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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Daniel 12.

(2014)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises
But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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Daniel 12.

Topics.

- Many who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.
- The book is sealed until the time of the end.
- A time, times, and half a time.
- The words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.
- The abomination of desolation.
- One day is with the Lord as a thousand years.
- The commonwealth of Israel.
- The glory of the spiritual temple God is building in Christ.

INTRODUCTION: this chapter continues on from the previous chapter, the angel having the appearance of a man (Dan. 10:18) who in chapter eleven has been giving Daniel the interpretation of the vision he had in chapter ten now gives Daniel the conclusion to that vision.

NOTE: for information of people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

Many who Sleep in the Dust of the Earth shall Awake.

Daniel 12:1-3 ----- ¹At that time (when the final Gentile world leader invades Israel) (Dan 11:41-45) shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your (Daniels') people (Israel). 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 (Israel) shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.²And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³And 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.

Michael: means who is like God? He is the archangel whose chief responsibility seems to have been the care of the Jewish people.

The climax of Daniels' vision: this is the climax of Daniels' vision in chapter ten which will take place when the stone made without hands of Daniel chapter two crushes the kingdoms of the world which will be at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 17:14).

The Book is Sealed until the Time of the End.

Daniel 12:4 ----- ⁴But 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."

This sounds very much like the age we live in today, daily millions travel to and fro across the oceans of the world and hundreds of millions are on the roads every-day.

A Time, Times, and Half a Time.

Daniel 12:5-7 ----- ⁵Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream. ⁶And 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?" ⁷And 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.

Shattering: comes from the Hebrew word (*naphats*). From Strong's Concordance it means to dash to pieces or scattered, to be beaten or broken in pieces, to cause to be discharged or to dispersed.

NOTICE: it is the shattering of the power meaning, it the authority of Israel that is being shattered. Israel was to be the head and not the tail of all nations, but at the moment they have very little authority over the nations of the world, which means the term shattering would embrace constant trouble and lack of authority (i.e., a lack of kingship over the nations).

Daniel hears someone ask the man clothed in linen how long will it be to the end of this wonders? (To the resurrection) (v1-3), but the man simply says that it will be for a "time, times, and half a time" before Israel will live in safety and peace. So there will be a time of continual trouble for Israel up to the time Michael stands up and protects the people of Israel and everyone whose name is written in God's Book will be delivered to eternal life which means the time period continues right up to the resurrection (v1-2).

The man clothed in linen told Daniel that Israel will be shattered for "a time, times, and half a time" until all the shattering of Israel (or their lack of power and authority over the nations) comes to an end. Therefore; the expression "a time, times, and half a time" must take us to the end of Israel's shattering and lack of authority over the nations (i.e. to the return of Christ)

The Words are Shut up and Sealed until the Time of the End.

Daniel 12:8-10 ----- ⁸I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, "O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?" ⁹He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed *until the time of the end*. ¹⁰Many 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.

These words confirm that the focus of this prophecy is to the end of time as we know it. Daniel does not understand what the angel was saying so he asks again and is told that the vision extends to the end of our present age and that during this present time some will accept the Lord and do right while others will continue to deny Him and act wickedly.

The wise will understand: none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise will, probably refers to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and the New Testament message of salvation, this is most likely why Daniel could not understand as he was simply told that he is not expected to understand the vision because it is sealed, meaning it hasn't happened yet, but when it does the wise will understand and respond.

In the first century AD, the apostle John wrote: -

- Children, it is the *last hour*, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the *last hour* (1 John 2:18).

No doubt John here refers to the final "time, times, and a half" of (Dan. 12:7). Since it extends to the end of the age, it must span the entire period in which Christ confirms the New Covenant with the church, and the Gospel is proclaimed in the world.

The author of Hebrews says: -

- But in these *last days* he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world (Heb. 1:2).

We are already in the last days or the time of the end (there are many other New Testament verses that confirm this) therefore we are already in the time period covered by the expression "a time, times, and half a time."

NOTICE: during this period covered by the expression, "a time, times, and half a time" the population is continuing as per normal, some are being saved while others continue to act wickedly.

The Abomination of Desolation.

Daniel 12:11-13 ----- ¹¹And 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. ¹²Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days. ¹³But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."

The expression, "a time, times, and half a time" does not have to begin from the time the abomination of desolation is set up, the verse simply states that during the period covered by the expression, "a time, times, and half a time" the abomination of desolation will be set up and then from that point there will be 1,290 days (or 1,335 days) to the resurrection (v1-3) and when Israel dwells in peace in their land (this will include faithful Jews and Gentiles gathered together with Christ at Jerusalem God's Holy City). For a greater understanding of how Jews and Gentiles become one nation see the title: "The Commonwealth of Israel" (at the end of this chapter).

Isaiah the great prophet proclaimed: -

- It shall come to pass *in the latter days* that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, (Isaiah 2:2). (Micah 4:1, makes the same statement as do many other Scriptures).

SUMMARY: a time, times, and half a time, this expression, covers a time period of continual trouble for Israel up to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ in glory and the resurrection.

SUMMARY: the abomination that makes desolate: (Daniel 12:11) the word abomination refers to something that is extremely disliked or offensive, in this context it is so offensive to God that it brings everything to ruin. Following are seven abominations the Bible says the LORD hates: -

1. Pride and arrogance.
2. A lying tongue.
3. Hands that shed innocent blood.
4. A heart that devises wicked plans.
5. Feet that make haste to run to evil.
6. A false witness who breathes out lies.
7. One who sows discord among brothers (Proverbs 6:16-20).

When Daniel, in prophecy, tried to describe an abomination so abhorrent and loathsome to all moral and religious decency as to leave its abode desolate, he used the expression, "The abomination that makes desolate" (Dan. 9:27) (Dan. 11:31, (Dan. 12:11). The abomination that Daniel has in focus: -

- Is a person that destroys and brings everything to ruin.
- Is the thing a person says or does that, results in utter destruction.
- Will most likely embrace all of the seven abominations the LORD hates.

Whatever or whoever the abomination of desolation is, the end result is absolute destruction (Dan. 9:27) (Dan. 11:31) (Dan. 12:11).

Antiochus IV Epiphanes: the Jews thought the following words of Daniel chapter eleven: "Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the *abomination that makes desolate* (Daniel 11:31) was fulfilled in 186 BC, when Antiochus IV Epiphanes the king of Syria erected an idolatrous altar on the altar of the temple in Jerusalem and sacrificed a pig thereon to the heathen god Jupiter Olympus.

Many teachers: hold that Jesus prophecy that his followers would see the *abomination of desolation* spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the Holy Palace (Matt. 24:15) (Mark 13:14) was fulfilled when Jerusalem was destroyed in the year 70 AD, when the temple was desecrated by Roman soldiers and by Jewish Zealots.

Other Scholars: however, see in the prophecies of Daniel and of Jesus an eschatological reference, interpreting them to refer to the man of sin Paul speaks of in (2 Thess. 2) and because Jesus in Luke says when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near (Luke 21:20).

Following is a possible scenario of the abomination of desolation: Jesus is speaking to Peter, James, John and Andrew (all Jewish) and says when they see the abomination of desolation is standing in the Holy Place where it should be not be flee to the mountains (Mark 13:3) (Matt. 24:15). To the Jewish mind the Holy Place is the Temple of God in Jerusalem, this means that Jesus is saying when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies then know that its desolation is near (Luke 21:20).

Putting these verses together the abomination of desolation seems to be A Syrian or Middle East ruler setting himself up in the Temple of God in Jerusalem after gathering the Islamic nations of the Middle East and surrounding the city of Jerusalem and gaining the victory over it. This maybe the event called the abomination of desolation which then brings sudden destruction and ruin to the city but, at the same time results in the return of the Lord Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords and the resurrection. Following these events Christ saves Jerusalem, brings peace to the Middle East, gains power over all its wealth (i.e. oil etc.) and multitudes world-wide accept his authority including Assyria and Egypt.

Isaiah wrote: -

- In that day (the day Jerusalem becomes a terror to the Egyptians) there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians. ²⁴In that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, ²⁵whom the LORD of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance" (Isaiah 19:23-25).

But the nations of Rome, Papal Rome and Europe fear losing their power so they give their authority and military might to the final world ruler (the little horn of Daniel) to make war against Christ and his Kingdom.

In the book of Revelation it is written: -

- The ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast (the final world ruler).. ¹³These are of one mind and hand over their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful" (Revelation 17:12-14).
- From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁷Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he

called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, ¹⁸to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great." ¹⁹And I saw the beast (the final world ruler) and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army (Revelation 19:15-19).

The final scenario of Christ's return will play out very like the last few days prior to his death and resurrection. Because the crowds were flocking to Jesus and proclaiming him King the religious leaders (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) feared losing their positions of importance, their control and their power over the people so they enticed Rome to kill Jesus, but this time Christ is not coming as the Lamb to be slaughtered, but the King to conquer and establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.

The 1290 and 1335 Days: (v11-12) I am not going to pretend to know what these figures mean Daniel is told the prophetic words he spoke are sealed, until they actually begin to take place so it is not critical that we understand what the 1,290 and 1,335 days are, even the great prophet Daniel who actually asked an angel for the meaning still had no idea what the days meant, but what is important is to be found standing in faith when these days are fulfilled (Daniel 12:12-13).

One Day is with the Lord as a Thousand Years.

Based on the following verse: -

- Beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day (2 Peter 3:8).

There have been numerous theories written regarding the prophetic time period covered by the Jewish idiom: "time, times and half a time." But it must be remembered that this verse is not a doctrinal verse teaching that a day equals a literal thousand years. Peter is simply making the point that what appears to us to be a long time is, but a short time to the LORD. Peter is comforting his listeners (who maybe getting impatient for the Lord's return) by telling them time to the Lord is not the same as it is to us, what may seem like forever to us is but only a moment to the Lord. Therefore to dogmatically say that one day equals a literal thousand years and then use it as a formula to work out futuristic periods of time maybe reading far more into the verse than Peter intended.

The Commonwealth of Israel.

It is important to understand that the promised seed of Abraham and David is Christ, all the promises to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ therefore they are not limited to Israel only but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew) this means that Jews and Gentiles become one new nation in Christ (also called, a new man, a new creation, the church, the body of Christ and the Kingdom of God).

The Apostle Paul said: -

- Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands—¹²remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the *COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL* and *STRANGERS* to the *COVENANTS* of *PROMISE*, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both *ONE* and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself *ONE*

NEW MAN (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). ¹⁷And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). ¹⁸For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father. ¹⁹So then you (Gentiles) are *NO LONGER* strangers and aliens, but you are *FELLOW CITIZENS* with the *SAINTS* (the Jews) and members of the *HOUSEHOLD* of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone ²¹in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a *DWELLING PLACE* for *GOD* by the Spirit (Ephes. 2:11-22).

Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles).

In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God since in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world.

The practical application of what this means to you: -

If you belong to Christ, all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to you. The book of Revelation states: -

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

The Glory of the Spiritual Temple God is Building in Christ.

Jews and Gentiles are being united together as one body in Christ to be a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Believing Jews and Gentiles are being prepared by the prophets and apostles teachings and by the influence of Christ and the Holy Spirit to become a majestic and glorious sacred temple in which God dwells for all eternity.

When this majestic building is completed there will be nothing so worthy of reverence since God dwells in it; so ancient since the patriarchs and prophets laboured in building it; so solid since love cements it together; so closely united and indivisible since Christ is the corner stone; so exalted since it reaches as high as heaven and to God himself; so full of wisdom since its specifications are the word of God; so full of light since the Holy Spirit dispels every dark corner; so spacious since it is spread over the whole earth; so invincible and indestructible since it is being built by God, by Christ, by the Holy Spirit and by the influence of God's eternal word; so divine since it is a living, vibrant, dynamic temple inhabited by the Holy Spirit and so universal since all its unique stones though spread throughout the world are compacted together in Christ.

God is the master builder of this majestic and glorious temple; Christ is the corner stone; faithful believers are the proper materials; the prophets and apostles are its foundation and the Gospel and love its pillars.

Christ is the door and faith is the entrance into it. It is a spiritual building and through, faith and grace this living building is growing into an eternal house fit for the most Holy God to dwell in. It's beauty and radiance will surpass all temples that have ever gone before it since it will be adorned with a vast variety of rich colour made up of Jews and Gentiles of every age, country, sex, and condition: the mightiest of kings, the most renowned lawgivers, the most profound philosophers, the most eminent scholars and all those of whom the world was not worthy have formed this building.

Peter wrote: -

- Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him Will not be put to shame (1 Pet. 2:6).

Every faithful brother and sister in Christ are represented as living stones that God is using to build this spiritual, majestic temple of eternal glory which will be manifested in splendour for all to see when: -

- The Lord himself descends from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ are raised then we who are alive are caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thess. 4:15-18).

End