



Lesson 9 - The End Times

Daniel Chapter 12 - Verses 1 - 13

Lesson 9

Did we ever think it would get like it has in Washington DC? A mere 20 years ago everything that has become normal in the news would have been considered science fiction in the far distant future. What could have caused such chaos?

Revelation Chapter 6:1-8

I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.

When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from

the earth and to make people kill each other. To him was given a large sword.

When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "Two pounds of wheat for a day's wages, and six pounds of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!"

When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.

Study the second seal - its rider was given the power to take peace from the earth and make people kill each other and it tells us he was given a large sword. This would indicate that this phenomenon would be large (it could persist for a long time or it could mean a large number of killings). This is what we see every day.

In the US we see commercials and we hear people talk about poverty here and hunger and we know that we definitely have a rapidly increasing homeless problem. But the US pales in comparison to the rest of the world. From the World Poverty website these statistics give us more insight to the world outside of the US.

- 3 billion people live on less than \$2.50 per day, including 1.2 billion people in extreme poverty who live on less than \$1.25 per day.
- About 75% of the world's poor populations live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihood.
- In developing countries, the poor spend 60-80% of their income on food. Americans spend less than 10%.
- Over 800 million people worldwide do not have enough food to eat and 3 million children die from malnutrition each year.
- Approximately 1.2 billion people live without electricity.
- 40 million children worldwide live without adequate shelter.
- More than 750 million people lack adequate access to clean water.
- 270 million children have no access to health services
- 2 billion people do not have a bank account or access to basic financial services.

It is difficult to see these numbers and comprehend their magnitude but let's look at it this way. If we took one of our large stadiums that hold 100,000 people. We would be able to fill it up 30,000 times with just the people living on less than \$2.50 per day.

Now take another look at the rider of the black horse from the third seal. The meaning of this is that there will be extreme poverty and at the same time the symbols of wealth will be unharmed. To understand what is happening we have to expand our base of knowledge. The US represents about 5% of the world's population.

At this time many, many people groups around the world are hungry for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is moving all over the earth and God loves all of His people - everywhere.

Daniel 12

Starting in Chapter 11:29 we see "At the appointed time" and verse 35: "Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time." Verse 36: "He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed" verse 40: "At the time of the end the king of the South...". Verse 45: "He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain. Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him."

These verse lead us into Chapter 12 notice the chronology that they establish - "At the appointed time" tells us God is in control. He has set forth the time that these things will take place. Verse 36 tells us that this will continue until the time of wrath is completed. Genesis 6:5 tells us *"The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time."* This is what led God to select Noah to be the sole survivors of His wrath. Noah took 100 years to build the ark so God gave the earth 100 years to repent and turn from their sin but they did not. God is slow to anger but when he is ready to move, He moves swiftly.

Daniel 12:1 *"At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress 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."*

Michael, the angel will arise - this is the same Michael that he referred to in Chapter 10.

Revelation 20:15 - *“Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.”*

Daniel 12:2 - *“Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.”*

In Revelation 20 we see the account of those who had been beheaded in the name of Jesus and they had not received the mark of the beast. The first resurrection is when these are awakened to rule with Jesus Christ in the millennium. The rest of the dead are not raised until after the 1,000 year reign and they will be judged then and if their name is not written in the Lamb's book of life then they will be thrown in the lake of fire with the Beast, False Prophet and the Dragon.

Daniel 12:3-4 - *“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. But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.”*

Remember that wisdom comes from knowing God. Also, remember in Genesis 3:4-6 - *“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and **also desirable for gaining wisdom**, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.”*

Proverbs 1:7 explains it best - *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”*

Daniel 12:4 spoke of increasing knowledge but we are not sure if it is increasing knowledge through the fear of the Lord or as fools.

Daniel 12:5-6 - *“Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank. One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?”*

Set the stage here - remember this vision started back in Chapter 10:4 with Daniel seeing the man dressed in linen with a belt of fine gold and Daniel was the only one who saw him but everyone else was overcome with terror and hid. At the end of this man speaking to Daniel while hovering over the water draws his explanation to a close and apparently now there are two more standing on the banks of the river ask the question - *“How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?”* We would all love to have the answer to this question - but we are not going to get it.

Daniel 12:7 - *“The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, “It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed.”*

As it was in Jewish tradition, raising your right hand to heaven signified the sincerity of the oath and raising both hands must be added emphasis so that Daniel knows it is true and is sworn on heaven.

Ok, time, times and half a time are usually explained as 3 1/2 years. To support this claim we look at other Biblical texts that establish this concept. In Numbers 14:34 - *“For forty years —one year for each of the forty days you explored the land—you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have me against you.”* This is the foundation of this concept. When Moses sent the representatives of the 12 Jewish tribes into the Promised Land to search it out and 10 of them came back and said they could not do it. God sentenced them to 40 years of wandering - one year for each day.

In Ezekiel 4:4-6 - *“Then lie on your left side and put the sin of the people of Israel upon yourself. You are to bear their sin for the number of days you lie on your side. **I have assigned you the same number of days as the years of their sin.** So for 390 days you will bear the sin of the people of Israel. After you have finished this, lie down again, this time on your right side, and bear the sin of the people of Judah. I have assigned you 40 days, a day for each year.”*

As we can see God established the relationship of a day for a year and so seventy weeks is 490 days which is 490 years. This was also used earlier in Daniel 4:32 referring to Nebuchadnezzar - *“You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he*

wishes.” Also, in Revelation 12:6 - *“The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.”*

We see contrasting uses for “days” sometimes as we have seen it means years and other times it just means the usual 24 hour day. The best I can tell is that a day means a year when it relates to punishment and the rest of the time is just means the usual 24 hour day. Also note that the Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar and is 360 days per year.

Daniel 12:8 - 9 - *“I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, “My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?” He replied, “Go your way, Daniel, because the words are rolled up and sealed until the time of the end.”*

I am glad I am not alone - even Daniel did not understand what this means and it sounds like the angel was not going to make it any clearer to Daniel. His words are sealed up until the end of time. What does that mean? Do we have all of Daniel’s writings? Or is it intentionally confusing until the end and somehow the events will occur in such a way that all of this will make sense.

Daniel 12:10 - *“Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.”*

Made spotless - The blood of the lamb - Revelation 12:7 - *“I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”*

Many will be purified by the blood of Jesus Christ. We are refined through persecution. Anyone can claim to be a Christian and do a lot of things as a Christian but persecution really refines Christianity. As Jesus tells us right after He finished the Beatitudes: Matthew 5:11-12 - *“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”* The wicked cannot understand WHY a Christian will endure persecution because of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is why governments around the world fight against Christians - they can’t understand why we will forgo everything because of Jesus Christ.

Daniel 12:11 - 12 - *“From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.”*

This is the time that Jesus was referring to in Matthew 24:15 - *“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”* This is clearly an event for the future. The 1290 days is 30 days more than the 3.5 years that we usually think of for the midpoint of Daniel’s seventieth week. Then when we look at the 1335 days we see that is 75 days longer than 3.5 years. Seven years should be 2,520 days but $1335 + 1290$ is 2,625 days so we have an extra 105 days that we are not sure where those days come from or why they are extra.

Daniel 12:13 - *“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.”*

Daniel gets his reward for his obedience and faith in God. He will be one of the ones who is raised to everlasting life. This is our goal as Christians. Next week we will summarize what we learned in Daniel and look ahead to the upcoming lessons that will increase our understanding.

Lesson Goals - What did we learn?

