

# Introduction

We continue in our 2nd part of the sermon we started last week.

Now just to back track a moment.

## Historical Background

Remember the main **purpose of Daniel** is to display the sovereignty of God over:

- History
- Satan, the anti Christ and all his demons
- kings and empires

### **Daniel 2:21 ESV**

<sup>21</sup> He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;

We learned through Daniel that at the heart of History is Christ.

His death and resurrection lies at the core of history

History culminates with the return of Christ, who will destroy the Satanic Anti Christ kingdom and establish His own millennial kingdom.

| The key to the history of the world is the kingdom of God.

| **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

### **Daniel 2:44 ESV**

<sup>44</sup> And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever,

We learned that Israel would face great conflict culminating in the tribulation period preceding the return of Christ.

Satan's hatred of Israel will culminate in the tribulation as he seeks to destroy Israel, while God seeks its salvation.

We had also learned not only will God limit the time period, but will rescue His people in the spiritual real, physically and by death and resurrection.

We also learned that there will be two distinct kinds of resurrections, for the believers to eternal life and for unbelievers to shame and everlasting contempt.

The Book of Daniel serves as an encouragement to the believer knowing:

- that in this life where governments seem to be out of control, in which history seems to be spiraling towards greater wickedness and suffering increasing,
- that God is still in control
- that God is able to rescue his people even in the midst of greatest distress.

God's rescue may even come in the form of death, because in the end he has power over life and death and will resurrect His people.

And that in the end of the Day, Jesus will rule.

The Book of Daniel closes with final instructions and a Q&A session.

Two questions are asked and answered.

## Passage

### **Daniel 12:1–13** ESV

<sup>1</sup> "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.

<sup>2</sup> And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

<sup>3</sup> And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

<sup>4</sup> But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

<sup>5</sup> Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream.

<sup>6</sup> And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, "How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?"

<sup>7</sup> And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the

shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.

<sup>8</sup> I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, "O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?"

<sup>9</sup> He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.

<sup>10</sup> Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand.

<sup>11</sup> And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days.

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days.

<sup>13</sup> But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."

## Proposition

6 concluding remarks that encourages believers to endure in difficult times.

1. God's rescue vs 1
2. God's resurrections vs 2
3. God's glory vs 3
4. Final instruction vs 4
5. Question and answer vs 5 -7
6. Question and answer vs 8-13

### 4. Final instruction vs 4

**<sup>4</sup> But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end.**

The grammar reveals that Daniel was commanded to shut up and seal the book (scroll)

The Book in this context refers to the matters described here in the vision.(Dan 10:11-12:3)

shut up= Satam=stop up like a water well, make unrecognizable, keep close, keep secret, to keep hidden, close off the words of the vision. At the root it means to protect something LOGOS = put in a place where something cannot be removed, or someone cannot escape

The 2nd word seal sounds similar in Hebrew

Satam(shut up) & hatam (seal)

Seal =hatam = to seal with a signet ring, enclose, block or obstruct ANE = seals, close OT = seals in the form of clay, or wood stamps, which served to identify the ownership and authority. They were impressed on lumps of clay to secure documents, containers and vessels, authenticate, restrict

Sealing implied the owner gave approval to the content, meant that it was to be closed off from interference and it also served as a way of preserving something for future reference.

Essentially a command to **protect and seal** the words of this vision until it can be understood.

Its like if you were to order a puzzle and when you open it you find you only have the edges. You speak with the company and they apologize and say they will send the pieces 3 weeks later.

So will you start to build the puzzle, no. you box it up to remain protected until the rest of the puzzle arrives

Essentially that's what the angel said. box it up and protect it because in the future the puzzle pieces will come.

Some of these words would only be fully understood at the time of the end.

Do tampered with it, preserve it.

The full comprehension and interpretation of this vision is to be withheld until the time of the end.

Understanding the first part of the vision was easier since we had history to help us. (until vs 35.)

vs 36-39 became more difficult but we could explain the character of the future anti Christ.

But in vs 40-45 some parts of this vision remain unclear even by the best of exegetes, because it remains in the future.

**Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."**

The grammar implies that many shall intensively run to and from.

Many will seek to understand this vision.

Despite the sealing of the book, over time there will grow a greater comprehension of the final vision.

Zechariah had not been written by the time Daniel was written.

The gospels and the New testament had not been written.

With the completion of the NT and the last prophetic books, more revelation was provided on these matters and there is improved understanding of the the end times.

But even with the complete Canon, even with the help of great commentators, some elements remain unknown as you will soon see further in this passage.

We still wait for pieces of the puzzle.

## Application

### **Deuteronomy 29:29 ESV**

<sup>29</sup> "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

People desire to know the future.

That's why people tend to flock to anyone claiming to be a prophet, a man of God or someone claiming to have direct communication with God.

The problem is that the Biblical description of prophets, is that their words are inerrant, authoritative and on par with Old testament prophesy.

What many claim that today's prophets are fallible, prone to error and non binding and there is no biblical support for a prophet making errors in his prophecies.

The Old testament criteria which is still valid today remains the same.(not on slide)

### **Deuteronomy 18:21–22 ESV**

<sup>21</sup> And if you say in your heart, 'How may we know the word that the LORD has not spoken?'—

<sup>22</sup> when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.

Only God knows the future.

So the simple test for a true prophet is 100% accurate future prediction.

Fail the test and such a prophet was to be regarded as a false prophet and you were

not to fear him.

Dt 13:1-5 adds to the test that if such a person even does signs and wonders, yet leads you to false worship, don't listen to the person because God is testing you to see if you love God with all your heart.

Any person claiming to be a prophet is to be tested.

#### **1 Corinthians 14:29 ESV**

<sup>29</sup> Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said.

#### **1 Thessalonians 5:20–21 ESV**

<sup>20</sup> Do not despise prophecies,

<sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast what is good.

You and I also need to contend with the fact that the need for prophets has ceased with the completion of the canon.

The reality you and I must face is that in the areas about the future that we don't know.

You are to walk by faith, dependence upon Him.

## 5. Question and answer vs 5 -7

**<sup>5</sup> Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream. <sup>6</sup> And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, "How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?"**

Daniel saw two unknown individuals, likely angels.

He observed One of these angels asking a question to a third individual clothed in linen.

Who is this man clothed in linen above the stream?

Remember Daniels encounter with this man in Daniel 10.

#### **Daniel 10:5–6 ESV**

<sup>5</sup> I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist.

<sup>6</sup> His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the

sound of his words like the sound of a multitude.

The man clothed in linen here was the pre-incarnate Christ.

Jesus the authority behind the vision is asked this question.

The close context reveals that the question relates to the tribulation period.

How long till the end of these wonders?

wonders = wonderful, something causing feelings of wonder, the miraculous, something unusual, something astonishing.

How long till:

- the end of these astonishing events?
- the deliverance of Israel
- the resurrection of Israel?
- everything becomes better better?

Jesus's answer began with a gesture.

**7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever**

Raised your hands towards heaven was an ancient gesture of making an oath.

Examples

**Genesis 14:22 ESV**

<sup>22</sup> But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have lifted my hand to the LORD, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth,

**Deuteronomy 32:40 ESV**

<sup>40</sup> For I lift up my hand to heaven and swear, As I live forever,

Raising his both hands emphasized the emphatic nature or sureness of the oath.

He was swearing by the immortal and eternal God.

Scripture guaranteed by a divine oath of Christ.

Israel's suffering would not be without end,

Jesus is guaranteeing by way of an oath that this would happen only for a time period.

It's like saying this is definitely certain.

## **that it would be for a time, times, and half a time,**

The answer time times and half a time.

God would limit the time of tribulation upon His people.

The anti Christ's wearing out of the saints would only last for this limited time period.

| Daniel 7:25 (ESV)

| <sup>25</sup> He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a **time, times, and half a time.**

Israel would only needs Gods rescuing for this limited time period.

| Revelation 12:14 (ESV)

| <sup>14</sup> But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a **time, and times, and half a time.**

| Revelation 12:6 (ESV)

| <sup>6</sup> and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

So it would be only 1260 days, 42 months, or 3 1/2 years.

Here we see again God's sovereignty over time and history.

Jesus next answer is not in terms of time, but in terms of purpose

## **and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.**

The times, times and half a time period would be a period in which the shattering of the power of the holy people will take place.

The term shattering =nafats=smash, pulverize, ANE = crush OT used for smashing pottery Logos = damage, destroy

of the holy people refers to Israel.

The grammar implies an intensive shattering

So this time period is intended to pulverize the power of Israel.

Jesus described it as the great tribulation, the time of the greatest persecution of Israel,

Jesus himself described the tribulation period.

**Matthew 24:21–22 ESV**

<sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.

<sup>22</sup> And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

Zechariah reveals what will happen to Israel.

**Zechariah 13:8–9 ESV**

<sup>8</sup> In the whole land, declares the LORD, two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one third shall be left alive.

<sup>9</sup> And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are my people'; and they will say, 'The LORD is my God.' "

2/3 of Israel will not make it.

Why this great pressure upon Israel

Jeremiah tells us **why**.

**Jeremiah 30:7 ESV**

<sup>7</sup> Alas! That day is so great there is none like it; it is a time of distress for Jacob; yet he shall be saved out of it.

Moses stated in Dt 4:30 that the tribulation would lead them to **return** to the Lord to obey His voice.

The great pressure is to bring Israel to its knees, to repent and accept Jesus as the true messiah.

Jesus who was pierced for their transgressions and crushed for their iniquities.

Israel would be crushed until they accepted the crushed one

Israel would experience Gods wrath until they accepted the wrath absorber.

Israel would suffer until they accept the suffering servant

Israel would carry a cross until they accept the one who died on the cross for them.

## Application

You and I must learn that when God increases the pressure in your life, maybe through trials, difficulties or hardships, that it should drive you to return to the Lord.

Not to run to escape the Lord.

Are you running towards Jesus or are you running away from Him when life becomes hard.

## 6. Question and answer vs 8-13

**<sup>8</sup> I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, "O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?"**

Here we find the second question.

This was not between an angel and Christ.

But by Daniel to the angel.

Daniel was seeking greater clarification on the outcome of the suffering the people would experience.

Outcome = aharit = the far side, the other side, Logos = the final state

What would the final state be of the tribulation period?

**<sup>9</sup> He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.**

The angels answer revealed that there was to be a divine restriction on what is to be comprehended about this prophetic vision.

Some of the content would not be revealed then.

But there is something you should know.

**<sup>10</sup> Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand.**

His final comments reveal that even though Daniel's people would be shattered, the tribulation period would have two kinds of people.

- The wise
- The wicked

The wise will understand, they will turn to Jesus, heed his warnings, will escape when Jerusalem is encircled by the anti Christ and in the end be purified and sanctified.

They will return to Christ

Run to Christ

And be delivered and purified by Christ

But

The wicked wont understand

They will continue in their wickedness.

And since they wont heed Christ warnings in the end, they will remain in Jerusalem until their death.

And ultimately we know the wicked will experience the second death.

The last two verses have left the theologians speculating again.

**<sup>11</sup> And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days.**

Vs 11 states that from time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination of desolation happens to the end of the tribulation period will be 1290 days.

So why the extra 30 days?

3 1/2 years is 1260 days .

Why the extra month.

- Some scholars state that the stopping of the sacrificial offerings in the tribulation period would be a month earlier than the abomination of desolation in the temple. (thats not a bad option, but there is little biblical evidence to support this)
- Some say the dates are to be viewed symbolically.
- Some say that after the 1260 days, 30 days later the abomination would be removed.
- MacArthur thinks it when the judgment of the living subsequent to Christ's return before the millennial kingdom will take place.(Mt 24:29-31)

#### **Matthew 24:29–31 ESV**

<sup>29</sup> "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the

heavens will be shaken.

<sup>30</sup> Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

<sup>31</sup> And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

**Matthew 25:31–32 ESV**

<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

<sup>32</sup> Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

Mt 25:31-35 describes in great detail what is called the judgment of the nations that may take place 1290 days after the abomination of desolation. But I cannot be dogmatic on this position.

We carry on.

## **<sup>12</sup> Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days.**

Blessed, happy or highly favored is the one who waits and arrives at the 1335 days.

45 days beyond the 1290 days or 75 days after the end of the tribulation period something will happen that will give great joy to the participants.

- Some again place a symbolic meaning to this.
- Some view this as the date for the judgment of the nations and even the judgment of the Jewish survivors of the tribulation period will take place.
- Some state that it refers to when the millennial kingdom begins with its government set in place.

This is also Macarthur's view. He believes the 45 days allow the transitioning of Israel's time of being shattered to God setting up His millennial kingdom.

I lean to that view because .

In Dan 7:13-14 the dominion, and glory and a kingdom is given to Jesus.

But in vs 18 we read.

**Daniel 7:18 ESV**

<sup>18</sup> But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.'

John also describe how in Christ kingdom the saints would reign with Christ in His kingdom.

**Revelation 20:4 ESV**

<sup>4</sup> Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

God's original purpose for man was to rule over God's creation.

**Genesis 1:28 ESV**

<sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

It seems that in the end in Christ kingdom, God will return to His original design of man perfectly reflecting Gods character and ruling .

So the 1335 days wold be when Christ is inaugurated as king of the millennial kingdom and His saints begin to rule as subordinates to Christ.

But I should say this.

On these two dates, we cannot be dogmatic.

What is sure is that these two events likely mark two events after the tribulation period.

IT may be the judgment of the nations and then kicking off of his Kingdom.

Time will ultimately reveal what God intended with these dates.

| Deuteronomy 29:29 (ESV)

| <sup>29</sup> "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, ...

The reality is that those who are a part of this will be blessed.

Satan and his demons will be out of the picture in the millennial kingdom.

Jesus will rule from Jerusalem.

There will be peace.

God's creatures will dwell in harmony.

God will be among His people.

God's covenants that he had made with Israel will all be fulfilled

Zechariah describes it

**Zechariah 14:7-10 ESV**

<sup>7</sup> And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night,

but at evening time there shall be light.

<sup>8</sup> On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter.

<sup>9</sup> And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one.

<sup>10</sup> The whole land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. But Jerusalem shall remain aloft on its site from the Gate of Benjamin to the place of the former gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's winepresses.

The angels final command is given to Daniel.

**<sup>13</sup> But go your way till the end.**

Which basically means carry on living til the end.

What would Daniels end be... His death.

**And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."**

The angel gave him hope what I would call living hope.

**1 Peter 1:3–4 ESV**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

<sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

**And you shall rest**

The term rest here refers to Daniel's death.

Death to Daniel would be rest for Him.

Rest from being in captivity.

Rest from all the turmoil of life

Rest from the conflicts Israel would soon face

The Psalmist describes the death of the believer as something special.

### **Psalm 116:15 ESV**

<sup>15</sup> Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

The believer will enter a blessed state.

### **Revelation 14:13 ESV**

<sup>13</sup> And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

Not only would Daniel take a rest from this world, His soul would be with His messiah. But the angel promised that he would get his glorious inheritance.

**and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."**

Allotted place = goral = allotment, ANE = pebble, OT = used for stones in casting a lot, It was also used for land allotted or your inheritance and used to refer to one's destiny, the portion or inheritance given by Yahweh.

He would have the God-given allotted inheritance in Christ's kingdom.

Can it be that when the 1335 days happen, Daniel will be standing joining the ranks

- of the wise,
- of the resurrected
- of the citizens of Christ's kingdom.

If you have repented and trusted in Jesus as your savior, you will enter Christ's rest, Christ's kingdom, the state of blessedness.

### **Revelation 14:12–13 ESV**

<sup>12</sup> Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

<sup>13</sup> And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

Are you going to be there?

Will you be a part of God's congregation?

Have you turned to Jesus

Have you trusted Him as your Savior

Have you committed to Him as Lord.

The answer to that question will determine whether you will be there or not.

| There can be no kingdom of God in the world without the kingdom of God in our

| hearts.

| **Albert Schweitzer**