

CAPITOL STUDIES

APRIL 10, 2024 • WEEK 14



DANIEL: CHRIST'S CIVIL SERVANT IN BABYLON

Contents

- Angelic Proclamation 2
- Angelic Conversation 4
- Angelic Explanation 4
- Conclusion 5
- About Capitol Studies 7



Verse of the Week

Daniel 12:2-3

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. Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness

Completion of Future Events



OVER 85 YEARS AGO ORSON WELLES broadcast a drama which depicted an invasion of earth by spacemen from Mars. Until the public realized it was only fictitious, pandemonium broke loose. The program was so convincing that many thought the end of the world had come. Some called the police; others lost their sanity, so real was the melodrama. Men have talked of a doomsday and the end of the world for many generations, but God tells us in His Word that He has great plans for the world. There cannot be a doomsday until Christ has reigned on earth for a thousand years. Judgment will come at the end of that reign. The sin-cursed earth, as we know it, will be burned in preparation for entirely new heavens and earth created by God (2 Pet. 3:10-13; Rev. 21:1).

When Daniel writes of *the end of time*, he does not mean a geological catastrophe, unnatural phenomenon, or interplanetary invasion. He means the end of the times of the Gentiles, the end of Roman aggression. War will be no more. Israel will be united in her homeland. The end will have come for those who hate and reject Christ. One truth that permeates the book of Daniel—and especially the final ten verses—is the fact of our world's utter brokenness. Because of sin and depravity, our world cannot be fixed; it needs to be entirely redeemed and recreated by Jesus Christ the King.¹

Arin Hess

Pastor Arin Hess, *Chaplain, Capitol Studies*



INTRODUCTION

“The Rev. J. C. Hoover, at one time a missionary to the Jews in Denver, was riding in a car with a Jewish rabbi. As they drove up in front of the synagogue, the rabbi said, ‘Mr. Hoover, your Gentile Christians are looking for the second coming of your Savior, Jesus Christ, and we Jews are looking for the first coming of our Messiah. Who knows but what He might be the same person!’ Then he paused before asking, ‘Mr. Hoover, how do you think we will recognize our Messiah?’ Quietly and prayerfully Mr. Hoover read the words of the prophet Zechariah, ‘And they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced.’ The rabbi was silent as he got out of the car and walked slowly into his synagogue.”²

Chapter 12 tells of a coming time of terrible devastation for the Jews. The North’s defeat will prepare the way for the reign of the Roman beast and the Antichrist. “Both the Old Testament and the New Testament teach that a time of great tribulation will one day come to the world, and our interpretation of Daniel’s seventy weeks (9:24–27) locates this period in the last ‘week’ of his prophecy. The event that triggers the beginning of those last seven years is the signing of the covenant with Israel by the powerful leader in the ten-nation confederacy... (7:7–28). The reason for the covenant seems to be the guarantee of his protection for Israel while the Jews rebuild their temple in Jerusalem. The tribulation period will end with the return of Christ and the confinement of Antichrist and Satan in the lake of fire (Rev. 19:11–21).”³

I. AN ANGELIC PROCLAMATION

Here Daniel shares with us the final details of the last half of the tribulation period. The same expression for the *end of time* is used in verses 4 and 9 of Daniel 12. As was mentioned in the introduction, he is writing about the period immediately **prior** to *the kingdom age—the age of the Messiah’s glory* (Daniel 11:45).

Daniel 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.*⁴

“‘At that time’ means ‘during the time of the end,’ the time period the angel is describing in this part of the prophecy. We have now reached the middle of the tribulation when Antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel, seizes the temple, and sets himself up as world dictator and god. This is the ‘abomination of desolation’ that Daniel wrote about in 9:27; 11:31; and 12:11, and that Jesus referred to in His Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14).”⁵ The Jews, with whom he once had a covenant, will now be the recipients of his all-out hostility and persecution. Michael, the archangel and Israel’s great prince, will assert himself in Israel’s defense in this horrible hour of their trial, as their angelic protector and deliverer.



At the same time, God’s wrath will no longer be restrained. He will direct it without pause upon the godless society, but everyone that shall be found written in ‘the book’ will be rescued. “The ‘book’ is a common biblical figure and alludes to the ‘book of life’ in which the names of all saints will be written (Exodus 32:33; Psalm 69:28; Malachi 3:16; Luke 10:20; Revelation 3:5; 20:12). Evidently this symbol comes from the practice of keeping a record of all citizens of a town. Those whose names were listed enjoyed the blessings of community membership, whereas the names of those who were excommunicated from fellowship were blotted out.”⁶ God’s people will be rescued!

Daniel 12:2

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.

In this figure of speech, the resurrection is pictured as awakening from sleep. Two groups of people are spoken of as being awakened or resurrected. The many who die during the tribulation will awake, either to everlasting life or everlasting contempt (eternal torment). This is the first mention in the Bible of the expression “everlasting life.” “These to everlasting life” refers to “everyone who is found written in the book” (v. 1). These are believers who have chosen to place their faith in Christ for salvation from their sin and are now His children. The “others to disgrace and everlasting contempt” are unbelievers who have rejected Christ as Savior (John 5:29; Revelation 20:4-15). Theirs will be an everlasting punishment.

Daniel 12:3

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.

It would seem that Jesus had this passage in mind when He declared that “the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father” (Matthew 13:43). Daniel 12:3 alludes to a special group of believing Jews who will faithfully witness for Christ, despite the persecution, and will, as a result, see many come to know the righteousness of Christ in salvation. “To shine in glory is a privilege of all the saved (cf. the principle in 1 Thess. 2:12; 1 Peter 5:10). Any who influence others for righteousness shine like stars in varying capacities of light as their reward (as in 1 Cor. 3:8).”⁷

Daniel 12:4

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.

Gabriel is saying that this book—the book of Daniel—will be a closed (sealed) volume for the unbelieving Jews from that time until the time of the end. Today, Jews read Daniel and other books of prophecy without understanding. The Jewish nation suffers from spiritual blindness, in part as divine judgment for rejecting Christ as Messiah when He was on earth.





The Hebrew word meaning “will go back and forth” “always refers to the movement of a person searching for something. In the tribulation, people will search for answers to the devastation and discover increased knowledge through Daniel’s preserved book.”⁷ The Spirit of God will later illumine their hearts and they will understand the truth (Rom. 11).

II. AN ANGELIC CONVERSATION

Daniel 12:5-6

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. ⁶And 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?”

One of the angels inquires of a man clothed in linen, dressed similarly to the man in Daniel 10:5. Many commentators believe this is Christ the Messiah in an Old Testament Christophany as the Angel of the LORD. The angel asks, “How long will it be until the end?” Even today we ask how long?

III. AN ANGELIC EXPLANATION

Daniel 12:7-9

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. ⁸As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, “My lord, what will be the outcome of these events?” ⁹He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time.

The man dressed in linen declares that the nation of Israel will be broken in a time (one year), times (two years), and half a time (one-half year), amounting to three and a half years. This is given in response to the question of verse 6. Daniel does not understand the answer, but he is told that the meaning will not be understood until the time of the end. The words are sealed, but they will come to pass!

Daniel 12:10

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.

This last half of the tribulation will accomplish many purposes in God’s program—the chief being the salvation and sanctification of the Jewish people in fulfillment of God’s covenants with Abraham, Moses, and David. God will use the fires of tribulation to take away their dross and prepare His Old Testament (Old Covenant) people to accept the Messiah of the New Testament. God will regenerate and work His own righteousness in them. Many others, however, will unfortunately be even more blatant in their wickedness, including the apostate Jews, the satanic



leader (Antichrist), and the beasts (rulers). These will work their wickedness in unrepentance until God’s judgment at the end of this tribulation period.

Daniel 12:11

From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.

The terminal point of the tribulation will be 1,260 days (time, times, and a half; 3½ years with each month consisting of 30 days) after the erection of the idol in the temple at Jerusalem. This length of time coincides with the reign of the Roman dictator-beast (Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5), with the Gentile control over Jerusalem (Revelation 11:2), with the ministry of the two witnesses (Revelation 11:3), and with the hiding of Israel in the wilderness (Revelation 12:14).

Then there will be added 30 days more (equaling 1,290 days) “possibly to allow for the judgment of the living subsequent to Christ’s return (cf. Matt. 24:29-31; 25:31-46), before millennial kingdom blessings begin.”⁷

Daniel 12:12

How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!

Daniel goes on to write of the special blessing to be pronounced upon those saved Jews who patiently wait for the Messiah’s deliverance in the hour of their trials. They will enter into the millennial age (probably at 1,335 days) with all its prosperity, peace, righteousness, and joy.

Daniel 12:13

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 also waiting—waiting for his death, his reward for service, and the fulfillment of these final prophecies. He is told to keep on going to the end, then will come the rest and reward. Daniel will soon hear the words “Well done, My good and faithful servant.” What a good challenge for God’s child! Be faithful to the end! Rest and reward await! Like Daniel, we don’t know all the details, but we do know the final outcome! God’s people will be rescued and privileged to live as joint heirs with Jesus forever in the glories of heaven.

CONCLUSION

When we are disturbed, confused, unable to piece things together, it is easy to ask questions like, “Lord, how long?” or “When will this be over?” or “Lord, what will be the outcome?” **Remind yourself that God is faithful, and He is in control! We have no need to worry.**

God’s ways are **inscrutable**. They are without **comprehension**. His plan is **supreme**, and the final outcome will be only for His glory and our good!⁷

“When I was a boy, I often stood by the blacksmith’s forge in my father’s shop. I watched him heat his iron until it glowed. He held that burning metal over his anvil, and down came his hammer. The sparks flew like





miniature meteors. The glowing iron changed its shape. Sometimes the hammer broke, but the anvil remained impervious to it all. Even so the book of Daniel, and its foes hammer away. The sparks fly. Their hammers break. They make a lot of noise. They impress some people, who change shape beneath their attacks. But the old anvil remains as strong, as firm, as solid, and as infallibly true as ever. God's seal is on this book. Century after century, the book stands. It cannot be broken. In the end, archaeology and history vindicate the accuracy of its background scenes. Philology and linguistics endorse its claims. The onward march of events relentlessly fulfills its predictions. The arguments of the critics break down before the answers of the defenders of God's Word. But the book needs no defense. It is able to defend itself because it is God-breathed, God-sealed, and God-endorsed by the Son of God. So, we believe this great book of Daniel. We thank God for it."¹

Some Closing Thoughts: God's ways are different from man's ways!

1. Man honors the famous and soon forgets—God honors the **unknowns** who serve Him and **never** forgets!
2. Man gives his reward **now**—God reserves His rewards until **later!**
3. Man's methods are chosen in relation to **time**—God's methods are chosen in relation to **eternity!**

Pastor Arin Hess

FOOTNOTES

1. John Phillips, *Exploring the Book of Daniel: An Expository Commentary*, Kregel Publications, 2009.
2. Donald Campbell, *Daniel: Decoder of Dreams*, Victor Books, 1977, p. 139.
3. Warren Wiersbe, *Be Resolute (Daniel): Determining to Go God's Direction*, David C. Cook, Kindle Edition, 2000, p. 171.
4. All Scripture quotations, unless noted, are taken from the *New American Standard Bible*, 1995 Update.
5. J. Nielson, *Daniel: Faith Enduring through Adversity, A 13-Lesson Study*, P&R Publishing, 2019, p. 117.
6. Stephen Miller, *Shepherd's Notes: Daniel*, B&H, 1998, p. 87.
7. John MacArthur, *MacArthur Study Bible*, Word Publishing, 1997, pp. 1249-50.
8. Some of this material is used by permission from Edward Watke, Jr., *Study of the Book of Daniel*, Revival in the Home Ministries, Augusta, GA, 1992, and Pastor Gordon Dickson from Calvary Baptist Church, Findly, Ohio, www.cbfindlay.org.



Personal Study Notes

Theme Verse

Daniel said,

“Let the name of God be **blessed** forever and ever,

For **wisdom** and **power** belong to Him.

It is He who changes the **times** and the **epochs**;

He **removes** kings and **establishes** kings;

He gives **wisdom** to wise men and **knowledge** to men of understanding.”

Daniel 2:20-21



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Meeting during the
108th Legislature's
Second Session

SENATORS

6:45–7:45 A.M. Wednesdays
Capitol Office #1004

STAFF

12:00 P.M. Wednesdays
Capitol Building
Warner Chamber



www.CapitolStudies.org
info@capitolstudies.org
Social: @CapitolStudies



Serving Civil Servants With Scripture

Capitol Studies™ exists to serve kings for the King of kings until His glorious return. We are privileged to minister to Civil Servants at all levels of government for their good and God's glory. Capitol Studies is led by Pastor Arin Hess, who has over 40 years of ministry experience in the State of Nebraska and Washington, D.C.

Capitol Studies Offices
4547 Calvert Street • Lincoln, NE 68506

