹⁸ "Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. ¹⁹ "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ²⁰ "But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. ²¹ "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. ²² "Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

There is certainly an allusion to the razing of Jerusalem along with its temple in 70 AD when the Romans destroyed the city and its Jewish inhabitants, but this also points to the end of the age that Jesus specifically points out in verse 14.

"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, **and then the end will come.**"

The point is, that which was concealed in the OT is now being revealed in the New and we must let the NT Scriptures define the Old.

This period of 1,290 days that Daniel is shown is parallel with 42 months in the book of Revelation which is the same picture that Daniel was given regarding the beast speaking out against God's people and wearing them down.

Daniel 7:25 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.*

Revelation 13:3-7 ³ *I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast; ⁴ they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?" ⁵ **There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. ⁶ And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ It was also given to him to make war***

with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.

Though there are specific numbers given in both Daniel and Revelation they all point to a period of time that is both general and specific in nature, but they all deal with a time period between the cross and the second coming of Christ.

In the sense that we don't know the specific period of Christ's coming we can say that a time, times and half a time are quite appropriate to describe this time period. But when God speaks of these things He knows the times to the very second because His in control and has determined the times to take place according to His will.

^{NAU} **Acts 2:23** *this Man [Jesus], delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.*

Acts 4:26-28 ²⁶ 'THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.' ²⁷ "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ *to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.*

And so, there is a sense in which 1,290 days in Daniel or 1,260 days or 42 months of Revelation, are specific, but they are only specific from God's perspective. And so, we can be content to know that though we may not know the hour and the day we do know that that final day is coming and we must therefore be ready and working for the Kingdom until He comes. Maranatha!

^{NAU} **Revelation 22:20** He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.