

# DANIEL'S VISION OF THE GREAT WAR

## *Chapter 12: The Timing of the Great War*

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THE MAIN IDEA: Chapters 10, 11 and 12 in the Book of Daniel make up Daniel's final vision, describing a series of conflicts between the unnamed "King of the North" and "King of the South" leading to the "time of the end", when Israel will be vindicated and the dead raised, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt.<sup>1</sup>

This is the last and longest of Daniel's visions and can be seen in three parts:<sup>2</sup>

- Chapter 10: An introduction to the vision of a great war
- Chapter 11: The description of the coming great war
- Chapter 12: The timing of the great war

Chapter 12, the epilogue to the vision: At the end-time, "Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise." There will be great distress, but those whose names are written will be saved, the dead will awaken to everlasting shame or life. Daniel asks how long it will be before these things are fulfilled and is told, "From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation

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<sup>1</sup> Chapters 10-12 comprise one vision which was mistakenly broken into three chapters. Chapter divisions were not made until 1205 AD by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Stephen Langton (1150-1228). [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chapters\\_and\\_verses\\_of\\_the\\_Bible](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chapters_and_verses_of_the_Bible). Accessed November 17, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> (Duck and Richards 259)

is set up, there will be 1,290 days; blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days". At the end of the vision, Daniel is told "Go your way", and promised his inheritance at the end of days.

## A. WHAT TO WATCH FOR



Notice how chapters 10-12 form one continuous passage. Chapter divisions were not put in until the thirteenth century so it is easy to be misled by unjustified chapter divisions. Amazing details are given about wars between the southern kings and northern kings that followed the death of Alexander the Great. The vision also appears to jump to an end time king who is especially powerful and defiant toward God and his people. Read the encouraging words at the end of chapter 12 which are the primary reason why this vision was given to Daniel and his people. Be sure to catch the purpose of this vision in 10:14.

## B. BACKGROUND

The book of Daniel begins with the fall of Israel at Nebuchadnezzar's conquest and ends with the restoration of Israel and the beginning of the Millennium. The entire book spans the time between the beginning of the "Times of the Gentiles," and the end of the "Times of the Gentiles." The "times of the Gentiles" refers to the period in which Gentiles (non-Jews) have dominion over the world.<sup>3</sup>

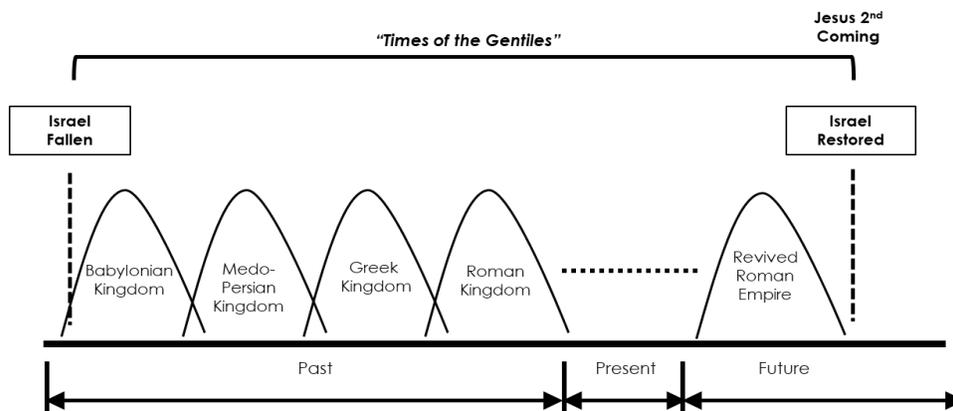


Figure 1: The "Times of the Gentiles"

<sup>3</sup> In Luke 21:24, Jesus speaks of future events, including the destruction of Jerusalem and His return. He says that "Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled" (ESV). A similar phrase is found in Romans 11:25, which says, "A partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in" (ESV). The Old Testament does not contain this exact phrase, but there are references that seem to match up.

## **C. DANIEL CHAPTER 12 (NLT)**

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### **THE PROMISE OF RESURRECTION TO GLORY OR SHAME (12:1-4)**

"At that time Michael, the archangel who stands guard over your nation, will arise. Then there will be a time of anguish greater than any since nations first came into existence. But at that time every one of your people whose name is written in the book will be rescued. <sup>2</sup> Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace. <sup>3</sup> Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever. <sup>4</sup> But you, Daniel, keep this prophecy a secret; seal up the book until the time of the end, when many will rush here and there, and knowledge will increase."

### **HOW LONG UNTIL THE END? (12:5-13)**

Then I, Daniel, looked and saw two others standing on opposite banks of the river. <sup>6</sup> One of them asked the man dressed in linen, who was now standing above the river, "How long will it be until these shocking events are over?" <sup>7</sup> The man dressed in linen, who was standing above the river, raised both his hands toward heaven and took a solemn oath by the One who lives forever, saying, "It will go on for a time, times, and half a time. When the shattering of the holy people has finally come to an end, all these things will have happened." <sup>8</sup> I heard what he said, but I did not understand what he meant. So I asked, "How will all this finally end, my lord?" <sup>9</sup> But he said, "Go now, Daniel, for what I have said is kept secret and sealed until the time of the end. <sup>10</sup> Many will be purified, cleansed, and refined by these trials. But the wicked will continue in their wickedness, and none of them will understand. Only those who are wise will know what it means. <sup>11</sup> "From the time the daily sacrifice is stopped and the sacrilegious object that causes desecration is set up to be worshiped, there will be 1,290 days. <sup>12</sup> And blessed are those who wait and remain until the end of the 1,335 days! <sup>13</sup> 'As for you, go your way until the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days, you will rise again to receive the inheritance set aside for you.'"

## **D. CHAPTER SUMMARY**

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Chapter 12, the epilogue: At the end-time, "Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise." There will be great distress, but those whose names are written will be saved, the dead will awaken to everlasting shame or life. Daniel asks how long it will be before these things are fulfilled and is told, "From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days; blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days". At the end of the vision, Daniel is told "Go your way", and promised his inheritance at the end of days.

## **E. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

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1. What this chapter tell us about the Archangel Michael?
2. List some of the good things that will happen at the end times as described in this chapter.
3. List some of the bad things that will happen at the end times as described in this chapter?
4. In this chapter what indications do we have that heaven and hell actually exist?
5. How does the book of Daniel end?

## F. DANIEL WRAP UP

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	Scripture	Description	Application/Principle
1	Dan. 1:8	He didn't defile himself	Avoid _____.
2	Dan. 1:17	God gave knowledge and understanding	God will equip us to fulfill _____ _____
3	Dan. 2:18	He urged his three friends to pray about a crisis	Establish _____ with those who will pray with us when we face problems
4	Dan. 2:19	Daniel praised God when his request was granted	Don't forget to praise God when he intervenes in _____
5	Dan. 6:10	Daniel prayed three times a day	Give prayer a high priority—build a strong _____ _____
6	Dan. 9:3-5	Daniel identified himself with his disobedient nation	We are to pray for our _____ _____, and for our _____ _____
7	Dan. 12:13	Daniel was told to go his way until the end	Keep looking forward to your amazing _____ _____

## Bibliography

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