

Shine Like Stars



Daniel 12

It can be Fixed



It can be Fixed



It needs to be recreated!



The Old Creation



- * Spiritually dead
- * In the flesh
- * In the kingdom of darkness



God's New Creation



- * Spiritually alive
- * In the Spirit
- * In the Kingdom of God's dear Son

Overview of Daniel

I. Personal History 1:1–6:28

A. *Proving God 1:1–21*

B. *Nebuchadnezzar's Image Vision 2:1–49*

C. *Fiery Furnace 3:1–30*

D. *Nebuchadnezzar's Tree Vision 4:1–37*

E. *Belshazzar's Feast 5:1–31*

F. *A Lion's Den 6:1–28*

Overview of Daniel



II. Prophetic Ministry 7:1–12:13

A. *Four Beasts 7:1–28*

B. *Ram and Goat 8:1–27*

C. *Seventy Weeks 9:1–27*

D. *God's Glory 10:1–11:1*

E. *Ptolemies and Seleucids 11:2–45*

F. *End Times 12:1–13*



Blessings of the Righteous 12:1-4

- “At that time” refers to the time of the end mentioned in 11:40 when Antichrist will rule his kingdom from Israel and direct his battles against the nations.
- Michael, the “great prince,” referring to his position as an archangel (cf. 10:13, 21; Jude 9; Rev. 12:7), then will watch over “thy people,” the nation of Israel to which Daniel belonged.

Blessings of the Righteous 12:1-4

- This will be such a time of “trouble” for Israel as has not previously come on any nation.
- The statement draws attention to the difficulties faced by Israel (cf. Jer. 30:7, “Jacob’s trouble”).
- Matthew 24:21 and Revelation 7:14 also refer to this period of tribulation.

Blessings of the Righteous 12:1-4

- **While the Book of Life contains the names of all Christians, the stress here is on the deliverance of Israel.**
- **The emphasis here is on the nation of Israel as it turns to the Lord during the Tribulation (Zech 12:10; 13:1) and the Lord delivers them from Antichrist's persecution.**

Blessings of the Righteous 12:1-4

- Even those who died shall be delivered.
- Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.
- “Sleeping in the dust” is a good metaphor for death. It reminds us that death is God’s punishment for sin (Gen.3:19).

Blessings of the Righteous 12:1–4

- It also reminds us that death is not permanent; we shall awake from this sleep:
- God's people to everlasting life, and those who opposed God to everlasting contempt.
- Such passages as John 5:28–29 and Revelation 20:4–6, 11–15 show that an interval of time separates the two resurrections.

Blessings of the Righteous 12:1-4

- Verse 3 states, ***“Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like stars forever and ever.”***
- **“Those who are wise” are the same people who lead many to righteousness.**
- **“Those who lead others to righteousness” are those who demonstrate their faith and encourage others to faith, and this the humblest believer can do.**

Blessings of the Righteous 12:1-4

- The Lord Jesus promises a similar outcome for God's people.
- At the end of the age, he says, "***the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father***" (Matt.13:39,43).
- The righteous will be exalted in the kingdom of God.

Blessings of the Righteous 12:1-4

- In the final days, God's people will face the worst persecution ever.
- But the good news is that even if they are martyred, God will raise them from the dead to everlasting life.
- Then they shall **shine "like stars forever and ever."**

Blessings of the Righteous 12:1-4

- The angel instructs Daniel not to keep his message a secret but to preserve it, esp. for those who will need this encouragement and good news at “the time of the end.”
- It must be on record for God’s people so that the events of the end will not take them by surprise.

Blessings of the Righteous 12:1-4

- Verse 4 ends with the prediction: *"Many shall be running back and forth, and evil shall increase."* (Amos 8:12)
- In light of the context of Daniel's "book" it refers to study, the diligent search for the knowledge of the vision in the effort of understanding it.

Blessings of the Righteous 12:1-4

- Seeking to find the word of the Lord with their own wisdom and strength, they shall not find it.
- Instead “evil shall increase” – the evil that will culminate in the Antichrist, who will seek to annihilate God’s people.
- But God will have the last word!

Blessings of the Righteous 12:1-4

- Be encouraged, then, people of God, to remain faithful to God, even in the fiercest persecution.
- Our sovereign God is in control of human history to its smallest details.
- Jesus predicted, *"You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls"* (Luke 21:17-19).

Two Questions 12:5–13



Paraphrase the sense:

- 1. Asked by the angel: How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled? (v.6)**
- 2. Asked by Daniel: My lord, what will the outcome of all this be? (v.8)**



Two Questions 12:5–13



- True wisdom for living in a broken world is central to the two questions that are asked of God in this passage.
- The answer to the first question has two parts: it will be “for a times, times, and half a time”(v.7), and it will be for 1,290 days (v.11).



Application

- **1) Our struggle with sin and brokenness is limited by the Lord's mercy.**
- **2) The timing of the exact end of our trials is known precisely to the Lord.**



1. How long?

- **The day is coming when Jesus Christ will ride out to conquer and to recreate, a day when the kingdom of this world will become the kingdom of our God and his Christ (Rev.11:15).**

Revelation 11:15-16

15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

Revelation 11:17-18

17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, **and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth.**

1. How long?

- **When the final trumpet sounds for us, it will bring an end to all our earthly conflict; and we will rise with Daniel and all the saints, to receive our final reward in Christ.**

2. How then shall we live?

- **Our part is to persevere in faith and trust.**
- **Like Daniel, we are to go on our way and be faithful in the present tasks to which God has called us.**

2. How then shall we live?

¹¹ For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

¹² Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

¹³ Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

¹⁴ Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

➤ **Titus 2: 11-14**

Will You Shine like Stars?

