

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

DANIEL 11-12

When I was ten years-old my dad put up a basketball hoop in the backyard. I loved basketball, and day after day I'd be in the backyard dribbling and shooting.

This caused a problem for dad. He liked a nice lawn, and the constant pounding of sneakers and basketballs made it impossible for him to grow grass underneath that basketball goal. **It looked like this...** In fact, the last time I saw the old house, the bare spot was still there.

Well, in Daniel 11 the spotlight is also on the Father's backyard. **I mean, God the Father's backyard.** *And where might that be?* It's the land we call **"Israel."**

It's not the Jews who own the land, nor the Arabs. All the Earth belongs to God. And throughout the Bible the Lord exercises a special claim on the land of Israel.

He's leased it to the Jews, but it belongs to Him.

And in Daniel 11, for 150 years, the kings of Syria and Egypt *pound the ground* in the Father's backyard.

Chapter 11 begins, **"Also in the first year of Darius the Mede, I, even I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him.)** These are the words of the heavenly messenger dispatched to communicate to Daniel the future of his people, Israel. The Jews had spent seventy years in Babylon. Daniel knew a new day was dawning for His people, Israel. *But what would the future bring?*

In Chapter 11 God gives Daniel a panoramic view of what's ahead for Israel over the next 280 years - *and even into in the end times*. Daniel's vision is so exact we read it as history, but remember it's prophecy.

These predictions all came before the fact and prove conclusively that the Bible is of supernatural origin.

Verse 2, “**And now I will tell you the truth: Behold, three more kings will arise in Persia, and the fourth shall be far richer than them all; by his strength, through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece.**” After Cyrus and his co-regent Darius three more Persian kings rose to power. First was Cyrus' son, **Cambyses**. He reigned from 530-522 BC.

Second, was a man called **Pseudo-Smerdis** who reigned in 522 BC. He was actually an imposter who gained access to the royal household because he looked like Cambyses' son. Once he invaded the royal court he was eventually able to steal the throne. The fake prince lasted six months before he was murdered.

The third king was **Darius Hystaspes** who reigned from 521-486... And the fourth king, referred to here as “**far richer than them all,**” was a king known to secular history as **Xerxes** and to biblical history as **Ahasuerus**.

Ahasuerus or Xerxes was the Persian king who co-starred in the story of Esther. He was a egomaniac who set out to conquer Greece. Here we're told, “**he stirred up all against the realm of Greece.**” Xerxes allied himself with the Phoenician

city of Carthage which also attacked Greek colonies in Italy and Sicily.

To invade Greece, Xerxes mounted the largest army the world has ever seen, *three million men*. He took four years to train his army, and then in just seven days he crossed the Hellespont on specially built barges.

But his invasion of Greece became the Persian Waterloo. Despite his formidable army He was crushed soundly by the Greeks and sent back to Persia limping.

Xerxes went on to reign from 485-465 and six other Persian kings followed. But Xerxes' defeat marked the beginning of the end for the Persian empire.

“Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.”

This “*mighty king*” was Alexander the Great who in 337 BC, at the age of 19, became general of the Greek army. In just 10 years he'd conquered the known world.

Legend has it, at the age of 33 he laid on his bed and cried “for there were no more worlds to conquer.”

Verse 4, “And when he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken up and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not among his posterity nor according to his dominion with which he ruled; for his kingdom shall be uprooted, even for others besides these.” It's said that just before Alexander died he was asked to name his successor. He whispered, “give it to the strong.”

Little did he know how his “*survival of the fitness*” approach would mean the death of his own family.

Within 15 years after his death the entire royal family had murdered each other vying for the throne.

Alexander did have two sons - one was illegitimate, and one was born after his death. Neither of his sons were recognized as his rightful heir. His half-brother, Philip, did reign for six years before he was murdered.

The kingdom was eventually divided among his four generals - an amazing fulfillment of Daniel 11:4. Even though it was contrary to ancient custom, Alexander's reign was handed down *“not among his posterity.”*

Now from verses 5-20 the focus of this prophecy becomes two Greek generals and their successors. These kingdoms were both north and south of Israel.

Seleucid took Syria - he and his heirs are identified as *“the kings of the north.”* Ptolemy ruled Egypt - he and his successors become *“the kings of the south.”*

And in between these two empires were the Jews.

For a century and a half the Greek kings of Syria and Egypt alternately attack each other and trample the Father's backyard. They *pound the ground* and *toss around* God's people, the Jews. Again, here Daniel records these events four centuries in advance!

Remember The Three Stooges - Moe, Larry, and Curly. Moe and Larry were always taking out their frustrations on, Curly... He was the brunt of their angst.

Well, picture Syria and Egypt as Moe and Larry. And in between, getting bonked on the head is Curly, *the Jews*. Six Syrian Wars occur in the Father's backyard.

I heard the other day a cable station ran twelve straight hours of *The Three Stooges*. Well, the bonking in Chapter 11 goes on for approximately 150 years...

Verse 5, “Also the king of the South shall become strong, as well as one of his princes; and he shall gain power over him and have dominion. His dominion shall be a great dominion.”

This was Ptolemy I, who reigned from 323-285. His prince was a fellow general who originally fought by his side, Seleucus Nicator.

But Seleucus who became his rival, stole the northern portion of Ptolemy's kingdom and established his own throne. This betrayal was the root of the bitter rivalry between the Seleucids and the Ptolemies.

The Seleucid dynasty (and its capitol of Antioch) became the largest of all four Greek empires. At one point, it had more territory than the other 3 combined.

“And at the end of some years they shall join forces, for the daughter of the king of the South shall go to the king of the North to make an agreement...”

The son, Ptolemy II, feared his northern neighbor so he established a peace treaty. In ancient times and in oriental cultures the signing of a treaty was affected by the giving of a daughter in marriage. This made the two rival kings one family, and less likely to kill the other.

Ptolemy II gave his daughter, Berenice, to Antiochus II, king of the north. But in order to take her to be his wife, Antiochus divorced his wife at the time, Laodice.

Yet Antiochus didn't like his Egyptian princess. And when her father, Ptolemy II, died, Antiochus annulled the marriage to Berenice, and took back Laodice.

“But she shall not retain the power of her authority (that was Berenice), and neither he (Antiochus) nor his authority shall stand; but she shall be given up, with those who brought her, and with him who begot her, and with him who strengthened her in those times.”

It seems Antiochus' jilted wife, Laodice, was not a very forgiving gal. As the saying goes, **“hell hath no fury like a woman scorned”** In retaliation for being dumped she poisoned both Antiochus and Berenice.

Verse 7, **“But from a branch of her roots one shall arise in his place, who shall come with an army, enter the fortress of the king of the North, and deal with them and prevail. And he shall also carry their gods captive to Egypt, with their princes and their precious articles of silver and gold; and he shall continue more years than the king of the North.”** Ptolemy III was Berenice's Egyptian brother, *and when he heard what happened to his sister*, he invaded Syria seeking revenge.

He executed Laodice, captured the capitol of Seleucia, and carried off tremendous treasure.

We know from secular sources he took to Egypt: 4000 talents of gold, 40,000 talents of silver (*a talent weighed around 100 pounds*) and 2500 gold idols.

Verse 9, “Also the king of the North shall come to the kingdom of the king of the South, but shall return to his own land.” After the invasion of Ptolemy III peace lasted for ten years until Seleucus II tried to invade Egypt. The mission was flawed from the beginning.

His army was slaughtered and his navy was lost at sea. He returned home thoroughly vanquished.

In the classic movie "Back To The Future II" the evil, Biff, gets his hands on a Sports Almanac Marty takes from the future. In it he finds the scores of all the major sporting events over the next fifty years. He uses the knowledge to gamble on games and make a fortune.

Well, if you'd been living around the year 200 BC, and were a betting man, and possessed a copy of Daniel you too could've made a fortune. Daniel 11 is recording the scores in advance, predicting the outcome of 150 years of Syrian vs Egyptian contests.

Verse 10, “However his sons shall stir up strife, and assemble a multitude of great forces...” The two sons of Seleucus II were Seleucus III and Antiochus III, or as he was called "Antiochus Magnus" which means "Antiochus the Great". Both sons were men of war.

“And one shall certainly come and overwhelm and pass through; then he shall return to his fortress and stir up strife.” This Antiochus the Great attacked the Roman garrison Ptolemy III had placed in control of the conquered capitol of

Seleucia. Antiochus' assault made Ptolemy IV, the new king in Egypt, extremely angry.

“And the king of the South shall be moved with rage, and go out and fight with him, with the king of the North, who shall muster a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into the hand of his enemy.”

Antiochus III mounted an army of 75,000 troops.

Ptolemy countered with a formidable army of his own, 73,000 men, 5000 cavalry, and 73 elephants. The Battle of Raphia was the last major war to use elephants in combat, Antiochus had the larger Indian elephants. Ptolemy had smaller African elephants. But in the end Ptolemy's army had more in its *trunk* than Antiochus, and at Raphia in 217 BC, Syria fell to Egypt.

This famous war, also known as the Battle of Gaza, was one of the largest battles of the ancient world.

Verse 12, “When he has taken away the multitude, his heart will be lifted up; and he will cast down tens of thousands, but he will not prevail.” Much of the battle between Antiochus the Great and Ptolemy IV was fought in **the Father's backyard** - in Israel. Again the Jews were in the midst of this Grecian Tug of War.

History tells us that Ptolemy Philopater's victory at Raphia inflated his ego, so much so, that on his way back to Egypt he desecrate the Temple in Jerusalem.

He was about to enter the Holy of Holies when suddenly, *miraculously*, he was struck to the ground speechless and couldn't proceed. Embarrassed over being incapacitated,

upon his return to Egypt he had 40,000 Jews slaughtered. That's what Daniel predicted, "*casting down tens of thousands.*"

"For the king of the North will return and muster a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come at the end of some years with a great army and much equipment. "Now in those times many shall rise up against the king of the South. Also, violent men of your people shall exalt themselves in fulfillment of the vision, but they shall fall. So the king of the North shall come and build a siege mound, and take a fortified city; and the forces of the South shall not withstand him. Even his choice troops shall have no strength to resist." Antiochus the Great refused to give up.

Fourteen years after the Battle of Raphia he had invaded Egypt. This time with great success.

He conquer most of Egypt. Ptolemy IV had died and his son, Ptolemy V, came to power when he was just four years-old. The confusing political situation and lack of leadership made victory easy for Antiochus.

We're told, "*But he who comes against him shall do according to his own will, and no one shall stand against him. He shall stand in the Glorious Land with destruction in his power.*" Remember, "*the Glorious Land*" is a biblical name for Israel. In route to invading Egypt, Antiochus the Great swept over the Jews.

"He shall also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom, and upright ones with him; thus shall he do. And he shall give him the daughter of women to destroy it; but

she shall not stand with him, or be for him.” At the time, Egypt was courting an alliance with a rising power. Rome was fresh off a victory over Hannibal and Carthage (the Second Punic War). Egypt had gone to Rome for help against Syria.

Antiochus III saw the growing ties between Egypt and Rome, so he decided to strike a peace with Egypt.

He gave his daughter in marriage to Ptolemy hoping she would spy for him and work in his interests. A marriage was arranged between the 12 year-old Ptolemy Epiphanes and Antiochus the Great's daughter, a very famous 11 year-old girl named Elizabeth Taylor (*I mean Cleopatra*). Antiochus' plan failed when Cleopatra fell in love with her Egyptian husband and defends Egypt, *just as Daniel predicted!*

“After this he shall turn his face to the coastlands, and shall take many. But a ruler shall bring the reproach against them to an end; and with the reproach removed, he shall turn back on him. Then he shall turn his face toward the fortress of his own land; but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.”

Antiochus the Great sought to expand his kingdom northward into Asia Minor. But in 190 BC he was greeted by the Roman General Scipio and his 80,000 man army. At the Battle of Magnesia Selucia suffered a crushing defeat. Antiochus' youngest son was carried off to Rome to insure his father's good behavior, and Antiochus the Great returned to Syria *not so great*.

The Romans placed him under such heavy taxation. It forced him to spend the rest of his life robbing Temples and raising funds to pay off the Romans.

This was the practice that eventually got him killed.

Verse 20, “There shall arise in his place one who imposes taxes on the glorious kingdom; but within a few days he shall be destroyed, but not in anger or in battle.” Antiochus the Great’s son, Seleucus IV, succeeded his father, and he sent his IRS chief, Heliodorus to Israel to squeeze taxes out of the Jews.

Heliodorus ended up returning to Antioch and poisoning Seleucus. He took the throne for himself.

“And in his place shall arise a vile person, to whom they will not give the honor of royalty; but he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue.”

Now Antiochus the Great’s son in Rome was named Antiochus IV. When he heard about his brother’s death and Heliodorus’ claim to the throne he hatched a plot.

He was not the rightful heir to the throne. As Daniel says, he had “*not been given the honor of royalty.*” The heir was the son of Seleucus IV, named Demetrius. But it was while Demetrius was away, that Antiochus IV had Heliodorus put to death, and through his flatteries he wooed the Syrians, and took the throne for himself.

With his slick dealings and his lying tongue this Antiochus secured the help of influential friends in Rome and Pergamum. Literally, as Daniel had predicted he came to power peaceably - “*by intrigue.*”

Up until verse 21 the events we’ve studied are obviously past. In verses 36-45 we’ll discover the events discussed

there are still future. But in verses 22-35 these events are past and future, they overlap.

As we noted in Chapter 8 Antiochus IV (also called “Epiphanes,” which means “god manifest”) is a type of a future antisemitic leader called Antichrist. What’s said of Antiochus also foreshadows the coming Antichrist.

Verse 22, “With the force of a flood (that is an invasion) they shall be swept away from before him and be broken, and also the prince of the covenant.”

The “*prince of the covenant*” was the Jewish High Priest, Onias III. Onias opposed Syrian policy and was replaced by a “yes-man” named Jason. This Jason paid Antiochus an enormous bribe to be High Priest.

“And after the league is made with him (the evil Antiochus made an alliance with Ptolemy VI) he shall act deceitfully, for he shall come up and become strong with a small number of people. He shall enter peaceably, even into the richest places of the province; and he shall do what his fathers have not done, nor his forefathers: he shall disperse among them the plunder, spoil, and riches; and he shall devise his plans against the strongholds, but only for a time.” The Syrian king, Antiochus IV quietly plundered Egypt’s northern suburbs, while pledging allegiance to the Ptolemy.

And “He shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the South with a great army. And the king of the South shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand, for they shall devise plans against him.” It took a while, but Ptolemy caught on to what Antiochus was up to and fought back. Egypt was defeated. Ptolemy

Philometer was captured. His brother, Physcon, succeeded him.

Verse 26, “Yes, those who eat of the portion of his delicacies shall destroy him; his army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain. Both these kings’ hearts shall be bent on evil, and they shall speak lies at the same table; but it shall not prosper, for the end will still be at the appointed time.”

After his capture Antiochus IV spoke to Ptolemy Philometer to promise that he’d be returned to the throne. Philometer pledged his allegiance to Antiochus. *Both men were lying!*

Antiochus wanted to rule Egypt. Philometer got word to Physcon of Antiochus’ intentions. Before returning to Syria, Antiochus conquered three of four major Egyptian cities. The one hold out was Alexandria.

Verse 28, “While returning to his land with great riches, his heart shall be moved against the holy covenant; so he shall do damage and return to his own land.” On his return trip to Syria, Antiochus passed through Jerusalem. He hated the Jews. They revered the Bible, and refused to bow to his Greek gods.

While passing through he slaughtered 40,000 Jews, sold another 40,000 into slavery, and plundered the Temple. To further infuriate the Jews he sacrificed a pig on the altar and sprayed the Temple with a swine broth he made. His swine soup was an act of blasphemy.

Verse 29, “At the appointed time he shall return and go toward the south; but it shall not be like the former or the

latter. For ships from Cyprus shall come against him; therefore he shall be grieved, and return in rage against the holy covenant, and do damage.” Again, Antiochus attacked Egypt. He marched all the way to Alexandria. But this time he was confronted by “*ships from Cyprus.*” Cyprus was a Roman naval base.

Four miles outside of Alexandria, the Roman General met Antiochus and gave him orders from the Roman Senate to cease and desist. Antiochus asked for time to consult his advisers. The General drew a circle around Antiochus and told him, “*Before you step out of that circle, give me your answer.*” He wimped out, and replied, “*If it so please the Senate, we must depart.*”

But Antiochus was not the best guy at handling defeat. He was an egomaniac. Remember, he called himself “*Epiphanes*” or “*god manifest.*” He considered himself divine. He was embarrassed by the Romans.

He returned home humiliated and angry, and ready to take out his frustrations on the nearest whipping boy.

Guess who happened to be in his way? *The Jews.*

“*So he shall return and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant. And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation.*”

Antiochus ordered immediate closure of all Jewish sacrifices. He outlawed the Hebrew Scriptures and the keeping of the Sabbath. He destroyed copies of the Old

Testament. If you were caught with the Scriptures you were sentenced to immediate execution.

He also desecrated the Temple. In the Holy of Holies he erected a statue of the Greek god, Zeus. He required that all Jews bow before the idol and worship.

This was an egregious act of blasphemy - an *“abomination”* that brings God’s wrath and *“desolation.”*

It’s interesting that Jesus mentions this phrase in His Olivet Discourse, in Matthew 24:15, *“the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet.”* But Jesus is speaking of the last days - an event still future.

Jesus lived 570 years after Daniel, and 200 years after Antiochus IV, and he speaks of this event as still future. Apparently, this is another dual-prophecy.

I believe the blasphemous actions of Antiochus were a type of what the Antichrist will do to defile the Temple in the middle of the Great Tribulation of the last days.

Verse 32, *“Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.”* There were Jews who *bowed* to the Syrian king. But there were others who *bucked* him and remained loyal to God. They were known as the **Mashilim** (which means *“wise”*). Throughout this time of apostasy and persecution these Jews stayed faithful.

The Mashilim taught the truths of God at risk to their own lives. I'm certain they opened the scrolls to Daniel 11 and revealed exactly where they were in God's plan.

Verse 33, “And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering.

Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help; but many shall join with them by intrigue. 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.”

Here we find God's purpose for allowing some of the faithful to fall by the sword: *persecution always purifies*.

We certainly don't recognize it as such, but persecution is a good thing. It causes us to *address* our sin, *stress* what matters, and *press* closer to God.

Antiochus IV's persecution did come to an end in 165 BC. A group of faithful priests lead by Mattathias, and his son Judas Maccabeas, or as he was called, “**Judas the Hammer**”, led a revolt among the Jews.

Judas organized a guerrilla army and for six years fought the Syrians until finally they were defeated.

The Temple was cleansed and for a brief period of about one-hundred years Israel remained independent.

They were ruled by the Maccabean priests.

Antiochus' tyranny ended in 165 BC, but for most of Israel's last 2000 years the Jews have felt the fires of persecution. Time and time again antisemitism has raised its ugly head. Orchestrated by Satan, his hatred for God's people knows no boundaries or limits. Daniel tells us in verse 35 it will last “*until the time of the end.*”

Thus, I believe verses 36-45 speak of last days events. Like in Chapter 9 there's a gap of at least 2180 years between verses 35 and 36. Here, Daniel's vision focuses on the worst antisemite of all, the Antichrist.

Verse 36, “Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. Antiochus demanded that the Jews worship his Greek gods, and may've even claimed to be **a god**, but there's no indication he ever exalted himself above all gods. This is Antiochus' archetype... the Antichrist.

In Revelation 13 we're told the Antichrist sets himself up as god, and demands that the world worships him!

“He shall regard neither the God of his fathers...”

Some scholars interpret this to mean the Antichrist is a Jew. I'm not sure this is enough evidence to draw that conclusion. Daniel 9:26 implies his ancestors are Romans or Gentiles. *I think his ancestry is unknown.*

“Nor (shall he regard) the desire of women...” From this, some folks assume Antichrist will be homosexual.

There's another interpretation. In Genesis 3:15 God promised Eve that a woman would birth the Messiah.

Thus, it was the desire of every Jewish girl to be that one. The phrase “*the desire of women*” could simply be a reference to Jesus. And this verse is a prediction that the Antichrist will reject the authority of our Lord Jesus.

“Nor (does he) regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all.” It’s likely the Antichrist will be an atheist. He’ll be the ultimate humanist. His hope is in himself. He’ll trumpet the indomitable human spirit.

Verse 38, “But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things.” This is a cryptic phrase, “*god of fortresses.*” This could mean the Antichrist will worship military might. Power and protection will be his god. He starts as a man of peace, but his ultimate goal is war.

“Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.” This “*foreign god*” could be his cohort in crime. Revelation 13 speaks of a second beast, a religious personality, known as “*the false prophet.*” Together these men will rise to power.

Or it could be he allies with the *foreign god* of Islam.

From verse 40 to the chapter’s close the prelude to Armageddon is mapped out. This section describes the movements of troops - and some minor skirmishes - that set the stage for the war that ends all wars.

Verse 40, “At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through.”

Throughout the chapter the king of the north has been Syria and the king of the south has been Egypt. There's no reason these identities should change now.

And they've been attacking each other. Here, though they are both attacking "*him*" - the king we've been discussing who is the Antichrist... So when the Antichrist brings his armies into Israel to eliminate the Jews, both Egypt and Syria will rise up to oppose him.

"He shall also enter the Glorious Land (that is Israel), and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape." Revelation 12 says at the midpoint of the final seven years of Great Tribulation, the Antichrist will set up his "abomination of desolation" in the Temple.

At that point God will have had enough. Satan will be booted out of heaven. The devil will know that his days are numbered so he brings the armies of Antichrist against Israel. Apparently Edom, Moab, and Ammon escape the Antichrist to give refuge to the Jews. We're told in Isaiah that the Jews will flee to Bozrah or Edom.

Verse 43, "He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels. But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many. And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas

and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.” Apparently, upon his invasion, the Antichrist will move his headquarters into the land of Israel - between the Mediterranean and Jerusalem.

This will raise eyebrows all around the world. The nations will take note of his ambitions and aggression.

He'll have to be stopped. We're told in Revelation 19 the armies of the world will stage for battle in a valley just north of Jerusalem, “the Valley of Megiddo.”

And it's at that time Jesus will return.

Rather than fight each other, the armies of the earth will try to fight against the Messiah, *but they'd sooner hold back the tide*. Christ will destroy His foes with one shimmer of His glory. Satan's kingdom will come to a close. The Antichrist will be cast into the lake of fire, and Satan himself will be chained one-thousand years.

Finally, Satan will be busted - bankrupt. It's fitting to me, his bankruptcy is recorded here in **Chapter 11!**

Chapter 12, “At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people (Michael is the protector of Israel); and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book.” Jeremiah was a contemporary of Daniel living in Jerusalem. He also spoke of a future period of tribulation. He called it “the time of Jacob's trouble.” This is the last of Daniel 9's seventy weeks.

There is a final week, or seven years, left for God to accomplish His promises for Israel. **It begins** after the church is raptured. Antichrist will sign a treaty with Israel. **It ends** when Jesus returns to rule the earth.

Verse 2, “**And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.**” There's a old spiritual that's entitled, “**That great gettin' up mornin'.**” It speaks of the resurrection of our earthly bodies.

Our bodies will be resurrected, but not everyone will be getting up on the same morning! Those who have received God's grace in Jesus will be part of the first resurrection. They'll receive eternal life... But those who are a part of the second resurrection will be judged according to their works and sentenced to Hell.

“**Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.**”

Those who turn a person to righteousness - *that is, win someone to Jesus* - will shine like a star in God's universe. This applies if you bring a friend to Harvest.

Verse 4, “**“But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”**”

No one from Daniel to the middle of the 1800s ever traveled faster than horseback. But that began to change in the middle of the 19th century with the invention of the steam engine and

electric power. Man was flying down the road at blazing speeds of 12 mph.

When Henry Ford produced the first internal combustion engine speeds increased to an incredible 25 mph... Today we have land vehicles that travel 600 mph, planes that hurdle through the atmosphere at 2000 mph, and rockets that travel 24,000 mph.

Since the days after the flood until 1800 knowledge had doubled. In the next 100 years knowledge double again. Today, knowledge is doubling every 18 months.

Did you know 70% of all the medicines we take were developed since WW2 - and 80% of all scientists who have ever lived, are alive today... Pressing a few buttons on a computer can duplicate the life's work of an engineer prior to 1955... As Daniel said, people are *“running to and fro, and knowledge has increased.”*

These are all signs we're in *“the time of the end.”*

Verse 5, *“Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank.”* We assume these two are angels.

“And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?” Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.”

“Time, times and half a time” equals 3.5 years. This is the period spoken of in Daniel 9, the second half of the seventieth week, or the period of Great Tribulation.

This is the timeframe between *“the abomination of desolation”* and the coming of Jesus. This will be a time of intense persecution for the Jews. Remember, *this period is to punish the world, and purify the Jews.*

Verse 8, *“Although I heard, I did not understand.*

Then I said, “My lord, what shall be the end of these things?” And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.

“And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.” Now here’s another period of time - *1290 days.*

The time, times, and half a time is 3.5 years, or actually 1260 days. Here he adds a month, or 30 days.

Apparently, there’ll be a month tagged on after Daniel’s seventieth week. *And the question is why?*

This could be a time for judgment. In Matthew 25 Jesus taught the parable of the sheep and the goats, the judgment of nations. It may be that these 30 days are an extension for the administration of judgment.

Verse 12, “Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.”

Here’s another timeframe, 1345 days. This is the 3.5 years or 1260 days, plus the 30, plus another 45 days.

I'm speculating, but this could be the time given to clean-up the massive carnage left in the aftermath of the Great Tribulation. These extra 45 days will be necessary preparation for the Millennial Kingdom.

The book of Daniel closes, “But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.” Hang in there, Daniel. Finish your race. Keep trusting until the end.

Once a man bought an old-fashion barometer, and had it shipped to him. He took it out of the box and mounted it. But the indicator was stuck on “hurricane.”

He planned to send it back after work the next day.

But when he got home his barometer was gone... *as was his house*. It turns out the barometer had been right all along. He had denied and questioned what it was telling him, but in the end the barometer was right.

And the Daniel is like that barometer. People can deny it if they like, but in the end everyone will see, that it was right! Jesus is coming back soon. Let’s be ready!