

DANIEL TWELVE

We come to the final chapter in this great prophetic book. Daniel is an old man and this book has covered most of his life. He has been around powerful Babylonian Nebuchadnezzar and now, the Persian Darius. More than seventy years have passed since the first words in chapter one were written. And, as this closes, Daniel is told to go live his life and enter the rest that God has awaiting him.



- This is the shortest chapter in the book of Daniel
- This concludes the dreams and visions that God sent Daniel
- This concludes the section of our Bibles that we call "major prophets"

A. The Continuing Message of the Angel (12:1-4)

1. This first section properly belongs in chapter 11 as a continuation of the vision of conflicts
 - the chapter begins with "now at that time" a continuation of the events in chapter 11
2. The standing of Michael is similar to Jesus standing at the death of Stephen (Acts 7:56)
 - the violence wasn't stopped, however Heaven took notice
 - there was a "time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation" - likely belongs to the Roman siege of Jerusalem in A.D. 70
 - the slaughter of Jews was enormous, but the disciples escaped because of the word of the Lord (a reference to "the book" - 1)
 - See Mt 24:21-22 (Mk 13:19-20)
3. verse 2 is a resurrection but not at the resurrection of the dead as in the second coming
 - here "many" not all will awake (see Jn 5:28-29)
 - this is similar to the "first" resurrection in Rev 20:5 and Ezekiel's dry bones coming to life (37:12-13)
 - the purpose and plans of God are vindicated and fulfilled
4. This message was to be closed and concealed (4)

End of Time (4,6,8,9,13) does not necessarily refer to the second coming but the end of a period

B. Daniel sees two more divine messengers (5-8)

1. Twice Daniel is told to "go" (9, 13)
2. Two questions come from this section
 - How long until this happens, from one of the divine messengers (6)
 - 1 Pet 1:12
 - What's the outcome of these things, from Daniel (8)

C. Conclusion (9-13)

1. Persecution will be strong (10-11)
 - abomination first mentioned in 8:11 is quoted by Jesus in Mt 24:15; Luke 21:20-22
2. Three time periods are identified
 - time, times and a half a time (7) - first used in Dan 7:25, also five times in Revelation
 - The scattering of God's people (7) sounds similar to Acts 8:4; 1 Pet 1:1
 - 1,290 day (11) - reference to the terror caused by Rome
 - 1,335 days (12) - this seems to be a time when the trouble is over (Mt 24:13)
3. Daniel is told to go live his life and enter the rest that has been promised (13)

God is Sovereign and everything is according to His plans
Hard times come to God's people
The kingdom of God endures forever and ever