

DANIEL

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Daniel chapter 12 as we continue our study through the Word of God. Tonight we will finish up this fascinating and I believe very timely book. I hope you have been encouraged and blessed as we have seen Gentile World Empires come and go and one more to come before the Lord returns to set up His Kingdom on this earth and rule and reign for 1,000 years!

You see, as we have studied through this book there is great hope because we see the hand of God on every page. We have seen that He raises up Kings and nations and He also brings them down. He positioned people so that His plan would ultimately be fulfilled.

God is in control, He has never lost control. In fact, many look at this world and because of all that is going on they feel that God had lost control. It was perfect in creation but then when sin came into this world it went crazy and the Lord had no control over it. And yet, in Revelation 13:8 we are told that Jesus is the Lamb who was slain before the foundation of the world. In other words, God knew what He would have to do to redeem sinful man even before He created man to restore this world to the way He had created it!

That truly is love knowing what we would do, how we would rebel against Him and war against Him and that He would have to become flesh and blood and die on a cross for our sins to be atoned for! And the Tribulation Period is moving us into that direction where one day sin will be done away with and we will live with the Lord in the eternal state in a new heavens, a new earth with a new Jerusalem!

Now let me remind you where we are at here in Daniel chapter 12 because it is a continuation of what we were reading last week in Daniel chapter 11. We have talked about this but Daniel chapters 10-12 cover a time frame from Cyrus through the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and they can be broken down as follows. It is one vision, the last vision that Daniel was given.

From Daniel chapter 10 through Daniel 11:1 we see an introduction to the vision. We get a behind the scenes look at spiritual warfare that went on back then and continues today!

Then in Daniel 11:2 through Daniel 12:4 we see two major divisions. Daniel 11:2-35 deals with the immediate future from the time of Cyrus through the Persian Empire and into the Grecian Empire, to Antiochus.

Then, from Daniel 11:36 to Daniel 12:4 we see Daniel being informed of the distant future, the latter days. That is the time period of the Great Tribulation up to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. It deals with the Antichrist and we will talk a little about him tonight.

And from Daniel 12:5-13 we see the final message of comfort to Daniel, the judgment of the nations and on into the establishing of the Millennial Reign of Christ and we will finish up this evening looking at that!

One more point here and I think we need to be reminded of this since there are so many Christians who believe that God is done with Israel or that the church has replaced Israel. That of course did not happen and it will not happen because as Paul said, **“For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.’”** Romans 11:25-27.

Now some say Paul is speaking of the church here and all I can say to that is this, **“I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery!”** Think about that one for a minute. If this is the church then we are blinded until when, **“the fullness of the Gentiles has come in”**? That makes no sense. He is speaking of Jacob and God will open the eyes of the Jewish people after the Rapture of the church or when **“the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.”**

Thus, this is speaking of the Tribulation Period and from the onset Jews will be saved and the ultimate salvation of this nation is seen at the end of the Tribulation Period when they petition Jesus to return!

Right now the Jews are living in a period of time that is called **“the times of the Gentiles”** and it began with the Babylonian captivity and it continues on today as the oppression and violence towards the Jewish people continues on by Gentile nations and it will only get worse!

Of this time Jesus said in Luke 21:20-24, **“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until *the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*”**

When are the Times of the Gentiles fulfilled? When Jerusalem is surrounded by the Gentile nations and the Jews are told to flee for their lives. Then we will see that the Lord returns at the end of the Tribulation Period to destroy these Gentile nations and set up His Kingdom on this earth. It is the multi-metallic image of Daniel chapter 2 and the beasts of Daniel chapters 7 and 8 that will be destroyed!

Now, to me, the focus of this fourth and final vision that was given to Daniel, that covers chapters 10-12, comes out of Daniel 11:35, which says, **“And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time.”**

As we have seen, this is about the nation of Israel! And when you think about it, the Great Tribulation Period is God’s refining fire for the nation of Israel. And through that fire many will come to know Jesus as their Messiah, they will fall to their knees, repent of their sins, and receive Him into their lives, they shall be made clean through Him. On the other hand, those who reject Jesus will be burned as they pass through the refiner’s fire and be eternally separated from God.

And with that as our introduction, lets dig into these last 13 verses in the book of Daniel and see what God has for us tonight as we begin reading in Daniel chapter 12 beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

DANIEL 12

VERSE 1

1. I believe that Michael the archangel is always watching over Israel but something is different here. We are told specifically that Michael is going to stand up for Israel when the world will be on the verge of destruction and the nation of Israel on the verge of annihilation!

You see, the phrase, "**time of trouble**" is a Hebrew idiomatic expression that means that this period of time will be the worst that the earth and those living on it will ever experience!

In the Old Testament, in Jeremiah 30:7 we are told that this day is known as "**the time of Jacob's trouble**" and just listen to what Jeremiah is telling us about this time, "**Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.**"

Also, in the New Testament Jesus warns us in Matthew chapter 24 of this period of time when he said, "**For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.**"

Matthew 24:21-22.

Jesus is telling us that it will be so bad that if He did not intervene, man would destroy themselves completely, no flesh would survive! The world would be destroyed, and yet, because of God's promises to the nation of Israel, He will intervene before we destroy ourselves!

And keep in mind that the first 3½ years of the seven-year Tribulation Period will not be horrible for most of the world. The Antichrist comes on the scene as a man of peace at first. And the Scriptures do speak of this. You see, if you look at the preceding verses in Matthew chapter 24 you will see Jesus speaking of the abomination of desolation and as He concludes He says **“For then there will be great tribulation . . .”** This is the signal to tell us when things will turn ugly, when the Antichrist comes into the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem and demands to be worshiped as god and the Jews are told to flee and we will deal with that in a few minutes!

When you look at Revelation chapter 5 you see this played out as this judgment of God, this seal is opened and a rider on the white horse comes on the scene. This is the Antichrist and like I have said, he comes on the scene as a man of peace but, after 3½ years his true colors are made known. It is then that his wrath is unleashed upon this world and against Israel. And what follows this man are wars, famine, disease, and death!

We are also told in Revelation when Michael, the angelic warrior for Israel, will stand up and I think that it is corresponding to what we read here in Daniel 12:1. In Revelation 12:7-9 we are told, **“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”** Revelation 12:7-9.

When Satan is cast from heaven and the presence of God he knows that his time is short and thus, like a wild animal that is cornered or injured he will come against anything and everything that gets in his way.

Thus, God's warning in that time is, "**... Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.**" Revelation 12:12.

Why do we see the Devil try to destroy the seed of the woman and then the Jewish people throughout history? Because the first time the Devil was trying to stop the birth of the Messiah but that did not work. Now, I believe, he is trying to stop the Jews from petitioning the return of the Messiah! We see beginning in verse 13 of Revelation chapter 12 that he comes after Israel to destroy them also because they refuse to worship him, and as they flee into the wilderness, to Petra, the Antichrist will send out his army after them. This army will come like a flood after the Jews. How do you deal with a flood? Opening up the earth and allowing the water to fall into it would work, and that is what the Lord will do with this army, swallow them up as God opens up the earth and God will protect the Jewish people, the remnant, for 3½ years in the area of Petra.

Now because the Antichrist could not destroy those who fled from him, he comes after the "**... rest of her offspring ...**" who did not or could not flee to Petra. And it is as Jeremiah said and we read this evening, "**Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.**" Jeremiah 30:7.

2. Now keep in mind that when I say that all Israel will be saved I am not talking about every single Jew, even though that would be wonderful. But the nation as a whole will turn to their Messiah, their Savior and receive the forgiveness of their sins as Romans 11:25-27 says.

3. It is interesting to note that Daniel is told that some will be delivered from this. Who will be delivered? Daniel tells us that, “**. . . Everyone who is found written in the book.**” What book is this? The Book of Life. We are told of this in Revelation 20:15, where we read, “**And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.**”

Whose names are written in this book? I think you may be surprised to find out that everyone’s name is in the Book of Life, although not all will enter into eternal life with Christ. Let me explain. In Exodus 32:33 we are told, “**And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.’**”

Also, in Revelation 3:5 we are told, “**He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.**”

So even though everyone’s name is written in the Book of Life, because of their rejection of Jesus Christ they are still lost in their trespasses and sins, which will cause their names to be blotted out of the Book of Life and their eternal destiny is in the Lake of Fire! But, as Daniel tells us, God’s people will be delivered!

And specifically here, he is speaking of the Jewish people. We will see that more as we read on and see the prophecy of the resurrection of the dead.

VERSES 2-3

1. As we look at these verses we need to remember the focus of what is taking place here. We are talking about the Tribulation Period and a period of time that unless the Lord returned no flesh would survive!

We can see that these two verses are dealing with this resurrection, some to life and some to death! Now before I deal with what this is all about, keep in mind that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God so these bodies of flesh must be changed and they will.

Keep in mind that the Lord is coming back for His Bride, the Church and we call that the Rapture. And as we have seen, the Rapture takes place prior to the start of the seven-year Tribulation Period.

Paul speaks of the Rapture in I Thessalonians 4:16-17 where we are told, **“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”**

Now some may argue and they do, that the word “Rapture” is not in the Scriptures and that is true. And because of that they reject this idea of the Rapture of the Church. Keep in mind that the Greek word for **“caught up”** is HARPAZO, (har-pad’-zo) and it speaks of snatching away quickly. So if that word “Rapture” bothers you then call it “the great snatch away” but I am sticking with Rapture! We will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air!

Now what about these saints that are raised up, who are they and where did they come from? Some say that these are the Old Testament Jewish saints who died believing in the coming Messiah. That is a possibility but remember that Jesus went and preached to the saints that were in Abraham’s bosom and He set those captives free. They did not get their resurrected bodies at that time just as we don’t if we die now, we will get them at the Rapture.

I think that these saints that are resurrected at the end of the Tribulation Period are those who were martyred for their faith in Jesus Christ during the Tribulation Period. We read of this in Revelation 20:4-5 which says, “**. . . Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years . . . This is the first resurrection.**”

And if you think about it, this resurrection is not over yet, not until the end of the Millennial Reign of Christ when those who love the Lord will get their new bodies! You see, they can't enter into the eternal state with bodies of flesh and blood! This is the first resurrection you might say and John tells us in Revelation 20:6, “**Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.**”

And the focus is the Jews here but it does apply, obviously to Gentiles who are martyred for their faith during the Tribulation Period.

2. Yes, some will inherit everlasting life but on the other end of the spectrum, for those who reject Jesus, they will awake to everlasting contempt. In Revelation 20:5 we are told, “**But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished . . .**” You see, those who die without Christ are not part of the first resurrection but take part in the second resurrection which has only one part which occurs at the end of the Millennial Kingdom. Listen to the events that led up to the second resurrection for all those who are in rebellion against God, not for believers!

In Revelation 20:7-15 we are told, **“Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”**

John tells us that the Devil and the Antichrist will be punished in the Lake of Fire **“forever and ever”** or literally “to the ages of ages.” It is speaking of eternal punishment, it does not end! But that eternal punishment is not just for them for John tells us that **“anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”**

Jesus even spoke of this time during His ministry when He said in John 5:28-29, “**Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth - those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.**” You see, Jesus is speaking of both the first and second resurrection here, one to life and the other to death. One for believers and the other for unbelievers. All who ever lived will be resurrected, some to life with God and some to death, eternally separated from Him in the Lake of Fire.

VERSE 4

1. Some read this and come to the conclusion that this is not for us so we should not be studying it. That is not what is spoken of here. Daniel is not being told to hide this information or cover it up. Daniel is told to “**shut up the words**” or to preserve them, write them down, don’t destroy them.

To “**seal**” speaks of the writer’s stamp of authenticity. And so the book or literally the written material was now complete and it was time to roll up the scroll and seal it with his stamp and they are to be kept safely until the time when they are needed!

And we have seen not only the book of Daniel opened up in these last days but much prophecy has been opened up to us which gives us the encouragement that God is in control. What God has spoken is coming to pass and thus, we need not fear!

2. I don't want to disappoint you on this phrase that, "**many shall run to and fro**" but it does not mean what you think. You see, some believe this is speaking of our mode of transportation. And when you think about it only some 100 years ago we traveled by horse and buggy and today we can travel by planes, trains and automobiles, the world has gotten a lot smaller.

The thought here is searching for information, running here and there and we see it with that next phrase that, "**knowledge shall increase.**" But as Wood points out, "The idea is that people would run about trying to find answers to important questions, especially in reference to future events." And Newell adds to that by saying, "The correct sense is that 'many shall search it through and through,' and that as a consequence 'knowledge of the book itself shall be increased.'"

Now I do understand that our knowledge has increased and it continues to increase at amazing rates today. Every 60 seconds, 2000 typewritten pages are added to man's knowledge and the material produced every 24 hours takes one person 5 years to read and I am sure those numbers are even higher today!

Let me show you what I mean regarding how knowledge is increasing. We are told, Buckminster Fuller created the "Knowledge Doubling Curve"; he noticed that until 1900 human knowledge doubled approximately every century. By the end of World War II knowledge was doubling every 25 years. Today things are not as simple as different types of knowledge have different rates of growth. For example, nanotechnology knowledge is doubling every two years and clinical knowledge every 18 months. But on average human knowledge is doubling every 13 months. According to IBM, the build out of the "internet of things" will lead to the doubling of knowledge every 12 hours.

In a recent lecture at Harvard University neuroscientist Jeff Lichtman, who is attempting to map the human brain, has calculated that several billion petabytes of data storage would be needed to index the entire human brain. The Internet is currently estimated to be 5 million terabytes (TB) of which Google has indexed roughly 200 TB or just .004% of its total size. The numbers involved are astounding especially when considering the size of the human brain and the number of neurons in it.

- <http://www.industrytap.com/knowledge-doubling-every-12-months-soon-to-be-every-12-hours/3950>

Even though that is true, like I have said, I don't believe that is what Daniel is speaking of here. The phrase "**to and fro**" is a Hebrew idiom suggesting the pursuit of something illusive. An example of this is found in Amos 8:11-12 which says "**Behold, the days are coming,' says the Lord GOD, 'That I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, but shall not find it.'**" There truly is a spiritual famine in the land today and people are hungry to know what is going to happen. Tragically they are running to and fro to find answers instead of looking into the Word of God!

I like the way that Bible teacher Leon Wood paraphrases this verse. He put it like this, "***Many shall run to and fro in their desire for knowledge of the last things, and, finding it in Daniel's book, because it will have been preserved to the end, their knowledge shall be increased.***"

And look at how the book of Daniel has come alive over the last 100 years or so. God truly has opened our eyes to His truths found in this book. And God will continue to do so as we see these last days coming to an end. And for the nation of Israel, as God pours out His Spirit upon them, these words will be opened up to them as they see the events come to pass before their eyes. It is as John Calvin put it, “Many shall investigate, and knowledge shall increase.”

VERSES 5-7

1. One of the questions here is regarding these angels and specifically one of these other people who are described here. Who is this “**... man clothed in linen ...**” Many believe that it is the Lord Jesus Christ, the pre-incarnate Christ who we saw back in chapter 10 of Daniel.

Now we did talk about this in Daniel chapter 10 but listen to the description that is given of Jesus in Daniel 10:5-6. We are told, “**I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.**” And notice here in verse 6 of Daniel chapter 12 that He is standing above the waters, which may be speaking of an elevated position, which He should have, for He is God!

It could be the Lord but I am not 100% sure because all we are told here in Daniel chapter 12 is that he was “**clothed in linen**” so it could be an angel and not Jesus.

2. Here we are given the time-frame of this trouble for Israel, a trouble that they never experienced before, at least not to this degree! And it is speaking of course of the Tribulation Period and more specifically the last for 3½ years of the last 7 years known also as the 70th week of Daniel. And as I have said before, the first 3½ years will be more of a time of a pseudo-peace and a pseudo-safety that will lead into the last 3½ years which will be like Hell on earth!

We see Jesus warning the Jewish people in Matthew 24:15-22 of this time. He said, **“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place’ (whoever reads, let him understand), ‘then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.’”**

Like I have said, at the 3½ year mark of the seven-year Tribulation Period the Antichrist goes into the rebuilt Temple and demands to be worshiped as god! It is then that many of the Jews recognize that this is not their Messiah and many of them flee for their lives to Petra where God will protect them for 3½ years as they come to that saving faith in Him! We will deal more with this as we read on here in Daniel.

3. I know it does not say 3½ years but that phrase, “**time, times, and half a time**” also seen in Revelation 12:14, is speaking of 3½ years. Let me show you what I mean. Time = 1 year, times = 2 years, and half a time = ½ year. So $1 + 2 + \frac{1}{2} = 3\frac{1}{2}$ years! In Revelation 11:3 and Revelation 12:6 we are told it is 1,260 days, which is 3½ years based upon a 360 day Babylonian year, which was where Daniel was writing from. In Revelation 11:2 we are told that it is 42 months, again 3½ years. This is not symbolic or figurative, but a literal 3½ years known as the Great Tribulation Period, the time of Jacob’s Trouble!

4. Why is this coming to pass? Daniel tell us that it is to shatter the power of the holy people or the Jewish people. What does that mean? It means that their self-reliance will be completely shattered and broken. They will not be able to stand in their own strength. David Hocking said “The Israeli military is one of the greatest armed forces in the whole world and I thank God for them. They have more expertise than we can imagine. The Israeli air force is well prepared. All of their armaments and their capability is phenomenal. Their dedication is greater than ours because it is an issue of survival.”

But they will be no match for the global powers of the Antichrist and his forces. Their only hope is in the Lord. They must rely on God for their strength, but before they turn to Him they must be broken. You see, it speaks of God’s refining fire that purifies them and makes them white as snow as they come to Jesus for the cleansing of their sin!

VERSE 8

1. Daniel is struggling to understand everything that is going to take place. I can understand that. Sometimes you are given information and it is just not computing. But for Daniel, this is a heavy message about his people the Jews and he is struggling with what this means, the totality of these events, when will these things take place and when will it all end. I think you can understand a bit where Daniel is coming from.

VERSES 9-10

1. Please understand that Daniel is not being told to go away physically here. What the angel is telling Daniel is to make a mental departure from this questioning. This information will be opened up at the end of the age and it has been opened up to us. Daniel has to be content with what God has given to him and so must we. We are not going to know everything but what we do need to know God will reveal to us and He has!

Our eyes have been open to God's truths but the wicked can't see it, they don't understand it, they look at you like you are nuts when you share with them. They are blinded to it. It is very obvious, just listen to an orthodox Jew talk about the coming Messiah, that he will be a man who helps them to rebuild their Temple and bring peace to the land. They are speaking of the Antichrist, not the Messiah, and yet they don't even see that. We have world leaders calling for world government and-so-on, and when they talk it is like they have been reading the Bible! But they are blinded to the things of God and yet they are carrying out the plan of God!

It is as Paul tells us in I Corinthians chapter 2, **“But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. . . . But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”** II Corinthians 2:10, 14.

VERSES 11-12

1. Yes these words or the understanding of them were sealed up for Daniel but they have been opened up to us in these last days as we are told back in verse 9. And we once again are getting a starting date for these last 3½ years of the seven-year Tribulation Period, it is when the Antichrist goes into the rebuilt Temple and demands to be worshiped as God.

Thus, you could count off the days from the Abomination of Desolation until Jesus returns and when you get to 1260 days you have it. The thing that is interesting here is that there are another 30 days are added to the 1260 days making it a total of 1290 days. Why is that done?

In Ezekiel 20:34-38 we read of the judgment of the nation of Israel, and we are told **“I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out. And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face. Just as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will plead My case with you,”** says the Lord GOD. **‘I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the country where they dwell, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’**” This is what could occur during that 30 day period of time after Christ returns.

But that is not all the days that are added, then we come to 1335 days or another 45 day period of time that is also added on. What is this all about? I believe this is the judgment of the Gentile nations for they are judged on how they treated the nation of Israel during the Tribulation Period. It is the fruit that is produced from their relationship with Christ.

We can read of this judgment of the nations in Matthew 25:31-46, **“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’**

Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

And after the Jews are judged, after the Gentile nations are judged, we now begin the Millennial Reign of Christ as both Jew and Gentile have been judged and the sheep will enter into the Kingdom Age while the goats will be cast into Hell waiting for the final judgment, the Great White Throne Judgment! The Times of the Gentiles are over as I have said!

VERSE 13

1. I like the way that the book of Daniel closes. Daniel is told to continue on with what he is doing for he will rest one day with all those who have died waiting in faith for the Messiah, loving the Lord, and he will also be raised or resurrected!

Jesus commands us to do the same. In Luke 19:13 we are told, “**... ‘Do business [or occupy] till I come.’**” That is what we are to be doing, being busy doing the work that God has called us to. Not waiting on some mountaintop for Him to return wearing white robes. We are to continue on and do the work of God till He comes or we go to be with Him.

2. I realize that as we look at the events that are happening in the world it can be scary. But we need to focus back on the Lord and what He has promised. Let me share this story with you and you will see what I mean. We are told,

A father was awakened in the night by his little boy. Apparently the child was having a nightmare and panicked, crying out for his daddy. As the father ran into the dark room, the boy asked, "Daddy, are you here?" "Yes, son, I'm here," the father said reassuringly. "Daddy," said the boy, "is your face looking at me?" The father answered, "Yes, son." With those words the boy lost his fear and soon fell asleep.

You see, as we look out into the chaos that is happening in this world we too may cry out to Father God to calm our fears. Understand this, His face is always upon us. The question is, "Are our eyes focused upon Him?" Our hope for the future is only in Christ for everything else is hopeless and dark.

What a joy the book of Daniel has been for me and I pray also for you. It just shows me the hand of God in this world. Take comfort in our God for He is an awesome God who loves us deeply. Thank the Lord for the comfort and hope that He has given to each of us! And the comfort that God has given to us, may we extend that same comfort to those around us! (Read verses in II Corinthians 1:3-5).

3. Let me close with this conclusion of Daniel from Renald Showers. He wrote,

The book of Daniel clearly demonstrates the sovereign rule of God over the realm of mankind. The study of this book has shown that God has fulfilled numerous prophecies with exact precision. Gentile world dominion has run the exact course that God said it would. Israel has continued to be chastened and yet preserved by God, just as He promised. Messiah did present Himself as Prince to Israel in April, 32 A. D., and was put to death after that presentation, precisely as God foretold. Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed by the Romans after the presentation and death of Messiah as predicted.

These fulfilled prophecies not only demonstrate the sovereignty of God, but also guarantee the fulfillment of prophecies concerning the future. The Roman Empire will be revived as a ten nation confederation. An ultimate man, Antichrist, will rule that empire as an absolute dictator. There will be a time of unprecedented distress for the world. Israel will experience its worst period of suffering. Messiah will return in a second coming to judge the Antichrist and Gentile world dominion. A remnant of Israel will be rescued from destruction and will repent and believe in Jesus Christ at His second coming. The Kingdom of God will be established on earth. Believers will enter the Kingdom of God to enjoy its blessings. Just as the prophecies concerning events of the past were fulfilled, so these prophecies concerning events of the future are certain to be fulfilled.

. . . it is imperative that believers personally saturate themselves with the truth of the sovereignty of God, commit their lives to that truth and allow it to affect their lives as it affected Daniel's. It gave Daniel stability and purpose in times of personal and world upheaval and crisis. It gave him boldness and courage to live a godly life and to refuse to compromise the truth of God in a pagan world that tried to humiliate the true God and pressure him into conformity with it. It provided him with insight and understanding which his pagan contemporaries never had. These are qualities God's people need today in the midst of a world that becomes increasingly unstable and irritable with the idea of God and the restraints of His rule.

- Renald E. Showers, A commentary on the Book of Daniel – The Most High God, pp. 183-185

And I will leave you with this from Revelation chapter 22, **“Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.” . . . ‘And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.’ . . . He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming quickly.’ Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”** Revelation 22:7, 12-13, 20-21.