

Lesson 11 – Daniel 12

NOTES:

Daniel 1: The Introduction

Chapter 1 introduces the historical context of Daniel's deportation to Babylon following Nebuchadnezzar's siege of Jerusalem in 605 BC. Daniel was among the royal Jewish captives first extradited to Babylon.

Upon Daniel's arrival, he and three companions were confronted with a difficult choice between defiling themselves with the king's appointed ration of choice food and wine or risking their lives by abstaining from the food for the sake of remaining undefiled in the sight of God. God rewards Daniel's righteous decision to abstain by granting him favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials. God also endows Daniel and his three companions with exceptional knowledge, wisdom, and intelligence that results in the honor of entering into the king's personal service.

Daniel 2: Daniel's Interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's First Dream

Chapter 2 explains God's supernatural equipping of Daniel to reveal Nebuchadnezzar's first dream and its interpretation, demonstrating God's covenant attentiveness to His exiles. The dream reveals four successive Gentile dominions preceding the establishment of God's messianic kingdom that will never be destroyed. After Daniel reveals Nebuchadnezzar's dream and its interpretation, Daniel is promoted as ruler over Babylon and chief prefect over all its wise men.

Daniel 3: Nebuchadnezzar's Command and the Courageous Response of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego

Nebuchadnezzar erects a great image of gold, commanding peoples, nations and men of every language to fall down and worship the golden image when hearing musical instruments. The king's decree includes the penalty of being immediately cast into a furnace of blazing fire for anyone refusing to worship the image.

After the Chaldeans report the refusal of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego to worship the image, Nebuchadnezzar gives urgent orders for them to be cast into a furnace of blazing fire. The three men are tied up and cast into the furnace. When Nebuchadnezzar and his high officials look into the furnace, they are astounded to see four men walking unharmed in the midst of the fire. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego exit the fire unsinged. Nebuchadnezzar then issues a decree forbidding an offensive word to be spoken against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, whom the king causes to prosper.

Daniel 4: Daniel's Interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's Second Dream Predicting the King's Insanity

Chapter 4 provides Nebuchadnezzar's narrative of his second dream and Daniel's interpretation of the dream as a prediction of the king's temporary insanity. The dream is of a great spreading tree that a messenger from heaven commands to be cut down. Daniel interprets the tree as Nebuchadnezzar himself, predicting that Nebuchadnezzar would dwell among the beasts of the field for a seven-year period before finally ascribing glory to God. Afterwards, his mental health and kingdom are restored.

Daniel 5: Daniel's Interpretation of the Miraculous Writing on the Wall

Chapter 5 records Daniel's interpretation of a mysterious inscription on the palace wall of Belshazzar, the king of Babylon, coregent with Nabonidus (556–538 BC), and son of Nebuchadnezzar. During a great feast on the eve of the Persian conquest of Babylon (538 BC), Belshazzar was drinking out of the gold and silver vessels that Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem when a hand emerged and began writing on the palace wall. Seeing the hand, Belshazzar becomes alarmed and calls for the wise men.

After the wise men fail to interpret the inscription, Daniel is brought to Belshazzar, at the queen's request. Daniel interprets the message to read, "'MENE' – God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it. 'TEKEL' – you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient. 'PERES' – your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians" (Dan 5:26-28). Belshazzar is slain that same night and Darius the Mede receives the kingdom, fulfilling the words spoken by Daniel.

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Daniel 6: Daniel in the Lion's Den

Chapter 6 tells the familiar narrative of Daniel in the lion's den. As a result of the plotting of his political subordinates, Daniel is cast into the lion's den by King Darius the Mede for defying the injunction against petitioning a god or man except the king. Just as God had miraculously protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego in the furnace of fire, God closes the lions' mouths so that they do not harm Daniel. While Daniel is delivered and enjoys success, his accusers are thrown into the den and crushed by the lions.

Daniel 7: Daniel's Vision of Four Beasts

Chapter 7 marks the transition from historical narrative (Dan 1–6) to predictive prophecy (Dan 7–12). The predictions in Daniel 7–12 concern events that extend from the days of Daniel to the coming of Messiah, including predictions of his first and second advents. The predictive prophecy is revealed through four visions of Daniel that occurred during the period of history covered in the first six chapters.

Chapter 7 describes and interprets the first vision of Daniel which occurs in the first year of Belshazzar (553 BC). Daniel is about 67-years old when he receives the first vision of four beasts symbolizing Babylon (Lion), Medo-Persia (Bear), Greece (Leopard), and Rome (Strong Beast). The vision extends into the last days during the reigns of ten kings (ten horns) and the Antichrist (little horn), culminating with the reign of Messiah to Whom the Ancient of Days gives an everlasting dominion which will not be destroyed.

Daniel 8: Daniel's Vision of a Ram and a Goat

Chapter 8 records the second vision of Daniel pertaining to a portion of time within the previous vision. The Medo-Persian and Greek empires are depicted respectively as a ram with two horns and a male goat with a single horn that eventually breaks off and becomes four horns. The angel Gabriel interprets the vision as pertaining to the time of the end. The king of Greece who arises in the latter period of the reign of the four kings oppresses the Jews, foreshadowing the Antichrist of future history. Daniel is exhausted and sick for days because of the astounding vision about which he is told to keep secret.

Daniel 9: Daniel's Prayer and Prediction of Seventy Sevens

Chapter 9 is divided into two parts. Verses 1-19 record Daniel's prayer and verses 20-27 provide God's response delivered through the angel Gabriel. Based on Jeremiah's prophecy that the exile would last seventy years (Jer 25:12; 29:10), Daniel seeks God by prayer and supplications, with fasting, confessing the sins of the nation and seeking God's compassion for His people who are called by His name.

The angel Gabriel delivers God's message that includes a prophecy of seventy seven-year periods (490 years) that are ordained for God's people. The first sixty-nine periods (483 years) are completed at Messiah's first advent. The final seventieth period (7 years) is of principal importance as it pertains to the Tribulation period that transpires just before the second advent of Messiah Jesus.

Daniel 10–11: Heavenly Messenger's Appearing and Political Predictions

Chapters 10–11 record Daniel's fourth and final predictive revelation made known through a direct encounter with a heavenly messenger. The angel explains that his coming was delayed by a conflict with an emissary of Satan who withstood him for twenty-one days until Michael, the chief archangel, came to his defense. The messenger's appearing is for the purpose of imparting information concerning the periods of Medo-Persia, Greece, and the future Tribulation, periods also covered in Daniel's second vision (Chap. 8).

While chapter 10 presents details of Daniel's actual encounter with the messenger, chapter 11 provides the predictive prophecy imparted in this final revelatory message. The political predictions emphasize the activities of Antiochus Epiphanes and the future Antichrist. The detail provided in the historical predictions contains some of the most remarkable predictive prophecies in all of Scripture.

Daniel 12: Conclusion

The book of Daniel concludes with final words concerning the Tribulation age and beyond to the resurrection of the righteous and the wicked. The heavenly messenger brings the revelation to its conclusion, directing Daniel to conceal and seal the words until the end of time. At the conclusion of his life, Daniel himself will enter his rest and rise again to receive his allotted portion at the end of the age.

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BIBLE TEXT: DANIEL 12 (NASB)

Dan. 12:1 “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. 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. 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.”

Dan. 12:5 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.”

STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. Who will arise during the Great Tribulation at the end of the age? Over whom does he stand guard? How is this time of distress described? Who will be rescued? (12:1) (O) Why do you think that Michael will arise at this time? Who will be persecuting Daniel’s people?
2. How do the following verses describe the Tribulation (the final seven years of the present age)?
Isa 13:6, 9
Ezek 30:3
Joel 1:15
Joel 2:1, 11
Dan 9:27
Matt 24:21-31
Mark 13:14-23
3. What do the following verses reveal about the Antichrist or antichrists?
Dan 7:7-8, 11
Dan 9:26-27
Dan 11:36-45
1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3
2John 7
Rev 13:1
Rev 19:19-21
4. (C) What do the following verses reveal about the *book of life*?
Ex 32:32
Ps 69:28
Luke 10:20
Rev 20:12
5. Into what two everlasting conditions will many of those who sleep in the dust awake? (12:2)

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6. (C) Write a brief principle concerning *resurrection* from the following verses:

Job 14:11-14

Job 19:25-27

Ps 16:10

Ps 49:15

Isa 25:8

Isa 26:19

Hosea 13:14

John 5:29

John 11:24-25

Acts 24:15

1Cor 15:12

Phil 3:10-11

Heb 11:17-18

Rev 20:5-6

7. How will those who have insight and those who lead the many to righteousness shine? (12:3)
8. (A) What are some things that you could do to seek greater insight into the things of God? How many people have you led to righteousness? Who do you know that needs to be led to righteousness today? How could you be more intentional about leading others to righteousness?
9. For how long are Daniel's words to be concealed and the book sealed up? As many go back and forth, what will increase? (12:4)
10. Who does Daniel see standing on two banks of the river? (12:5) What question does one ask the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river? (12:6)
11. What does the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, swear by Him who lives forever? (12:7) When will all these events be completed? (12:7)
12. What question does Daniel ask because he could not understand? (12:8) In his response, what does the man in linen say about these words? (12:9) What will happen to many? What will happen to the wicked? Who will understand? (12:10)
13. How many days will there be between the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up? (12:11) How many days will the blessed keep waiting? (12:12)
14. What final assurance is given to Daniel? (12:13)
15. (A) How can you know with certainty that you will rise again at the end of the age to take your place in the kingdom of Messiah Jesus? If you do not have the assurance of salvation by God's grace through faith alone in Jesus, what is stopping you from believing that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God Who came in the flesh to take away the sins of the world. Will you pray right now to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord of your life? If you still have questions, who will you contact this week? (Feel free to reach out right now to Jessica at jessicataylor333@sbcglobal.net.)
16. What do you learn about God in Daniel 12?
17. How could you apply what you have learned about God this week?
18. How has the study of Daniel changed the way you think about God and how you will live in response to the truth of what God has made known?

Write a prayer response to the book of Daniel.