

THE REST OF THE STORY

Daniel 11:36-12:13

Final Chapter. In uncertainty of attack,

God has written last chapter:

the good guys (the faithful) win!

As story begins, Daniel's concerned.

His homeland is in ruins

Israel is in captivity in Babylon

because of unfaithfulness to God.

There's no hope of relief anytime soon

Every generation needs perspective about God's plan & our part in it.

Those who remain faithful

always triumph in the end!

70TH WEEK 11:36-12:3 Time of Affliction

Irresistible King Described 11:36-39

After describing political movements affecting God's people during 69 wks—time between testaments (10:20-11:35), Daniel moves to final week, 70th; it still hasn't been fulfilled (11:36-12:3).

Result of resistance against Antiochus: purification & repentance; it'll be temporary,
time for restoration hasn't come.

Antiochus' purposes won't be fulfilled because they're for end times. In the end, God will save His people from this great affliction; that won't be totally fulfilled until time God established.

Transition from Antiochus (35b) leads to Antichrist (36); Antiochus is type of Antichrist who fulfills prophecy.

Lit.: "...it is still to come at the appointed time. ↓↓

"Then the king (of that time) will do as he pleases...."

In other words, another king who does as he pleases will come;

He will take them to end of time God has appointed.

Some scholars say there isn't basis to change persons at this point –it looks like author is referring to 1 person throughout this section.

However, it's precisely because of differences between these sections & the 2 individuals that modern critics attack authenticity of the book.

They think difference between 2 parts marks time Daniel lived.

According to them, Daniel's better historian than prophet, because at this point he begins to make mistakes.

What Daniel says *didn't* come true for Antiochus.

Reasons to believe Dan. changed persons:

1.Emphasis on end of his days & of another period yet to come seems to indicate a change 35b-36

2.Descriptions of his character go beyond Antiochus; include some that were definitely not true of him:

36-37 *"He will exalt himself above every god."*

Antiochus insists they *worship* Greek gods.

Antichrist won't allow people to worship any god 2 Thess. 2:4

37 He isn't interested in women.

Antiochus is known for relations with women.

38-39 He worships god his fathers didn't know–god of fortresses.

Antiochus' gods are those of his fathers & Greeks.

3. 11:36-39 describes king's policies.

If this is still Antiochus, there's no reason to describe policies again.

4. Numerous historical details given in 40-45.

–don't fit what we know about Antiochus. –fit Antichrist.

5. No reason to go on discussing Antiochus;

His story climaxes in 30-35.

6. His presentation as "the king" suggests change in person described:

Antiochus isn't called "king" in ch. 11.

7. 12:1 "*at that time...*" indicates he rules during Great Tribulation

Description fits what we know re: Antichrist in last days.

11:36 *"The king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself & magnify himself above every god, & shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the indignation is accomplished; for what is decreed shall be done."*

"Who does as he wills:"

=proud king no one can oppose

He loves to exalt and magnify himself

(2 Thess. 2:3-4)

Speaks against God =>

denies His right to rule him, or his kingdom

"Until the indignation is finished" => end of 70th wk.

Ends period of divine indignation against Israel & unbelievers.

11:37 *"He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers, or to the one beloved by women. He shall not pay attention to any other god, for he shall magnify himself above all."*

He institutes his own religion

–focused on himself.

He doesn't accept any previous god.

v. 36—He denies the true God

v. 37—He denies all other gods.

11:38 *“He shall honor the god of fortresses instead of these. A god whom his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold & silver, with precious stones & costly gifts.*

We don't *know* this god; could be fig. reference to power personified.

He's enamored of power; you might say power is his god

He spends vast sums in "sacrifices" for military activity to establish additional fortresses & demonstrate his own power.

11:39 *“He shall deal with the strongest fortresses with the help of a foreign god. Those who acknowledge him he shall load with honor. He shall make them rulers over many & shall divide the land for a price.”*

Strongest fortresses will be conquered by this "strange god."

People of towns that honor him are paid for submission

Irresistible King attacked 11:40-45

Account of proud king's life ends with conflict.

Daniel describes military movement against him.

⁴⁰*“At the time of the end, the king of the south shall attack him, but the king of the north shall rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots horsemen, & with many ships. He shall come into countries & shall overflow and pass through. ⁴¹He shall come into the glorious land. 10s of 1000s shall fall... ⁴⁴But news from the east & north shall alarm him, & he shall go out with great fury to*

destroy & devote many to destruction. ⁴⁵He shall pitch his palatial tents between the sea & the glorious holy mountain. Yet he shall come to his end, with none to help him."

Two possible interpretations:

1) 2 powers in conflict

–king of south vs. king of north.

Parallels rest of chapter 11

2) 3 powers in conflict–king of south & king of north unite to fight king who does as he pleases in vv. 36-39.

2 kings unite to oppose him because he identifies with Israel & helps them (Ezek. 38-39)

2 power view is consistent with rest of ch.

No one fits that description in North *today* with same kind of power over the rest of the region as Seleucus had.

For 2-power view to happen, there must be restoration to power for Syria, or nation descendant from Syria in the region.

Rome is viewed in Scripture as *western* power, *not* northern power.

Grammar corresponds better to situation in which north & south unite against this new proud king.

In modern history instead of conflict between north & south, they're allied against Israel. Easier to imagine united effort of northern & southern powers to get Israel & one supporting her.

Nothing quite fits picture right now.

May be coming together again!

Guarantee of protection by western power, or alliance, to Israel (?) could set up context for events Dan. & Ezek. foresaw.

Peace in Israel in Ezek. 38-39 can be explained by confidence in king who makes treaty to protect them.

[Not likely this week!]

Desc. of enemy of north in Ezek. indicates they come from far off regions, identified with Russia's offspring (38:6, 15; 39:2).

Josephus indicates descendants of Magog (Gen. 10:2) are identified with Scythians, north of Black Sea (=> Russia).

Note consonantal *similarities*:

“Chief prince (= Prince of Rosh)

Rosh => Russia

Meshech => Moscow

Tubal => Tobolsk

Table of Nations in Gen 10 supports geographical identification of these names with areas north of Black Sea.

Meshec = Lidia—Cappadocia

Tubal = Cilicia—Armenia

Togarmah = Armenia—Caucasus

Magog = fortress of Gog

Appears natural to understand this from 3-power perspective

At end of period, due to lack of opposition, king's able to establish throne in Jerusalem as his international seat.

Able to establish palace between Mediterranean & Dead seas & by beautiful holy mountain

=> has to refer to Mt. Zion

In spite of strength, he won't prevail;
he'll be destroyed.

When God intervenes to destroy him, no one saves him.

Israel delivered 12:1-3

Prophet describes end of final political/spiritual conflict.

12:1a *"At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. There shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time."*

Great Tribulation comes after he establishes palace in Jeru.

He breaks treaty & sets self up as dictator.

12:1b *"But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book."*

Then comes salvation of God's people at end.

God sends Michael, His messenger, their "prince" to deliver them.

2-3 *"Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame & everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever & ever."*

Resurrection & judgment

Final result, climax of drama, end of times of Gentiles.

Some are resurrected to eternal life;

others for future punishment.

Conclusion they couldn't see before, is seen: victory!

In the end the faithful really do triumph; victory is permanent.

God's people may have lost a lot of intermediate battles, but they eventually win the war that really counts.

CONCLUSION 12:4-13

Sealing of book 4 *"...Shut up the words & seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to & fro, & knowledge shall increase."*

Details aren't understood by people of his time

They could see protective hand of God & His control over history,

but details are witnessed by later generation.

People who live through the time of fulfillment understand it.

Daniel should close & seal the book. God will open it later.

Daniel describes search for knowledge—people seek more & more

Appendix: Length of days 12:5-13

After revelation concerning future, Daniel has couple of questions:

Duration of the tribulation period:

5-6 First question: How long will it be until these things are fulfilled?

"I, Daniel, looked, & behold, 2 others stood, 1 on this bank of the stream & 1 on that bank of the stream. ⁶Someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, "How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?"

7 Answer gives exact basis to calculate time.

"I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand & his left hand toward heaven & swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, & ½ a time, & that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.

After suffering goes on for... Time, times, & half a time => 3½ years

8 2nd question: *"I heard, but I didn't understand. I said, "O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?"* **9** *"He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up & sealed until the time of the end."*

Answer won't be revealed until the time of the end

Only people living at end understand significance of prophecies.

10 *"Many shall purify themselves & make themselves white & be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. None of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand."*

End is characterized by great purification of God's people

People purified understand meaning of prophecies.

11 *"From the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away & the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days."*

From day continuous sacrifice is cut off & abomination that desolates established, will be 3½ years plus 30 days of affliction.

12 *"Blessed is he who waits & arrives at the 1,335 days."*

God promises blessing for those who endure 1335 days (45 days after the period of affliction ends.

Why difference? Daniel doesn't explain

Pentecost suggests explained on basis of "sign of the Son of Man in the heavens." Matt. 24:30.

After announcement of His coming, days of preparation are necessary before establishment of kingdom.

Blessing can't begin until after His arrival & establishment of throne.

13 Promise for Daniel *"But go your way till the end. You shall rest & shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."*

Promise for Daniel extended to faithful.

They'll see end to struggle.

First he must die.

After being resurrected, he'll receive inheritance.

The faithful WILL triumph in the end!

REVIEW

Now the story is complete:

1-6 In past, history confirms it:

7-12 In future, prophecy confirms it:

The Faithful WILL Triumph in the end!

Parallels between Daniel's day & ours:

He lives in pagan society that isn't interested in worshipping God.

People and kids are indoctrinated by popular culture of their day.

Most people go along with it; don't really care.

How does Daniel respond?

Does he lead demonstration?

stage protest march?

Does he try to overthrow government?

Daniel's response:

1. Remain faithful to obey standards God established for *His* life.
2. Pray regularly (3 X per day); fast, out of intensity of concern,
3. Speak when spoken to—give godly counsel, without cramming faith down pagans' throats, forcing them to live like God's people.
4. Teach God's people to remain faithful to God & His Word.
5. Trust God to fulfill promises; to allow people to participate in triumph

Much Daniel doesn't know.

Goal: live now for God's glory.

Peter asks right question: *"...what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy & godly lives as you look forward to the day of God."*

John says: *"He who has this hope purifies himself."*