

Lesson 12: Chapter 12 and Conclusion – God’s Promises for the Last Days

The book of Daniel closes with the completion of Daniel’s final vision, and a conclusory word from Christ himself.

Day 1: The close of Daniel’s vision offers both incredible sadness and incredible hope. Read Daniel 12:1-4.

1. What kind of suffering will the people of Israel experience during the last days (v.1)?
2. What will happen to “everyone whose name is written in the book”?
3. What is this book (hint- see Revelation 20:11-15)?
4. How can anyone be sure that their names are written in the book of life?
 - a. What must happen in order for someone to receive the free gift of eternal life (see Romans 10:9-10)?
 - b. For those that confess with their mouths and souls that Jesus is Lord and believe that He has been raised from the dead, there is assurance that their names will be written in the book of life forever. Remember the words of Jesus in John 10:27-28, “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.” Copy and memorize Revelation 3:5.
 - c. What happens to those who those who are not awakened to everlasting life (v. 2)?

Day 2: Read Daniel 12:5-13. As the vision dissipates, the man clothed in linen, Christ himself, reappears.

1. In vv. 5-7, Daniel listens to a conversation between Christ, described as suspended in mid-air above a river, and two angels. What do the men ask him to reveal?
2. In Christ’s response in v. 7, he mentions a phrase we encountered earlier in Daniel, “a time, times, and times and half a time” (see Lesson 7, Day 4 notes). What time does this indicate that the vision of the great distress in vv.1-2 will take place?
3. Still feeling puzzled following this exchange, Daniel asks Christ in v. 8, “My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?”. Copy Christ’s response in v. 10.
4. In v. 11 Christ affirms both the truth of the prophecy revealed many years ago to Daniel and the fact that he is speaking of the very end of days, those preceding the inauguration of the everlasting heavenly kingdom by Christ himself, arriving in the clouds. What message does he give to those who will experience this most terrible time of tribulation (v.12)?

Day 3: As we conclude our studies in the book Daniel, we will close by thinking on some of the main themes that we have encountered these past weeks. First, let’s examine what the book has to tell us about God’s sovereignty and power.

1. What has the book of Daniel taught you about the sovereignty of God?
2. Have you ever experienced a time when you have doubted God's sovereignty?
3. What verses in Daniel could you remember you in times of uncertainty and doubt?
4. Closely related to God's sovereignty is his all-surpassing power. Throughout the twelve chapters of the book of Daniel, we have encountered the mighty strength of God in many ways.
 - a. What does the power of God look like to His enemies?
 - b. What does that same power look like to His faithful followers?

Day 4: As we read through the book of Daniel, we do not only learn about God, we also see examples of great faithfulness and perseverance on the part of believers.

1. How can you follow the examples of men like Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in your own life?
2. Can you think of other biblical role models we can learn about?
3. Who is the ultimate role model for the Christian to look to emulate (hint – see 1 Peter 2:21-25)?

Day 5: Finally, it is important that, although there is value in identifying the major themes of the book of Daniel, we do not forget the prophecies it contains.

1. List five prophecies in the book of Daniel that were fulfilled in Daniel's lifetime.
2. List five prophecies that were fulfilled between Daniel's death and our current age.
3. List five prophecies that are still unfulfilled to this day, and when the book of Daniel says we can expect their fulfillment.

