

GODLY LIVING IN A GODLESS WORLD

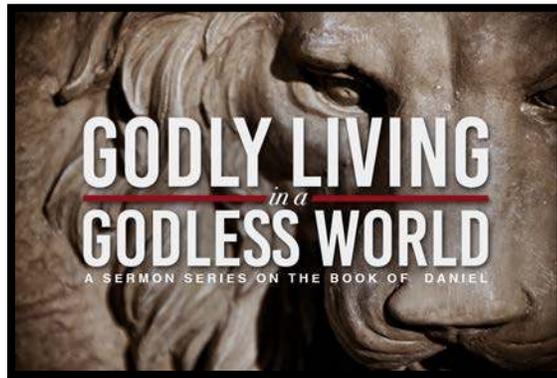
Expositional Study Of Daniel

Daniel 12:5

Written By

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Daniel chapter 12 drives home the concept prophetically developed in the entire book that God's glorious kingdom is going to prevail over evil, that wickedness will not triumph over righteousness, that injustice will not trump justice, and that false religion and false worship will not exist alongside of the true religion and true worship of the long-awaited Messiah, Jesus Christ. Makes you wonder, since the ol' Devil knows what is coming down the prophetic pike, I wonder how he views this consummative kingdom chapter? I think I know what his theme song should be. [Play video with Joe Bonamassa, Dusty Hill, Derek Trucks and Billy Gibbons singing *I'm Going Down*]. And why is the Devil and his evil empire and influence going down? It has to go down when **THE MESSIANIC EXPRESS** pulls into the proverbial station.

The kingdom of God train has yet to arrive at the station; however, in this study we get a taste of its excitement as we pull this insightful and exciting study of Daniel up to the preaching platform. I don't know about you but I've been blessed in the last year and a half. God has . . .

- . . . given me new insights in this powerful prophecy.
- . . . renewed and deepened my understanding of His providence in every facet of life from politics to personal existence.
- . . . enabled me to watch many of you grow and flourish in your faith and in

- your desire to be bold with that faith in a faithless world.
- . . . motivated me to be courageous with His truth by reacquainting me with the courage of Daniel and his friends.
 - . . . solidified my respect and allegiance to the Bible as THE Word of God among other so-called, but inferior, holy books.
 - . . . reaffirmed the importance of prayer while you live in a Babylonian environment.
 - . . . given me a burning desire to challenge the lost around me to turn to Christ and be saved.
 - . . . shown me that His holy hand is, in fact, holding the wheel of history and guiding it to the consummation of history at the revelation of Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah (Daniel 9:24-27).

This last premise, which was first presented in Daniel chapter 2, is driven home with great precision in chapter 12. Throughout this consummative chapter, God develops a theme we all know very well:

God's Messianic Kingdom Program Can't Be Derailed, But It Will Be Hailed (Daniel 12:1-13)

Five thematic movements develop this premise. I invite you to review them with me.

- *The Desolation Of The Passengers* (Daniel 12:1a). The Devil will try and stop God's plan by wiping out the Jews.
- *The Deliverance Of The Passengers* (Daniel 12:1b). God will deliver a contingent of His people who turn to Him at the end.
- *The Destination of Souls* (Daniel 12:2-3). Two resurrections, divided by 1,000 years, will send people into the Messiah's kingdom or into eternal punishment.
- *The Disclosure of the Prophecy* (Daniel 12:4). As time unfolds and God's prophetic word is fulfilled to the letter, and as events line up to bring complete fulfillment to everything God has disclosed to Daniel, saints will pour over this holy book to better understand the times in which they live.
- *The Delineation of Time* (Daniel 12:5-12). Wickedness will fully ripen in the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation as God prepares His people, Israel, for His glorious arrival.

And arrive He shall as we learn in the final two verses.

Watch how God drives this meaning home and how it, also, should impact a believer's life.

¹¹ From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there will be* 1,290 days. ¹² How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!

What time is God speaking about here? He is addressing the time in the middle of the seven year tribulation when the Anti-christ moves into Israel as they are attacked (Daniel 7:15-28; 9:24-27; 11:40-45), defeats the forces of the world arrayed against them and him, and sets himself up as THE ultimate statist ruler (Revelation 13). At that time he will, also, trash the rebuilt temple of God in Jerusalem, like Antiochus Epiphanes IV did (Daniel 11:30-31; Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14), and set himself up as not just THE King of the World, but god to be worshiped.

We know all of this from studying the book of Daniel, but God's communicate here is somewhat cryptic and confusing. How so? First, it leads us to ask, "What exactly is the Anti-christ desecrating?" Two, based on the time markers from Daniel 7:25; 12:7; Revelation 11:2-3; 12:6; 13:5, we must ask, "If the Anti-christ pulls out all the stops of evil in the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation, what is God talking about with these 1,290 and 1,335 day figures? Counting 30 days in a lunar month gives us 3 ½ years for the last part of the tribulation, so what is up with the extra thirty days and forty-five days?" Let's answer these questions in the order presented.

One, the Anti-christ will desecrate the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem. Currently, the Dome of the Rock rests on Israel's former Solomonic and Herodian temple platform. Based on my analysis over the years, however, I believe Israel's temple was located just north of the Islamic holy place. As you can see from the photos, there is, indeed, ample room for its reconstruction without disturbing the famous Dome (and starting WW III in the process).



God told John in Revelation that this temple would be built.

Listen to His inerrant words:

And there was given me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, 'Rise and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and those who worship in it. ² And leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread underfoot the



holy city for forty-two months. ³ And I will grant *authority* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth' (Revelation 11).

The forty-two months and twelve hundred and sixty days correspond perfectly with Daniel's time parameters for the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation, or what Jesus calls the Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21). During this last time period, God will send two powerful Jewish witnesses to proclaim His gospel to an out-of-control, godless world, and also during this time the Anti-christ will completely desecrate the rebuilt Jewish temple. This will be the fourth temple of God¹ (Solomon's Temple, Zerubbabel's Temple, and Herod's Temple), and as with the others, it will be attacked by the Devil and his people.



Interestingly enough, based on Haggai's prophecy in 2:6-9, a select and highly motivated group of Jews today are working overtime to prepare for the construction and operation of this next temple.

⁴ 'But now take courage, Zerubbabel,' declares the LORD, 'take courage also, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and all you people of the land take courage,' declares the LORD, 'and work; for I am with you,' says the LORD of hosts. ⁵ 'As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt, ³My Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear! ⁶ For thus says the LORD of hosts, Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land. ⁷ And I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations; and I will fill this house with glory,' says the LORD of hosts. ⁸ The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' declares the LORD of hosts. ⁹ 'The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former,' says the LORD of hosts, 'and in this place I shall give peace,' declares the LORD of hosts.

God's promise here is that one day a temple will be built which will blow away anything Zerubbabel built with limited funds, and it will be on the earth *after* He judges the nations. *The Temple Institute* in Old Jerusalem, has taken this prophecy and begun to build all the implements

¹ Asher S. Kaufman, "Where the Ancient Temple of Jerusalem Stood," *Biblical Archaeology Review* 9:2, (March/April 1983).

needed for the temple to function per God's commands in the Torah (Exodus 27-30).² The temple they are preparing to rebuild, however, will become the Tribulational Temple, not the Millennial Temple prophesied by Haggai, and given intricate construction details in Ezekiel 40 through 44. Is this not just simply breath-taking? Everything is literally falling into place just like God said it would. And you say you need more facts before you can trade your disbelief in Jesus for belief? I think you have enough evidence to trade kingdoms right now by bowing, in faith, before the Savior (Acts 4:10-12; Romans 10:9).

Two, the answer to the second question is a little more involved. Why will there a total of 75 extra days after the close of the seven year tribulation at the Second Coming of Christ? Why 30 days followed by 45 days?

For one, 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9 states how the Anti-christ, who desecrates the Tribulational Temple, will die when Jesus appears.

⁸ Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; ⁹ that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders . . .

These verses should be read in light of a parallel prophecy in Revelation 19:20,

²⁰ And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

What do these text seem to allude to? Paul's words denote that the Anti-christ will die when he encounters the risen and righteous Lord Jesus. John's words seem to indicate he will be resurrected, along with the false prophet, to face his final judgment before Jesus. This stands to reason, for just as the first resurrection begins with Jesus and then leads to the resurrection unto eternal life for all of His followers; it is quite possible that the Anti-christ will be raised to represent all of his adherents who will be raised in the second resurrection unto eternal damnation. If this is what occurs, then, we can readily see why thirty extra days are provided after the Second Coming.

Further, extra time like this will be needed to sort through who will go into the messianic kingdom and who will not. Jesus speaks about this in Matthew 25.

³² All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; ³³ and He will

² Check out their website: www.templeinstitute.org/red_heifer/red_heifer_requirements.htm.

put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ 'For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; ³⁶ naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? ³⁸ 'And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? ³⁹ 'When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' ⁴⁰ The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.' ⁴¹ Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; ⁴³ I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.' ⁴⁴ "Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' ⁴⁵ Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' ⁴⁶ These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life (Matthew 25).

Thirty days will be needed for divine judgment is the answer to the question. I can't help but ask one more time, "Which group do you belong to, the sheep or the goats?"

"All right," you say, "I can readily see why there are thirty extra days added after the close of the tribulation, but why 45 additional ones?" Good question. I've asked that myself. I think the answer to this question is quite simple and logical. There are, in my view, two viable answers.

First, various Old Testament prophetic texts tells us there will be definite topographical changes to the earth when the Messiah appears.

⁴ In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. ⁵ You will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD, my God, will come, *and* all the holy ones with Him! ⁶ In that day there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle. ⁷ For it will be a unique day which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening

time there will be light. ⁸ And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter. ⁹ And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be *the only* one, and His name *the only* one. ¹⁰ All the land will be changed into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site from Benjamin's Gate as far as the place of the First Gate to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's wine presses. ¹¹ People will live in it, and there will no longer be a curse, for Jerusalem will dwell in security (Zechariah 14).

Not only is the area around Jerusalem radically modified (for the better) when Jesus returns, according to verse 10 he basically levels the land around Jerusalem in order to showcase the capital of His long-awaited and literally glorious Davidic empire. Some three hundred years prior to Zechariah, the prophet Micah said the same thing:

¹ And it will come about in the last days That the mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, And the peoples will stream to it (Micah 4).

It doesn't get any clearer than this, does it? Isaiah, a contemporary of Micah prophesied the same content, but added how the inhabitants of the kingdom will flow to the elevated city to worship and learn from the Messiah. Imagine the magnificent view as you travel to Jerusalem and see the Shekinah glory of the Messiah emanating from his mountainous capital! Here is what Isaiah prophesied:

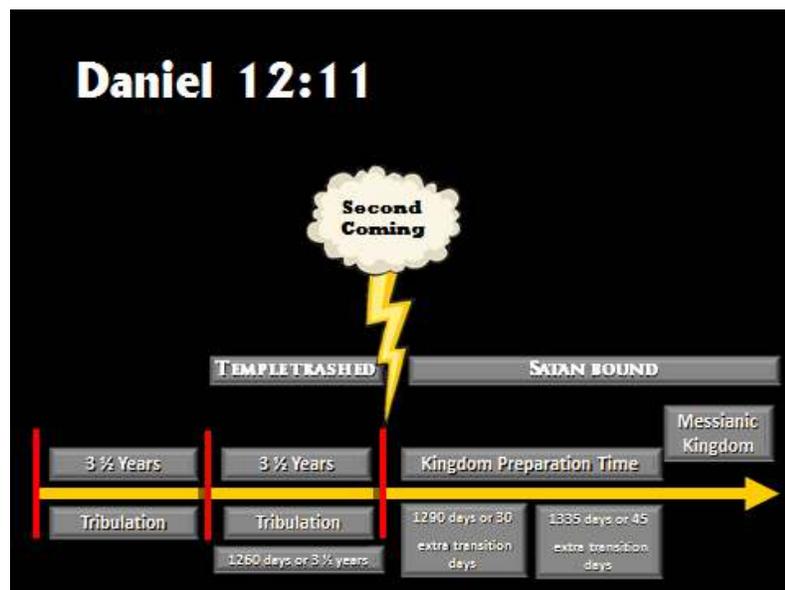
¹ The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it. ³ And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war. ⁵ Come, house of Jacob, and let us walk in the light of the LORD (Isaiah 2).

How exciting. Forty-five extra days are added in order to prepare the Lord's city for his new government. And from what we learn in Ezekiel chapters 40 through 44 a new millennial

temple will be constructed which will dwarf all other divinely mandated temples. I'll leave this for a future study, or challenge you to dig into it yourself.

Second, forty-five extra days are added in order for the Lord to get his governmental team in order for ruling and reigning. Don't forget the lessons from Daniel and the rest of the Old Testament. Jesus will erect His kingdom (Psalm 2, 89; Isaiah 2:2-4; 9:3-7; 11:1-10; 16:5; 24:21-23; 31:4-32:2; 42:1-7; 49:1-7; 51:4-5; Daniel 2:44; 7:15-28; Obadiah 17-21; Micah 4:1-8; 5:2-5, 15; Zechariah 3:9-10, 18-19; 9:10-15; 14:16-17), and He will select saints to be a various levels of his government (Isaiah 32:1; Jeremiah 30:21). This is exactly what Jesus speaks about in Luke 19 in parabolic form:

¹¹ And while they were listening to these things, He went on to tell a parable, because He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately. ¹² He said therefore, 'A certain nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and *then* return. ¹³ And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business *with this* until I come *back*.' ¹⁴ But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' ¹⁵ And it came about that when he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him in order that he might know what business they had done. ¹⁶ And the first appeared, saying, 'Master, your mina has made ten minas more.' ¹⁷ And he said to him, 'Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, be in authority over ten cities.' ¹⁸ And the second came, saying, 'Your mina, master, has made five minas.' ¹⁹ And he said to him also, 'And you are to be over five cities' (Luke 19).



He taught this parable as he approached Jerusalem because the people thought the messianic kingdom was about to appear. And what did they anticipate if that kingdom did, in fact, appear? Placement in the governmental structure. What did Jesus go on to teach? He underscored that each of His followers is entrusted with treasure (a mina represented three months of pay, or a lot of money for folks back then) to invest in the expansion of His kingdom, not theirs. Those who invested well and

bountifully will be rewarded in like kind as he chooses his cabinet, to employ D.C. language. In light of this, I can't but help but ask you, "Where do you think your current investment of the time and treasure He has entrusted you with will wind up place you in Christ's empire?" This is a thought which should always be on your mind, especially as you give to his local church. Anyway, the point from Luke 19 is well-taken. Jesus needs the extra forty-five days to populate His millennial kingdom. Those who make it to this 1,335 day juncture are, in God's mind, blessed. Why? Because they made it! They are in the kingdom? All of this moves me to ask the logical, burning question: Will you be in the kingdom when the King of Kings comes?

With all the prophetic details now out in the open, God closes this comforting word to an aged and highly faithful saint, Daniel:

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).

Daniel has heard this emphatic Hebrew expression before (Daniel 8:26; 12:4, **וְאַתָּה** , *we'attah*), and he knows it is a divine tripwire for some amazing information. God didn't let him down either. What does God tell his faithful saint, who truly illustrated what godly living in a godless world looks like? He tells him to go and live out the rest of his life, and that even though he would die one day, he will be resurrected to receive his land allotment in the kingdom age. You might need to read that one more time.

Every Israelite knows that the lot, or the drawing of the proverbial straws (which God controls, Proverbs 16:33, and which He commanded, Numbers 26:55), historically denotes the land that God gave to Israel after the conquest under Joshua (Joshua 14:2; 15:1; 16:1; 17:1, 14, 17; 18:6, 8, 10, 11; 19:1, 10, 17, 24, 32, 40, 51; 21:4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 40), land promised to Israel in the Abrahamic (Genesis 12:1-7; 13:14-17; 15:1-21; 17:1-14; 22:15-18), Palestinian (Deuteronomy 30:1-10), Davidic (2 Samuel 7), and New covenants (Jeremiah 30-31). Ezekiel re-emphasized that these tribal land parameters would not be overlooked with the Messiah showed up. He spends many detailed verses on the subject, viz., 47:13-48:8, to underscore that God will, by no means, forget what He has promised. Daniel can, then, rest assured that God will resurrect him from the grave to make sure he, personally, receives what God promised to him in the kingdom age. What grace! What love! Isn't God good? Yes, all the time.

To you are disillusioned as you live in this wicked world, to you who wonder what is taking God so long to fulfilled His kingdom program, to you who wonder when good will triumph over evil, to you who might feel a tinge of hopelessness as we live and move among people who love outright evil, I have a word from Paul to you which sounds a lot like the word of God to Daniel:

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15).

Our toil for God, like Daniel's toil for God, is not in vain. Why? The King is coming and He will raise us, too, to make sure we enjoy every moment of His utopian, righteous Davidic empire.

I'll be there.

What about you?