DISCOVERING DANIEL

12
LESSON

WORKBOOK STUDY COMPANION · LESSON 12

A Final *Message of Hope*

DANIEL 12

Scripture written out in the NASB95, every question answered in one sentence, cross references, verse-by-verse commentary from three trusted teachers — and for each question, a point of critical thinking and a key question to carry into the week.

Amir Tsarfati
DISCOVERING DANIEL

John MacArthur
GRACE TO YOU

David Guzik
ENDURING WORD

PREPARED FOR ED & PAUL SMITH · BIBLE STUDY

01 CAPTURE THE SCENE

What do I see?

Using my Bible, working through Daniel 12 verse by verse.

HOW THIS STUDY IS MARKED Time / place / contrast · God — His character & actions · Sin / warning · Key repeated word · Promise / blessing · Command / instruction

KEY VERSE · Daniel 12:1 NASB95

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.

1 Read Daniel 12:1.

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Daniel 12:1 NASB95

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.

a. Who will stand up?

IN MY WORDS

Michael will stand up — the great prince, the archangel God has assigned as the guardian of Israel.

CROSS REFERENCE **Jude 9** "But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses…" — he is named an archangel only here in Scripture.

b. What is the responsibility of this "great prince"?

IN MY WORDS

He stands guard over the sons of Daniel's people — Michael's assignment is the protection of Israel.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 10:21** "Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince." — the same guardian role, named one chapter earlier.

c. What kind of trouble will occur?

IN MY WORDS

A time of distress unlike anything since there has been a nation on the earth — the tribulation at its worst.

CROSS REFERENCE **Matthew 24:21** "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will." — Jesus uses Daniel's own measure.

d. What will be the end result of this trouble?

IN MY WORDS

Daniel's people will be rescued — everyone whose name is found written in the book comes through it delivered.

CROSS REFERENCE **Jeremiah 30:7** "And it is the time of Jacob's distress, But he will be saved from it." — the trouble is real, and so is the rescue out of it.

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati reads the verse the way Jeremiah wrote it: the tribulation is the time of Jacob's trouble, not the church's. It is Israel God is refining here, and the very angel who has guarded her since Daniel's day is the one who rises when the worst of it comes.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur notes the superlative — distress "such as never occurred since there was a nation." Scripture uses that phrase sparingly and never loosely; whatever else the tribulation is, it is unrepeatable and unparalleled in human history.

CRITICAL THINKING

Michael does not appear to prevent the distress; he arises in the middle of it. The chapter's comfort is not that God's people are spared the furnace but that the guardian is standing in it with them — the same pattern that ran through Daniel 3 and Daniel 6, now written across a whole nation.

KEY QUESTION

Do I want God to keep me out of the trouble, or do I actually want Him with me in it?

2 What two destinies will people awaken to, according to Daniel 12:2?

P. 261

Daniel 12:2 NASB95

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 MY WORDS

Some will awake to everlasting life and the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt — two resurrections, two destinations, and both of them permanent.

CROSS REFERENCE **John 5:28-29** "All who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment."

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur points to the word "everlasting" attaching to both destinies in the same breath. Whatever weight the reader gives that word on the side of life, honesty requires him to give it the same weight on the side of contempt.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik observes that this is one of the clearest statements of bodily resurrection in the Old Testament — the dust of the ground itself gives its sleepers back, which is no small thing for a book written in exile.

CRITICAL THINKING

Daniel says "sleep," and sleep implies waking — nobody sleeps permanently. The Old Testament's word for death here quietly refuses the idea that the grave is the end of the story. The only question the verse leaves open is not whether a man rises, but which of the two he rises to.

KEY QUESTION

If the answer is already settled by how I live now, what is my life actually answering?

3 What command is Daniel given in verse 4?

P. 265

Daniel 12:4 NASB95

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.

IN MY WORDS

He is told to conceal the words and seal up the book until the end of time.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 8:26** "But keep the vision secret, For it pertains to many days in the future." — the same instruction given to Daniel about the ram and the goat.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik explains that sealing a document in the ancient world was preservation as much as suppression — a sealed scroll was a protected scroll, kept intact and unaltered for the people who would one day need it.

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati sets this against Revelation 22:10, where John is told the opposite — do not seal the words, for the time is near. What Daniel was told to close, John was told to leave open; the two books were always meant to be read together.

CRITICAL THINKING

Notice that Daniel is not told the book is unimportant — he is told it is not yet time. Some of what God reveals is given to a generation that will never see it fulfilled, and obedience there looks like faithful record-keeping rather than understanding.

KEY QUESTION

Am I willing to be faithful with something God has shown me that I may never see finished?

4 Describe the interaction that Daniel witnesses between the "two others" in verses 5-7.

P. 266

Daniel 12:5-6 NASB95

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. And 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?"

Daniel 12:7 NASB95

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.

IN MY WORDS

Two figures stood on opposite banks of the river while one of them asked the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters, how long it would be until the end of these wonders — and he raised both hands toward heaven and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 13:5** "and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him" — the same three and a half years measured out in months.

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati takes "a time, times, and half a time" as three and a half years — the second half of the seven-year tribulation, the stretch Revelation counts as 1,260 days and 42 months. The same period keeps being measured three different ways so that no one can mistake its length.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur draws attention to the oath itself: both hands raised, sworn by the One who lives forever. An oath normally uses one hand; two is the language of absolute certainty. God stakes His own eternal existence on the timetable.

CRITICAL THINKING

The question asked is "how long," not "what happens." Even the watchers at the riverbank are given a schedule rather than an explanation — and the answer arrives as an oath instead of an argument. God far more often gives His people a promise to hold than a reason to analyze.

KEY QUESTION

When I ask God "how long," would His word alone be enough — or do I require the reason too?

5 What question does Daniel ask in verse 8?

P. 267

Daniel 12:8 NASB95

As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, "My lord, what will be the outcome of these events?"

IN MY WORDS

He admits he heard but could not understand, and he asks what the outcome of these events will be.

CROSS REFERENCE **1 Peter 1:10-11** The prophets "made careful searches and inquiries" into the salvation they themselves prophesied — Daniel is not the only one who wrote more than he grasped.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik finds real comfort here for the ordinary Bible reader: the man who received the vision did not fully understand the vision. Honest confusion over prophecy puts a student in excellent company.

CRITICAL THINKING

Daniel was a lifelong student of the Scriptures — chapter 9 finds him in Jeremiah's scroll — and a lifelong receiver of revelation, and he still says plainly, "I could not understand." Maturity in the Word does not produce a man with no questions; it produces a man willing to admit which ones he cannot answer.

KEY QUESTION

What am I pretending to understand about God's Word because admitting otherwise would embarrass me?

6 What answer is Daniel given in verse 9?

P. 268

Daniel 12:9 NASB95

He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time.

IN MY WORDS

He is told to go his way, because the words are concealed and sealed up until the end time — the explanation he wants is not his to have.

CROSS REFERENCE **Deuteronomy 29:29** "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law."

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur notes the answer is a gracious refusal. God does not rebuke the question; He simply declines to answer it and sends His servant back to the life in front of him.

CRITICAL THINKING

"Go your way" is the same phrase that returns in verse 13 as Daniel's final commission. The instruction that first sounds like a door closing turns out to be the whole counsel of the chapter: when the future is sealed, the present is what is left to obey.

KEY QUESTION

What has God told me to go do while I am still waiting on an answer He has not given?

7 What are we told about the wicked and the wise in verse 10?

P. 269

Daniel 12:10 NASB95

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.

IN MY WORDS

Many will be purged, purified, and refined, while the wicked go on acting wickedly and understand none of it — only those with insight will understand.

CROSS REFERENCE **Zechariah 13:9** "And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them…"

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik observes that the same tribulation produces opposite results in two kinds of people — one group refined by it, the other hardened by it. Circumstances do not determine character; they reveal it.

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati ties the refining directly to Zechariah's picture of Israel brought through the fire, coming out of it calling on the Lord's name. The purpose of the furnace is never destruction; it is the confession on the far side.

CRITICAL THINKING

Understanding is listed here as a moral category, not an intellectual one. The wicked do not fail to understand because the prophecy is too difficult — they fail because wickedness itself blinds. Which means clarity about God's Word is finally a question of the heart, not the intellect.

KEY QUESTION

Is there a passage I keep finding unclear — and is the obstacle really my mind, or my obedience?

8 What events are described in verse 11, and what length of time is given here?

P. 271

Daniel 12:11 NASB95

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

IN MY WORDS

The regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, and from that point 1,290 days are counted.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 11:31** "Forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation."

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati identifies this as the Antichrist's mid-tribulation act — he breaks the covenant, stops the temple sacrifice, and sets up the desecration Jesus told His hearers to watch for in Matthew 24:15. It is the hinge on which the second half of the seven years turns.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur points out that the 1,290 days run thirty days past the 1,260 of the second half. The number is precise on purpose; God is not estimating.

CRITICAL THINKING

Daniel 11 predicted this desecration and Antiochus Epiphanes carried out a version of it in the second century BC — yet Jesus, long after Antiochus, still spoke of the abomination of desolation as future. A prophecy can have a genuine historical fulfillment and still be waiting on its final one.

KEY QUESTION

Do I read prophecy to settle a timeline, or to be made ready for the One it points to?

9 What will happen to those who wait and make it to 1,335 days (see verse 12)?

P. 272

Daniel 12:12 NASB95

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

IN MY WORDS

They are called blessed — the ones who keep waiting all the way to the 1,335th day receive a blessing at the end of it.

CROSS REFERENCE **Matthew 24:13** "But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved."

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik draws the plain lesson out of the arithmetic: the blessing attaches to the waiting. Forty-five days beyond the 1,290 is not a long time unless you are the one counting them, and God pronounces a blessing on those who keep counting.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur notes the verb — "keeps waiting." Not waits once, but keeps waiting. Endurance in Scripture is almost never dramatic; it is repetitive.

CRITICAL THINKING

Scripture names the day and calls the man who reaches it blessed, but never says why that day is the blessed one. God tells His people exactly how long to hold on without telling them what is waiting at the end of it — which is precisely the shape faith has always had.

KEY QUESTION

What am I only willing to endure because I already know how it turns out?

10 What final words does the angel give to Daniel in verse 13?

P. 273

Daniel 12:13 NASB95

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.

IN MY WORDS

He is told to go his way to the end, and that he will enter into rest and rise again for his allotted portion at the end of the age.

CROSS REFERENCE **Philippians 1:6** "He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus." — the same confidence that God finishes what He starts in a servant.

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati calls this the tenderest sentence in the book. After a lifetime of exile, a den of lions, and visions too heavy to carry, God's last word to Daniel is not another prophecy but a personal promise: rest, resurrection, and an inheritance with his name on it.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik highlights "your allotted portion" — a share reserved specifically for Daniel. The promise is not generic; it is assigned.

CRITICAL THINKING

Three things are promised and all three are personal: go your way, you will rest, you will rise. Daniel is given no more information about the future of the world, but he is given everything about his own. God frequently trades the answer we asked for for the assurance we actually needed.

KEY QUESTION

If God never explained another thing to me but promised me rest and resurrection, would I call that enough?

02 ANALYZE THE MESSAGE

What does it say and mean?

Using both my Bible and my copy of Discovering Daniel.

KEY VERSE · Daniel 12:2 NASB95

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.

1 **What specific words in Daniel 12:1 inform us of what Israel will face during the tribulation? What additional information are we given in Zechariah 13:8-9, and given the Jewish population in today's world, what numbers of casualties and survivors can we expect (see pages 258-261 in Discovering Daniel)?** PP. 258-261

Daniel 12:1 NASB95

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.

Zechariah 13:8-9 NASB95

“It will come about in all the land,” Declares the LORD, “That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; But the third will be left in it. And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are My people,' And they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.'”

IN MY WORDS

The words “a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation” tell me Israel faces the worst suffering in her history, and Zechariah adds the proportion — two parts cut off and perish, one third brought through the fire; if that proportion is applied to a world Jewish population of roughly 16 million today, it points to something on the order of eleven million lost and more than five million surviving to call on the Lord's name.

CROSS REFERENCE **Jeremiah 30:7** “And it is the time of Jacob's distress, But he will be saved from it.” — the same two halves: unequalled trouble, and a people saved out of it.

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati works the arithmetic deliberately because the numbers make the prophecy unbearable in the right way. Two-thirds of the Jewish people perishing dwarfs even the Holocaust — and yet the surviving third does not merely endure; it calls on the name of the Lord. That confession is what the whole horror is bent toward.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur underlines that the refining language belongs to God, not to Israel's enemies. The Antichrist intends annihilation; God intends a purified remnant. The same event has two authors with entirely different purposes, and only one of them gets the outcome he wanted.

CRITICAL THINKING

Zechariah's fractions are a warning against a sentimental reading of prophecy. The third that survives is not a lucky majority who slipped through — it is a remnant on the far side of a national catastrophe. Any doctrine of the end times that makes us eager for it has not sat with these numbers.

KEY QUESTION

Does the future I say I believe in make me pray harder for Israel, or only make me curious?

2 How long of a time gap occurs between Daniel 12:1 and 12:2 (see page 261 in Discovering Daniel)?

P. 261

Daniel 12:1-2 NASB95

…and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. 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 MY WORDS

A thousand years — verse 1 closes at the end of the tribulation and verse 2 spans both resurrections, with the whole reign of Christ passing silently in the space between the two halves of a single sentence.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 20:4-5** "…and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection."

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati points out that the Old Testament prophets regularly see distant events as one range of peaks with the valleys hidden between them. Only Revelation supplies the thousand-year valley that Daniel's two verses stand on either side of.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik cautions that the gap is not read into the text arbitrarily — it is read back from Revelation 20, where the resurrections are explicitly separated by the millennium. Daniel compresses what John expands.

CRITICAL THINKING

A thousand years passes inside the seam of Daniel's sentence, and he gives no hint of the gap. It is a standing reminder that prophetic sequence is not always prophetic chronology — and that we need the whole canon before we start drawing timelines.

KEY QUESTION

Where have I assumed that because two things sit next to each other in Scripture they must happen back to back?

3 What kind of resurrection do we view in verse 2 (see pages 261-262 in Discovering Daniel)?

PP. 261-262

Daniel 12:2 NASB95

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 MY WORDS

A bodily resurrection of two separate groups to two opposite and permanent destinies — the righteous to everlasting life and the wicked to everlasting contempt.

CROSS REFERENCE **Acts 24:15** "there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked." — Paul states the same two-fold resurrection Daniel saw.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur stresses that this is resurrection of the body, not survival of the soul. “The dust of the ground” is the language of Genesis; what went into the ground is what comes out of it.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik notes that Daniel names both groups in a single verse without treating the second as a lesser subject. Scripture never gives the resurrection of the just without its counterpart.

CRITICAL THINKING

Every person who has ever lived is included in one of these two clauses, and no third clause is offered. Daniel leaves no room for annihilation and none for a second chance — which is exactly what makes the choice described in verse 2 a matter for this life.

KEY QUESTION

Do I actually live as though everyone I know is in one of those two clauses?

4 How is this resurrection described in… P. 262

John 5:28-29 NASB95

Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

Revelation 20:12-15 NASB95

And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

a. John 5:28-29?

IN MY WORDS

Jesus says an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear His voice and come forth — some to a resurrection of life and some to a resurrection of judgment.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 12:2** Jesus describes Daniel's own two destinies; the Lord treats this verse as settled doctrine.

b. Revelation 20:12-15?

IN MY WORDS

John sees the dead standing before the throne while the books are opened, judged according to their deeds, and anyone whose name is not found written in the book of life is thrown into the lake of fire.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 12:1** “everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued” — Daniel names the same book John sees opened.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur draws the line from Daniel to Jesus to John and shows it never bends: the same two groups, the same bodily resurrection, the same permanence. A doctrine that appears in the Prophets, the Gospels, and the Apocalypse in identical terms is not a peripheral one.

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati notes that the deeds are recorded in the books but the rescue depends on the other book — the book of life. Works are the evidence entered into the record; the name in the book of life is what decides the outcome.

CRITICAL THINKING

In Revelation the books of deeds and the book of life are opened at the same judgment, and the verdict turns on the second one. A man's record is read out in full and then answered not by a better record but by whether his name is written elsewhere. That is the gospel, set inside a courtroom scene.

KEY QUESTION

Am I still hoping my record will be good enough, when the verse says the verdict turns on a name in another book?

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5 **On page 264 of Discovering Daniel, we read, "What we wake up to then at the resurrection is entirely based on our choice now." If you were to explain this truth to an unbeliever, what Scripture passages would you use to confirm that their decision about Jesus affects their eternal destiny?** P. 264

John 3:18 NASB95

He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 14:6 NASB95

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Acts 4:12 NASB95

And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.

IN MY WORDS

I would use John 3:18 to show the verdict is already decided by belief or unbelief, John 14:6 to show there is only one way to the Father, and Acts 4:12 to show there is no other name under heaven by which we can be saved — three verses that put the whole question on one decision about one Person.

CROSS REFERENCE **Romans 10:9** "if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." — the decision stated as plainly as Scripture states it.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik cautions that this conversation goes wrong when it becomes an argument about hell rather than an introduction to Christ. The three verses above are not weapons; they are the shortest road to a Person.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur observes that John 3:18 removes the neutral ground people assume they are standing on. There is no undecided category — not deciding is itself the verdict.

CRITICAL THINKING

The workbook's phrase is exact: the choice is made now and the waking happens then. Which means the most consequential decision a person ever makes is made in conditions where none of the consequences are visible. That is the hardest part of evangelism and the reason it has to be done in love rather than in argument.

KEY QUESTION

Who is in my life right now that I have been meaning to have this conversation with?

6 Why was Daniel told to “shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end” (12:4; see pages 265-266 in Discovering Daniel)?

PP. 265-266

Daniel 12:4 NASB95

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.

Revelation 22:10 NASB95

And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

IN MY WORDS

Because the prophecy was not for Daniel's generation — it was to be preserved intact for the people living at the end of time who would actually need it and be able to understand it.

CROSS REFERENCE **1 Peter 1:12** “It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you” — the prophets wrote for a generation they would never meet.

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati sets Daniel's sealing beside John's command not to seal, and reads the difference as a clock. Daniel wrote with the end far off; John wrote with the time near. The same subject, two different distances from the finish.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik takes “conceal” and “seal up” in their ancient legal sense — a sealed document was authenticated and protected so that it would arrive uncorrupted. The closing of the book is as much about custody as about secrecy.

CRITICAL THINKING

The verse ties the sealing to a promise — “knowledge will increase.” Daniel is told to close the book precisely because a later generation will be able to open it with more light than he had. God's silence toward one generation can be His provision for another.

KEY QUESTION

Do I trust God enough to be faithful in a season where the results belong to someone else?

7 We know from careful study that the “time, times, and half a time” in Daniel 12:7 refers to the severe persecution of the Jews during the last half of the tribulation. This comes to 1,260 days. But then verses 11 and 12 extend that to 1,290 days and 1,335 days. What is one plausible explanation for these extra days (see page 272 in Discovering Daniel)?

P. 272

Daniel 12:11-12 NASB95

From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!

IN MY WORDS

One plausible explanation is that the extra days cover what happens after the tribulation ends — roughly thirty days for the judgment of the nations and the cleansing of the temple, and another forty-five before the millennial kingdom is formally established, so the man who waits all 1,335 days is the one who lives to see the kingdom begin.

CROSS REFERENCE **Matthew 25:31-32** "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory… All the nations will be gathered before Him" — a judgment that follows the tribulation and precedes the kingdom.

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati treats the 75 extra days as the interval between Christ's return and the formal inauguration of His kingdom — there is business to be settled before the reign begins, and Daniel's numbers leave exactly the room for it.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur is careful to call this an inference rather than a certainty. Scripture gives the numbers and does not label the interval, so the honest position holds the explanation loosely and the numbers firmly.

CRITICAL THINKING

Three different day-counts appear within six verses, and only the first is explained. The precision of the numbers alongside the absence of commentary is itself instructive: God is exact about what will happen and reserved about what it will mean — which is the opposite of how most prophecy teaching is done.

KEY QUESTION

Am I holding my end-times chart more tightly than the Scripture it was drawn from?

8 What wonderful promises are given to Daniel in verse 13? In light of all that Daniel endured during his years in captivity, why do you think these promises would be especially precious to him?

P. 273

Daniel 12:13 NASB95

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.

IN MY WORDS

He is promised rest, resurrection, and an allotted portion of his own — and after a lifetime of exile, a lions' den, a court full of enemies, and visions that left him sick for days, a promise of rest and an inheritance would have been the two things he most lacked and most wanted.

CROSS REFERENCE **Hebrews 4:9** "So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God." — the rest promised Daniel is the rest promised every believer.

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati observes that Daniel was taken from his homeland as a young man and there is no record he ever returned. The promise of an "allotted portion" answers the one loss he could never recover — a place in the land, kept for him past his own death.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik notes the order: go, rest, rise. Work first, then rest, then resurrection. Daniel's obedience was not a down payment on the promise; the promise was what let him keep going to the end.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur points out that God's final word to His prophet is not about Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, or the Antichrist. It is about Daniel. Prophecy on this scale still ends with God speaking personally to one man.

CRITICAL THINKING

Daniel spent his life interpreting other men's futures — a king's dream, an empire's fall, a world's ending. The last thing God does in the book is tell Daniel his own. The man who had carried everyone else's future finally gets handed his own, and it is short, personal, and certain.

KEY QUESTION

Have I let the size of God's plan make me doubt that He has a personal word for me?

03 COMPARE THIS PASSAGE WITH THE REST OF SCRIPTURE

How is it supported elsewhere in the Bible?

Tracing the tribulation's refining purpose and the two eternal destinies through the whole Bible.

KEY VERSE · Hebrews 12:11 NASB95

All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

1 **To better understand how God will use the tribulation to chasten and purge His people, read the following passages. What results can come from suffering and trials?** P. 274

Romans 5:3-4 NASB95

And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;

James 1:2-4 NASB95

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Hebrews 12:11 NASB95

All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

a. Romans 5:3-4

IN MY WORDS

Tribulation produces perseverance, perseverance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope — suffering runs a chain that ends in hope rather than despair.

CROSS REFERENCE **Romans 8:28** "God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God" — the larger frame around the chain Paul has just described.

b. James 1:2-4

IN MY WORDS

The testing of my faith produces endurance, and endurance allowed to finish its work leaves me perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

CROSS REFERENCE **1 Peter 1:7** "so that the proof of your faith… tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

c. **Hebrews 12:11**

> **IN MY WORDS**
> Discipline feels sorrowful rather than joyful at the time, but afterward it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness in those who have been trained by it.

CROSS REFERENCE **Hebrews 12:6** "For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines" — the sorrow is evidence of sonship, not of rejection.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur notes that all three passages describe a process with a product, not a mood. Paul, James, and the writer of Hebrews each refuse to say the suffering is good; they say it produces something good in those who let it finish.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik draws attention to the conditions attached — James says let endurance have its perfect result, Hebrews says to those who have been trained by it. Trials do not automatically produce maturity. They produce it in the person who submits to them.

> **CRITICAL THINKING**
> Hebrews concedes the point most of us are afraid to admit: it is not joyful, it is sorrowful. Scripture never asks a believer to pretend the discipline feels good. The joy James commands is a verdict about the outcome, not a feeling about the process — which is precisely why it can be commanded.

KEY QUESTION
Is there a trial I am enduring but not letting train me — and what would submitting to it actually look like this week?

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2 Daniel 12:2-3 affirms that every person's choice about their eternal destiny is made during this life, and cannot be changed.

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2 Corinthians 5:6-8 NASB95

Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight—we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 NASB95

dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

Matthew 25:46 NASB95

These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

a. **What will believers rise to, according to 2 Corinthians 5:6-8?**

> **IN MY WORDS**
> To being at home with the Lord — Paul is describing the moment of death here, absent from the body and present with Him, which is where the believer waits until the resurrection Daniel saw.

CROSS REFERENCE **Philippians 1:23** "having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better."

b. What will unbelievers rise to, according to 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9?

> **IN MY WORDS**
>
> To the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 12:2** "the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt" — Paul is describing what Daniel saw.

c. What does Matthew 25:46 confirm about the duration of the afterlife for both believers and unbelievers?

> **IN MY WORDS**
>
> Both are eternal — the same word describes the punishment and the life, so whatever length one has, the other has too.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 12:2** "everlasting life… everlasting contempt" — Daniel already used one word for both destinies.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur makes the grammatical point plainly: in Matthew 25:46 the same adjective modifies both nouns. Anyone who softens "eternal punishment" has to soften "eternal life" by the same stroke, and no one is willing to do that.

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati reads 2 Thessalonians 1:9 as the true definition of hell — "away from the presence of the Lord." The essence of the loss is not the fire; it is the absence of God.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik notes Paul's tone in 2 Corinthians 5 is courage, not resignation. The believer's confidence about death is not stoicism about the end but eagerness about a Person.

CRITICAL THINKING

Put the three verses together and the contrast is about location more than sensation: the believer is at home with the Lord, the unbeliever is away from the presence of the Lord. Heaven and hell are defined in Scripture first by proximity to God — which means the question of eternity is really the question of whether I want Him.

KEY QUESTION

If heaven is mainly His presence, does the thought of it actually attract me — or only the thought of avoiding the alternative?

04 EXECUTE

How does this affect my life?

The last questions of the last lesson — what twelve chapters of Daniel have done to me.

KEY VERSE · Daniel 12:13 NASB95

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.

1 **All through the book of Daniel, we're given an example for how we are to live as Christians. The prophet is a role model of how to be a positive influence and shine God's light into a dark and sinful world. As you consider what you learned about Daniel, what inspired you most?** P. 276

Daniel 12:3 NASB95

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.

IN MY WORDS

What inspired me most is that Daniel never held a pulpit — he served pagan kings for a lifetime and simply refused to be moved on the small things, and God used that steady, unglamorous faithfulness to speak to a succession of empires.

CROSS REFERENCE **Matthew 5:16** "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati's whole thesis in Discovering Daniel is that Daniel was an ordinary man made extraordinary by God — set apart as a vessel, and therefore usable. The greatness in the book belongs to God; the availability belongs to Daniel.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik notes that verse 3 promises the shining to those who have insight and those who lead many to righteousness — understanding and evangelism, each given its own brightness in the same verse.

CRITICAL THINKING

Daniel's public stands — the food, the window, the interpretations — are the famous parts, but each one was possible because of a decision made in private first. Chapter 1 says he made up his mind, and every later chapter is that resolve being cashed. Influence is downstream of convictions nobody sees being formed.

KEY QUESTION

What is the private decision I need to settle this week so that the public one is already made?

2 In what ways has your study of Daniel already motivated you to change how you live?

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Daniel 1:8 NASB95

But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself.

IN MY WORDS

It has pushed me to settle convictions in advance instead of negotiating them in the moment, and to take the ordinary faithfulness — prayer at the same hour, honest work, refusing the small compromise — far more seriously than I did before.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 6:10** "he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day… as he had been doing previously." — the habit was already there when the crisis came.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur points out that Daniel's crisis moments were survivable because his ordinary days were disciplined. The lions' den was faced by a man who had been praying three times a day for years before anyone thought to make it illegal.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik observes that Daniel's first recorded act is a decision about dinner. God builds men who will not bend before thrones out of men who would not bend at a table.

CRITICAL THINKING

Every dramatic moment in Daniel has a quiet precedent earlier in his life. Nothing in the book suggests he rose to the occasion; he had already been living at that altitude. The change the book asks for is not courage on demand — it is a habit built when nothing is at stake.

KEY QUESTION

Which habit of mine, kept for another year, would make the next hard moment easy?

3 In Daniel 12, we see that Daniel didn't always come away with a perfectly clear understanding of God's revelations about the future. How do you find this fact helpful for your own study of Bible prophecy?

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Daniel 12:8-9 NASB95

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

IN MY WORDS

It takes the pressure off — if the prophet himself heard and could not understand, then I do not have to pretend certainty I do not have, and I can hold the clear things firmly and the unclear things honestly.

CROSS REFERENCE **1 Corinthians 13:12** "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known."

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik's counsel on prophecy is to be settled about the major things, generous about the minor ones, and humble about the details. Daniel 12:8 is the reason for all three.

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati, who teaches prophecy for a living, keeps returning to the point that the purpose of prophecy is preparation, not prediction. A student who ends his study readier to meet Christ has understood it; a student who ends it only with a chart has not.

CRITICAL THINKING

Daniel asks his question after the answer has already been given — he heard the oath and the timeframe and still wanted the outcome. Which suggests the gap was not in the information but in his capacity to hold it. Some passages will not open until we are people who can bear what is inside them.

KEY QUESTION

Am I more comfortable debating prophecy than being changed by it?

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4 **The final command given to Daniel is "Go your way till the end" (Daniel 12:13). This is a call to endurance. Why is it so vital that we persevere to the end in the Christian life, and not let up?** P. 277

Daniel 12:13 NASB95

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.

Hebrews 12:1-2 NASB95

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

IN MY WORDS

Because the promise is attached to the end and not to the start — rest and resurrection come to the one who goes his way all the way, and a race is only finished by the runner who is still running at the line.

CROSS REFERENCE **Matthew 24:13** "But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved."

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur teaches that perseverance is not how a believer earns salvation but how genuine salvation shows itself. The one who endures is saved because those who are saved endure.

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati closes Discovering Daniel on this note: Daniel was an old man by chapter 12, and God still said go your way to the end. There is no retirement from faithfulness, and the last stretch is not the one to coast.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik notes that Hebrews prescribes endurance with the eyes fixed somewhere specific — on Jesus. Endurance that stares at the finish line exhausts itself; endurance that looks at Him lasts.

CRITICAL THINKING

Daniel had already endured more than almost anyone in Scripture, and the final word to him was still about endurance. The Christian life has no point at which faithfulness is banked and the remainder can be coasted — which is a hard word and also a freeing one, because it means no season is wasted and no season is finished.

KEY QUESTION

Where have I quietly started coasting because I feel I have already done my part?

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Twelve chapters and a lifetime of one man's service end not with a vision but with a promise, and it is a personal one. After the statue, the furnace, the handwriting, the lions, the beasts, the ram and the goat, the seventy weeks, the unseen war, and the long journey to the Antichrist, God's last recorded word to Daniel is four clauses long: go your way, you will rest, you will rise, and there is a portion with your name on it.

The book is more than 2,500 years old and it has not aged, because the two things it teaches have not changed. God is sovereign — over Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and over whatever empire is currently certain of itself. And God does remarkable things through people who are fully yielded to Him. Daniel was not extraordinary in himself. He was available, and he stayed available for decades in a foreign court where nobody was checking.

Chapter 12 also refuses to let prophecy stay abstract. Two-thirds of a nation cut off and a third refined. Many who sleep in the dust awaking — some to everlasting life and some to everlasting contempt. Names found written in a book, or not found. Daniel is handed the numbers and denied the explanation, told to seal what he cannot understand, and sent back to the ordinary obedience in front of him. That is where most of the Christian life is actually lived.

And the question the chapter finally asks is not about the Antichrist's timeline at all. It is about me. Where will I spend eternity, and is my name in the book? Everything else in Daniel is commentary on that.

"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 12:13

Daniel was carried to Babylon as a young man and Scripture never records him going home. He did not see the temple rebuilt, and of the four kingdoms he was shown he lived to see only the first one fall. He went his way to the end on nothing but the word of God — and the word of God was enough. It still is. Study the prophecy, hold the clear things firmly and the unclear things humbly, and then go your way: do the next faithful thing, keep the private convictions that make the public ones easy, and trust that the rest and the rising and the allotted portion are as certain for you as they were for him.

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