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The Future of Isra'el

12: 1-13

The future of Isra'el DIG: Who is Michael? Why would Ha'Shem send him? Why will Isra'el have to suffer in the Great Tribulation? How bad will it be? What do the "two others" signify by their sworn testimony? What is the significance of the 1,290 days and the 1,335 days mentioned here in the last chapter of Dani'el? What is the purpose of the Great Tribulation? What is left unanswered for Dani'el (and you)? What does this say about the basis of faith for a believer?

REFLECT: Judging from the oppressive conditions you see around you, for what groups of people would you especially recommend this book of Dani'el? Why this book for them? Dani'el was told to go on with life even if he didn't understand. When have you had to cope with life and faith in the midst of perplexity? The bottom line for Dani'el is that the royal power of the Most High God always triumphs over the kingdoms of men. How is that evident for Dani'el personally? For you and your family?

The righteous of the TaNaKh will be resurrected, multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake to everlasting life.



Micha'el and Isra'el (12:1): As Arnold Fruchtenbaum relates in his commentary on *Dani'el*, it is important to understand that **the angel** who began speaking to **Dani'el** in **10:19** was still speaking here. **He** now declares: **At that time Micha'el, the great prince who protects your people, will stand up. There will be a time of trouble such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people - everyone whose name is found written in the book - will be delivered.** In **11:40**, **the angel** introduced the prophecy regarding the military activities of **the antichrist** with the phrase: **at the time of the end.** Now he explained that **at that time**, meaning at the same time as the events of **11:40-45**, **Micha'el will stand up.** Again, **the angel** used the Hebrew term *amad* to show that **Micha'el's standing up** was an act of military involvement (**8:25** and **11:14**). **Micha'el** will **take a military stand** because **he** will wage war against **Satan** and **his demons** (see the commentary on **Revelation, to see link click Di - There Was War in Heaven, and Satan was Hurlled Down**).

Micha'el is called **the great prince** because **he** is **the guardian angel of Isra'el.** Yet, according to **12:1**, **there will be a time of trouble.** The expression **time of trouble** is one of the names of **the Great Tribulation.** It is very similar to the title of the **time of Jacob's trouble** found in **Jeremiah 20:7.** People all over **the world** will suffer during **the Great Tribulation**, for the catastrophic judgments of that period will affect all humanity left behind after the Rapture. However, it will be especially severe for **the Jewish people** because of the principle that is spelled out

in **Isaiah 40:1-2: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.** As much as **Ha'Shem** will punish the Gentile for **their sins**, **He** will punish **Isra'el double**, following the principle **to whom much is given, much is required (Like 12:48)**. Therefore, **the Great Tribulation** will be uniquely **a time of Jacob's trouble**.

Then **the angel** added that the period will be worse than anything **the world** has ever seen: **There will be a time of trouble such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then.** In other words, during the second half of **the Great Tribulation**, **the Jews** will be subject to a level of persecution that will surpass all previous persecutions (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ Mt - The Destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple on Tisha B'Av in 70 AD**). **Yeshua** reaffirmed this truth when **He** said: **For those will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now - and never to be equaled again (Matthew 24:21-22)**. Yet, **the angel** declared: **But at that time your people - everyone whose name is found written in the book - will be delivered.** The **one-third** of the persecuted **Jews** still alive (**Zechariah 13:8-9**) will gather at **Bozrah**, and as the armies of **the world**, led by **the antichrist**, tighten the noose around the neck of **the Jewish survivors**, the scales from **their eyes** and **they** realize that **Yeshua** was really **their Messiah**. Thus, during the last **three days** of **the Great Tribulation (Hosea 6:1-2)**, **they** cry out for forgiveness (see **Revelation Ev - The Basis of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ**) and **all Isra'el** alive at that time **will be saved**, as the **TaNaKh** says: **Out of Tziyon will come a Redeemer, and He will turn Jacob away from ungodliness (Romans 11:26)**.

The resurrection (12:2-3): The Rapture will include B'rit Chadashah believers and it will occur *before* the Great Tribulation begins (see **Revelation By - The Rapture of the Church**). But later, *after the* Great Tribulation (**12:1**), during the seventy-five-day interval (see **Revelation Ey - The Seventy-Five Day Interval**), **the righteous of the TaNaKh** will be resurrected. **Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life** and given **their** eternal glorified bodies, while **others to shame and everlasting contempt** a thousand years later (see **Revelation Fn - The Second Resurrection**) (**12:2**). **The Israelites** who survive **the Great Tribulation** will be the objects of the divine deliverance prophesied in **Romans 11:26**, and will be joined by **the righteous of**

the TaNaKh who are raised from **the dead**. This is also confirmed by **Isaiah** (see my commentary on **Isaiah Eg - You Who Dwell in the Dust Will Wake Up and Shout for Joy**), and **Ezeki'el** (see the commentary on **Ezeki'el Ea - The Valley of the Dry Bones**). What a time that would be! All **the righteous of the TaNaKh**, from every age, would be glorified at the same time! Glory be to **God. He is the Promise Keeper.**

Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever (12:3). In the context of **the TaNaKh**, the difference between **the wise** and **the foolish** is often **their** spiritual state. Those who are among **the righteous of the TaNaKh** are called **wise**, and those who are not are called **foolish**. **The fool says in his heart, "There is no God" (Psalm 14:1a); for the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to those who are being saved it is the power of God (First Corinthians 1:18).** The brightness described here is a common symbol of **the Sh'khinah glory** (see **Isaiah Ju - The Glory of the LORD Rises Upon You**). Thus, the resurrected **righteous of the TaNaKh** will reflect **God's glory** just as the face of **Moshe** did when **he** came down from **Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:29-35).**

The sealing of the book (12:4): But you, Dani'el, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will run back and forth to increase knowledge (12:4). The vision that began in **Chapter 10** officially ends here in **12:4**, and the sealing of **the book would** be kept safe and closed. When **Dani'el** wrote **his prophecy** several hundred years before the birth of **Messiah**, because of progressive revelation, **he** did not understand some things that **the LORD** had shown **him**. **He** wanted an explanation, but the fulfillment of **his** prophecies were a long time off, so **he** was told to **seal** them **up** until they could be explained by later revelation (**Dani'el 12:4a** and **12:8-9**). With the **book of Revelation**, much of the **book** of **Dani'el** was clarified, expanded, detailed and explained. So **John**, in contrast to **Dani'el**, was told **not to seal up his book** because **John's** prophecy was already unfolding and the Church Age was underway. For that reason, the message was to be left unsealed. For that reason, **the angel** told **the aged prophet**, **"Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near" (Revelation 22:10).** Then **the angel** declared that what **Dani'el** had n would continue **until the time of the end**. This refers to **the Great Tribulation**. By sealing the book, its contents would be specifically preserved for that time because much of the revelation provided in **Chapters**

10-12 concerns those who will be living at that time.

Then **the angel** made an interesting announcement: **Many will run back and forth to increase knowledge.** Some commentators have concluded that **the angel** was speaking of modern methods of travel or accomplishments in the sciences. However, the expression **run back and forth** refers to a quest for **knowledge (Second Chronicles 16:9; Jeremiah 5:1; Amos 8:12; Zechariah 4:10)**, not a traveling by airplane. The Hebrew term for **knowledge, data**, appears with a definite article. It is *the knowledge*, the very specific **knowledge**, that is sought; namely, the **knowledge** that pertains to **the end times**. Thanks to the book of **Dani'el**, this **knowledge** will **increase**, and, therefore, **the knowledge of the end times** will also **increase**. To reflect the definite article before the term *data*, a paraphrase of this verse may read as follows: **Many will go back and forth in their desire for knowledge in the last days. They will find it in the book of Dani'el, where it was preserved until the time of the end. Reading Dani'el will lead to an increase of the knowledge of the end times (12:4).** The point of **12:4** is that **Dani'el** would receive no more visions or revelation.⁴⁰³

The conclusion (12:5-13): The remaining verses of **Dani'el 12** will be discussed in three parts: **The extent and purpose of the period (12:5-7), Daniel's request (12:8), and the response (12:9-13).**

The extent and purpose of the period (12:5-7): Dani'el, still studying the scene **standing on the bank of the Tigris River (10:4), looked, and there before him stood two other angles, one on each bank.** These **two angels** appeared in order to serve as **witnesses** of what would be said (**Deuteronomy 17:6, 19:15**). In light of the previous prophecies, **one of them** asked the obvious question **to the man clothed in linen, "How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled,** and how long would the persecution of **the Jewish people** last?" **The man clothed in linen** was **the** unnamed **angel** who had been prophesying to **Dani'el** since **10:4** (see **Dt - The Arrival of an Angel**). Unlike the other **two angles, he** was standing **above the waters of the river.**

Then **the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven** and gave the answer. Normally, when an oath is taken in the TaNaKh, only one **hand** is raised (for example **Genesis 14:22** and **Deuteronomy 32:40**). However, here, **the angel** raised both **hands** as a sign of double assurance. **He swore by the One True God who lives forever** that the duration **would be a time, times and half a time.**

He used the same figure that was mentioned in **7:25**, again referring to **three-and-a-half years**, or the second half of **the Great Tribulation**.

There are **three main purposes** for **the Great Tribulation**: **(1) To bring wrath upon an unbelieving world and to make an end to wickedness (Isaiah 13:9 and 24:19-20); (2) to bring about a worldwide revival (see Revelation Dt - And They Sang a New Song Before the Throne);** and lastly here in **12:7 (3), to break the power of the holy people, the stubborn Jewish nation**. In **11:36-45** (see **Dz - The Antichrist**), **Dani'el** was given a vision of what conditions will be like for **his people Isra'el** during **the Great Tribulation**. It will continue until pride of **the Israelites** is broken in order to bring about a national regeneration (see **Romans Da - The Redemption of Isra'el**). The means by which **God** will perform this is given in **the Valley of the Dry Bones**. What is important to note here is that after **YHVH** gathers **the Jews** from around **the world He** will enter into a period of judgment (**the Great Tribulation**) with **them**. The rebels among **the Jewish people** will be purged out by this judgment. Only when they realize that **they** have tried to establish **their** own righteousness, **the Jewish people** will turn to **ADONAI** and seek **His** righteousness through **Messiah (Zechariah 12:10)**.

Only then, will the whole new nation, a regenerated nation, be allowed to enter **the Messianic Kingdom** under **the Kosher King**, and then **all these things will be completed**.

Dani'el's request (12:8): There was still much that **Dani'el did not understand**. So he asked **the** unnamed **angel**, **"What will the outcome of all this be?"** As it happened to him before in **8:15**, he couldn't make sense of **the angel's** words. Therefore, he once again asked for clarification as to **the outcome of all** that he had been told. But **Dani'el** didn't receive a direct response because the event that would bring an end to the Great Tribulation, the Second Coming of **Yeshua Messiah**, had already been mentioned in **7:13-14**.⁴⁰⁴

The angel's response (12:9-13): While **Dani'el** didn't receive a direct answer to his question, **the** unnamed **angel** did respond in the following manner.

a. The sealing (12:9): **The angel** tactfully replied: **Go your way, Dani'el, because the words are rolled up and sealed until the time of the end (12:9)**. This was not a rebuke, but simply indicates that **the prophet** should go on about **his** life and not be concerned about **his** lack of knowledge

because **the vision** related to **the far eschatological future**. **Dani'el** was assured that these prophecies would be preserved, or **sealed**, for those who will need them, that is, the people who live at **the time of the end**. As **the end** approaches, the messages of **Dani'el** (and other prophecies of the last days) will become increasingly clearer to believers.⁴⁰⁵

b. The wise and the wicked (12:10): Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. As previously stated, the term **wise** generally refers to believers. But here, it specifically refers to believers during **the Great Tribulation**. They will comprehend what **Dani'el** could not because of **Dani'el's** book. As a result of what **he** wrote, they will be **made spotless, refined, and purified**, a reference to their salvation. As for **the wicked**, they will continue to act **wickedly**, they will never gain saving knowledge, **but those who are wise will understand**.

c. The 1,290 days (12:11): The Great Tribulation will last **seven years**, and each half of that period will have **1,260** days. Hence, from the time **the antichrist** commits **the abomination that causes desolation (11:31b)**, it will be precisely **1,260 days** until the end of the tribulation. **From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.** The angel pointed out that **the abomination of desolation**, meaning that the image of the antichrist set up in **the Tribulation Temple** (see **Revelation Bx - The Tribulation Temple**), will be allowed to continue for thirty days beyond the Second Coming, then **it** will be removed.

d. The 1,335 days (12:12): Then **the angel** provided a second time frame: **Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days (12:12).** The figure of 1,335 days is an additional forty-five days beyond the **1,290 days** mentioned in the previous verse. Adding the numbers from **verses 11** and **12**, there will be a total of **seventy-five days** between the Second Coming and the establishment of **the Messianic Kingdom**. Then the angel pointed out that those who make it to the end of **the 1,335 days** will be **blessed**. What will happen during those **seventy-five days** must be derived from other passages. **Nine points** can be made.

First, the abomination that causes desolation will be removed (see **Ez - The Removal of the Abomination That Causes Desolation**).

Second, the antichrist will be captured and thrown alive into **the lake of fire**.

Third, the false prophet, who will serve as the counterfeit **Ruach Ha'Kodesh** during **the Great Tribulation**, will also be thrown alive into **the lake of fire** (see **Revelation Fa - The Beast was Captured, and with Him the False Prophet**).

Fourth, Satan, who will serve as the counterfeit Father in the Great Tribulation, will be **thrown into the abyss for a thousand years** (see **Revelation Fb - He Seized the Dragon, or Satan, and Bound Him for a Thousand Years**).

Fifth, though a great many Gentiles will be killed during **the Great Tribulation**, and the **Gentile** armies will be slaughtered in **the Campaign of Armageddon** (see **Revelation Ex - The Eight Stage Campaign of Armageddon**), a number will still be alive during **the seventy-five-day** interval. Those **Gentiles** will then be gathered for judgment (**Joel 3:1-3**). The judge will be none other than **Yeshua Messiah**, who will sit on a throne encompassed by **His** glory in **the Valley of Jehoshaphat**. All **the Gentiles** will be gathered before **Him**. The accused will not be allowed to quibble over their guilt or innocence. There will be a **Prosecutor**, but no defender; an **Accuser**, but no advocate. There will be an indictment, but no defense mounted by the accused; the convicting evidence will be presented with no cross-examination. There will be an utterly unsympathetic **Judge** and no jury. There will be no appeal of the sentence once it is pronounced. The guilty will be punished eternally with no possibility of parole in a prison from which there is no escape. Banished for eternity, **they** will be without **God**, without love, and without **hope**. In this judgment **the Gentiles** will be divided into two camps: the pro-Semitic **sheep** camp and the anti-Semitic **goat** camp (see **The Life of Christ Jy - The Sheep and the Goats**). The anti-Semites who will aid **the antichrist** in the effort to destroy all **the Jews**, will be killed and sent to hell. They are the ones who, according to **12:12**, will fail to attain the **1,335th** day and, consequently, lose out on **the blessings of the Messianic Kingdom**.

Sixth, the righteous of the TaNaKh will be resurrected (see **Revelation Fd - The Resurrection of the Righteous of the TaNaKh**).

Seventh, the believers who will be **beheaded** for refusing to take **the mark of the beast** will also be **resurrected** (see **Revelation Fe - I Saw Those Who Had Been Beheaded for the Testimony for Jesus**).

Eighth, the **first resurrection** will take place (see **Revelation Ff - Blessed and Holy are Those Who Have Part in the First Resurrection**).

And **Ninth**, the **wedding feast of the Lamb** will be celebrated (see **Revelation Fg - Blessed Are Those Invited to the Wedding Feast of the Lamb**).

e. Dani'el's future (12:13): The book closes with a statement regarding **Dani'el's** future. **As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance.**⁴⁰⁶ **The angel** reaffirmed what he had already said in **12:9**: **Dani'el** could leave now because no more information would be given to **him**. **The prophet** was on his way until **the end of days**. The primary theme of the book of **Dani'el** is **the times of the Gentiles** (see **Ao - The Times of the Gentiles**). The end of that timespan will be the actual end of the Great Tribulation. **Dani'el himself** would not make it to that time because **he** would **rest**, meaning **he** would die.

The day is coming when **Messiah** will ride out to conquer and to recreate, a day when **the kingdom of this world will become the Kingdom of our Lord and His Messiah (Rev 11:15)**. In the meantime, our task as believers is simply to testify to **our Lord's** greatness and grace by our words and by our sufferings. As we cling to **ADONAI** in the midst of our trials that we do not understand, we testify to **YHVH's** grace to a watching world and to the heavenly beings. Like **Jacob**, who **wrestled with God at the crossings of the Jabbok River** even after **he** had been crippled by the encounter (**Gen 32:24-31**), we testify not by our strength and might but simply by our persistence in clinging to **God** in the midst of our brokenness.

And when the final trumpet sounds for us, bringing to an end our earthly conflict, at least we too will hear our **Redeemer** say to us: **As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance.** We will rise with **Dani'el** - the same **Dani'el** who endured the trials of the lions' den and the

challenges of living in an alien land, who prayed daily for the coming of **God's Kingdom** and who prospered throughout the exile - all with all the believers from every age, to receive our final reward in **Messiah**.⁴⁰⁷

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, Praise **You** for how wonderful **You** are! **Your** wisdom is infinite, knowing in the future with precise exactness. **Your** Great Steadfast Love is powered by your Almighty Power and Perfect Holiness and Faithfulness! What a comfort it is to have you as our **Father**! There is nothing about **You** that we would ever want changes and there is nothing in you that can be improved! Earthly fathers are of this earth and even good ones are still not perfect like you. **Your** love is so great to have given **Your** one and only **Son** to rescue and redeem mankind. How great that nothing can separate me from **Your** love! **For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Messiah Yeshua our Lord (Romans 8:38-39)**. So wonderful to love and to know **You**! Though in this world there is much pain and many trials, those who love **You** can live in peace (**Romans 8:18**), having no fear, for their hope and trust is in **You**, our Loving Almighty Heavenly **Father**! **Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. Surely I will help you. I will uphold you with My righteousness (Isaiah 41:10)**. In **Messiah Yeshua's** holy **Name** and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*