

Daniel's Vision of World History (Part 2)



DANIEL 11:36-12:13

**TEXT, EXPOSITION AND PRACTICAL
HELPS**

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DIVISION III

The History and Destiny of Israel: Five Prophecies or Pictures Clearly Seen in Daniel's Visions, [Daniel 8:1–12:13](#)

Daniel's Vision of World History (Part 2): A Prophecy of the End Times, [Daniel 11:36–12:13](#)

[\(Daniel 11:36–12:13\)](#) **Introduction:** wars and rumors of war will spread and conflicts will sweep across the earth. One nation after another will fall, and all the horrors of war—the slaughter, bloodshed, atrocities, suffering, and so much more—still lay ahead for people throughout the world, but especially for the people of God. Daniel was completely overwhelmed. His own people, the Jews, were to be at the very center of the event.

Note that there is a definite break between [verses 35](#) and [36](#). Beginning with [verse 36](#), the king referred to in Scripture is the antichrist that is to arise in the last days of human history.

Three facts show this:

1. The king of [Daniel 11:36-45](#) is definitely a different king because he is opposed and attacked by the kings of both the North and the South ([Daniel 11:40](#)).
2. The facts given in [Daniel 11:36-45](#) did not take place during the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes or any other king down through history. Nor have they taken place yet today.
3. The king of [Daniel 11:36-45](#) must be the antichrist who was predicted earlier by Daniel ([Daniel 7:8](#); [Daniel 7:24-25](#); [Daniel 9:27](#); also see [2 Thessalonians 2:3-12](#); [Revelation 13:1-10](#)).

As this present Scripture shows, the wars and horrors of war will continue right up to the very end of time. And human history will climax in the horrifying battle known as Armageddon.

This is, *Daniel's Vision of World History (Part 2): A Prophecy of the End Times, [Daniel 11:36–12:13](#).*

1. **The reign of the self-willed king, the antichrist (11:36-45).**
2. **The prediction of the great tribulation (12:1).**
3. **The resurrection and judgment (12:2-3).**
4. **The duration and details of the great tribulation (12:4-13).**

1. ([Daniel 11:36-45](#)) Antichrist, Character, Nine Evil Traits—Antichrist, Military Conquest—Armageddon, Nations Involved, Coalition of Antichrist, Versus the East and North: the antichrist, a self-willed king, is coming to earth.

He will arise in the end times of human history and seek to become the supreme ruler of the world. But his rise to worldwide power will not come through military conflict. Rather, he will be elected as the leader of a ten-nation European coalition. He will be the little horn (power) that arises from the ten horns that have been discussed in one of Daniel's earlier prophecies ([Daniel 7:23-25](#); see [DEEPER STUDY # 1— Daniel 7:1-28 for more discussion](#)).

Revelation actually says that he will arise from among the people because of the enormous increase in world violence, terrorist activities, and natural catastrophes such as famine, earthquakes, and disease. People and nations will be clamoring for a brilliant leader who can offer solutions to the problems threatening the earth. The antichrist will be this leader, providing solutions and giving the people the hope for which they have been craving (see [Rev. 13:1](#)).

The present prophecy discusses three features of the antichrist:

a. The antichrist will arise as a man of peace, a man offering answers to the world's problems. However, he will prove to be wicked, a man whose basic character is selfish and evil. This self-willed king will be characterized by nine traits:

1) He will *do as he pleases*, seeking and doing only what he wills and desires ([Daniel 11:36^a](#)). He will be totally focused upon his own personal ambition, considering no one else. He will be so wrapped up in self that he will resist the thoughts, solutions, and ambitions of other world leaders. Because of his public support and political power, he will be convinced that he alone has the solution to the world's problems. Grippled by a spirit of arrogance, he will feel completely self-sufficient and have no need for the advice of others or for God.

2) The antichrist will be an atheist, exalting himself above all gods, even the LORD God Himself ([Daniel 11:36^b](#)). And yet he will use religion to secure power (see [Rev. 17:7-14 for more discussion](#)). Eventually, though, he will begin to exalt himself above others in a hostile or antagonistic way. That is, all people will either subject themselves under his rule as the supreme authority or else suffer severe consequences, probably imprisonment or death. He will not only attack authority but also all religions—“**all that is called god or that is worshipped**” ([2 Thessalonians 2:4](#)).

3) The antichrist will curse the LORD, blaspheming His holy name ([Daniel 11:36^c](#)). He will be so blasphemous and foul-mouthed that he will shock the people as he spews out his rebellion against and rejection of the LORD ([Daniel 7:8^c](#), [11, 20^c](#), [25^a](#); [Rev. 13:5-6](#)).

4) The antichrist will be used by the LORD as His agent of judgment upon the wicked of the earth ([Daniel 11:36^d](#)). The evil tyrant will be very successful until God's *time of wrath* has been accomplished. God has actually appointed the last days of human history to be a period of tribulation, a time when He will pour out His wrath as a punishment for the horrors and suffering sin has brought to this earth.

Although the antichrist will be totally unaware of the fact, the LORD will even use his evil as part of God's wrath upon the wicked. Scripture actually says that God will use the antichrist to deceive people so they will believe his lies and damn them. Horror of horrors! Why would God, who is love, do such a thing? Because people do not believe the truth about Jesus Christ and His Holy Word, but rather have pleasure in unrighteousness and wickedness. In addition, God is *just*, dwelling in perfect righteousness, as well as love.

His justice must be executed against all unrighteousness and wickedness (see [2 Thessalonians 2:10-12](#); [Romans 1:18-23, 24-32](#) for more discussion).

[2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 \(NASB\)](#)

**“¹⁰ And with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.
¹¹ For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,
¹² in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.”**

5) The antichrist will reject the religion of his people ([Daniel 11:37^a](#)). Just what that religion will be is not given. Scripture says that the *little horn* will arise from the head of the beast, and the beast represents a revived Roman Empire of the last days ([Daniel 7:23-25](#)).

6) The antichrist will reject the Lord Jesus Christ, having no regard whatsoever for Him ([Daniel 11:37^b](#)). Most likely the person *desired by women* is a reference to Christ, for Scripture says elsewhere that the Messiah would be “**the desire of all nations**” ([Haggai 2:7](#)). Thus the privilege of giving birth to the promised Messiah was the desire of some Jewish women down through history. The point of this prediction is to warn believers that the antichrist will reject the Messiah, totally disrespecting the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

7) Again it is reemphasized that the antichrist will respect no god other than self. He will exalt himself above all gods ([Daniel 11:37^b](#)). As mentioned above, he will attack all religions, all forms of worship. In particular, he will attack the Jews and those who follow Christ. He will actually sit in the temple of God and demand the first loyalty of the people—the entire human race ([2 Thessalonians 2:4](#)).

8) The antichrist will honor the *imperial state* as the supreme power to whom all citizens owe their first allegiance ([Daniel 11:38](#)). Note that he will personally give his allegiance to the *imperial state*, its military and economic prosperity. His god will be a *god of forces or fortresses* and a *government of economic prosperity*. Imperial worship—the worship of the state—will be demanded from all citizens of the world. After all, it will be the government of the antichrist that brings peace and economic prosperity to the world as well as the solution to many of the problems that have plagued the human race, problems such as hunger, poverty, and disease.

Thus the vast majority of people will willingly declare their first loyalty to the state, putting the state even before the worship of their gods. But of course true believers will stand fast for the LORD and oppose this demand by the antichrist. As a result, the antichrist will launch a vicious persecution against the staunch followers of the LORD (see [Rev. 13:4-8^a](#); [Rev. 13:13-17](#) for more discussion).

9) The antichrist will gain power by both military conquests and peaceful negotiations or treaties with other nations ([Daniel 11:39](#)). The reference to a *strange or foreign god* is most likely the imperial worship he sought to establish throughout the world. Whatever the case, he will use his powerful military machine to destroy all who oppose or stand in his way. Apparently the antichrist will have the strongest military forces the world has ever known. And people will know it. Therefore, nation after nation will give their allegiance and loyalty to him willingly. Those nations that refuse will be crushed and subjected through war. Those who support and willingly surrender to him will be rewarded with political favors and with gifts of large parcels of land.

b. Scripture now covers the wars and military conquests of the antichrist ([Daniel 11:40-43](#)). Note that these events are said to definitely take place at the *end time* of human history. When the antichrist declares himself and his government to be the supreme *ruler* and *state* of the world, not every government will willingly submit. The rulers of the South and of the North will ignore his claims and attack Israel. In Daniel's previous prophecies, the kings of the South and the North have been Egypt and Syria, so these forces are probably a coalition of Arab nations to launch an attack against Israel. Remember that the antichrist will have signed a peace agreement to protect Israel. Thus he will march out and crush the opponents.

Then he will send troops to sweep through each of the rebellious nations, forcing them into subjection under his rule. Note that he will also invade the **Beautiful Land**, which is a reference to Israel. Perhaps it is at this point that he sees an opportunity to break the peace treaty with Israel and, through subjection, solve the Middle East terrorist problem once for all. Whatever the case, he will conquer many nations as a result of this uprising.

For some unknown reason though, the territories that were under the ancient kingdom of Edom, Moab, and Ammon will not be destroyed by his army. However he will conquer Egypt and gain control of the nation's enormous wealth as well as the wealth of Libya and Ethiopia. It should be pointed out that some scholars suggest that this battle is the battle of Gog and Magog that was predicted by the prophet Ezekiel, and that the battle will take place in the middle of the tribulation, which is three and one-half years (see [Ezek. 38:1–39:29](#) for more discussion).

However, the battle of Gog and Magog seems to be a far more major and massive battle than what is being described here in Daniel ([Daniel 11:40-43](#)). It would seem almost impossible for two major wars to be fought on such a massive scale as is described in the war to be launched by Gog and Magog and the Battle of Armageddon—all within three and a half years or less of one another.

c. The antichrist will finally meet his end and be wiped from the face of the earth at the great Battle of Armageddon ([Daniel 11:44-45](#)). A growing descent and opposition to the antichrist will arise among many nations during the last three and a half years of his rule. Nations in the east and the north will begin to mobilize to march against him. News of their mobilization will reach the antichrist, causing him to become extremely alarmed and enraged. He will respond by mobilizing all the forces of his fearsome war machine.

Other Scriptures tell us that the coalition of forces marching from the north and east against the antichrist will number well over two hundred million and that they will be energized by the demonic angelic force of Satan. Of course, the army of the antichrist will also be aroused by the devil and his angels. Thus in the great Battle of Armageddon, neither army will be marching for justice or for a righteous cause, to free people. Rather, they will be marching for selfish purposes, for the right to dominate the world and subject its citizens to the will of the imperial government and its rulers. Thus evil will have reached its summit in these two massive armies.

For this reason, the LORD God of the universe will bring human history to a close in the great Battle of Armageddon. The antichrist will march out from the holy land itself—the nation of Israel and the holy city of Jerusalem—to meet the invading army from the east and north. This great Battle of Armageddon will take place in the Valley of Meggido. In fact, the very name Armageddon means *mountain of Meggido*. (See —[Rev. 9:12-21](#); [Rev. 16:12-16](#); [Rev. 19:17-21](#); [Ezek. 38:1–39:29](#) for more discussion. Also see [Joel 3:1-16](#); [Zech. 12:1-9](#); [Zech. 14:1-21](#).)

The wicked tyrant, the most evil man ever to walk the face of the earth, will meet his end and die when the armies gather for the great Battle of Armageddon. But the antichrist will not die by the hand or weapons of men. Rather, he will die by the hand of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Scripture clearly says that the antichrist will be slain by the spirit of the Lord's mouth. The Lord will simply speak and the antichrist will be struck dead immediately. It will be the Lord's spoken word and the glory and splendor of His holy presence that will strike the antichrist down (see —[2 Thessalonians 2:8](#) for more discussion). The antichrist will then be cast into the lake of fire with the devil and his hoard of demonic angels (see —[Rev. 19:20](#) for more discussion).

Thought 1. There are antichrists in every generation ([1 John 2:18](#)). An antichrist is any person who opposes Christ. Therefore, God's people must be prepared to stand against them. Our duty as followers of the Lord Jesus is to stand fast and to cling to His Holy Word. We are not to buckle under to the world and its enticements. We are temptation—no matter the opposition against us—our duty is to remain faithful to the LORD. We must stand fast, always demonstrating our love and loyalty for Him.

[Matthew 10:22 \(NASB\)](#)

“²² You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.”

[John 15:9 \(NASB\)](#)

“⁹ Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.”

[1 Corinthians 15:58 \(NASB\)](#)

“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.”

[Galatians 6:9 \(NASB\)](#)

“⁹ Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.”

[2 Thessalonians 2:15 \(NASB\)](#)

“¹⁵ So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us.”

[James 1:12 \(NASB\)](#)

“¹² Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.”

[1 Peter 1:13 \(NASB\)](#)

“¹³ Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober *in spirit*, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

[1 Peter 5:8-9 \(NASB\)](#)

“⁸ Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

⁹ But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences

of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.”

2 Peter 3:17 (NASB)

“¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness.”

Revelation 3:11 (NASB)

“¹¹ I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.”

Joshua 23:8 (NASB)

“⁸ But you are to cling to the LORD your God, as you have done to this day.”

2. (Daniel 12:1) End Times, Great Tribulation, Predicted by Daniel; Unparalleled Suffering; Great Distress—Prophecy, of Great Tribulation, Distress, Suffering; Believers Delivered from; Predicted by Daniel—Daniel, Prophecies of, Great Tribulation—Michael, Archangel of God, Assigned to Israel: the great tribulation will take place “at that time,” the time of the antichrist.

These opening words tie the great tribulation to the political and military ambitions of the antichrist, in particular as they relate to the Jews. In this one brief verse, **three very significant facts are revealed** concerning the great tribulation that is coming upon the whole world.

a. The great tribulation will be a time when Michael, the archangel of God, will arise to save Israel. Apparently God has given Michael a very special assignment, that of watching over and protecting Daniel’s people, the Jews, especially those who truly trust the LORD. The rampage of the devil and his demonic forces against God will intensify during the great tribulation (**last 3½ years**). As revealed earlier, God assigns angels to combat the evil forces of Satan as he seeks to wreak havoc on earth and in the people’s lives (**Daniel 10:12-13, 20; Daniel 11:1**. See **Eph. 6:12**). When the great tribulation is launched on earth, the archangel Michael will arise to keep the evil forces of the antichrist, Satan’s agent, from exterminating the Jews and the followers of Christ (see — **Rev. 12:6-17** for a thorough discussion of the spiritual conflict behind the great tribulation).

b. The great tribulation will be a time of terrible distress, unparalleled suffering. Jesus Christ Himself warns the world that it will be the most horrible period of devastation and suffering the world has ever known. Loss of life will reach epidemic proportions, almost reaching the point of extinction for both Jews and Gentiles.

Matthew 24:21-22 (NASB)

“²¹ For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.

²² Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.”

[Zechariah 13:8-9 \(NASB\)](#)

“⁸ It will come about in all the land," Declares the LORD, "That two parts in it will be cut off *and* perish; But the third will be left in it.

⁹ And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people,' And they will say, 'The LORD is my God.'”

The great tribulation will also be characterized by great wars, which have already been discussed ([Daniel 11:40-45](#)). Armageddon itself will bring about the climactic days of human history, the very point at which Jesus Christ returns to earth to slay the antichrist. Armageddon will end the great tribulation, the distress and anguish of those horrible days. Jesus Christ Himself will put an end to the horrors of war and the terrible wickedness of people, put an end to rebellion against Him and the cursing of His holy name. All sin, wickedness, and evil will be erased from the face of the earth, and Jesus Christ will set up His kingdom on earth.

[2 Thessalonians 2:8 \(NASB\)](#)

“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.”

Note how other Scriptures describe the Great Battle of Armageddon and the Coming of the Son of Man.

THE GREAT BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON

[Revelation 19:17-21](#)

THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN

[Matthew 24:29-31](#)

In addition to the horrors of war, the great tribulation will be a period of increased natural disasters. Loss of life will far exceed anything thought possible. Note the four catastrophic disasters in the Scripture and outline below:

THERE WILL BE A FIERCE STORM

[Revelation 8:6-7](#)

THERE WILL BE A MASSIVE VOLCANIC EXPLOSION

[Revelation 8:8-9](#)

THERE WILL BE THE EXPLOSION OF A METEORIC MASS

[Revelation 8:10-11](#)

THERE WILL BE A TERRIFYING ASTRONOMICAL ECLIPSE

[Revelation 8:12](#)

Another passage says that in addition to these catastrophic events during the great tribulation, God will pour out an unparalleled judgment on earth, a series of incidents known as the bowl judgments. **Note the Scripture and outline describing these:**

[Revelation 16:1-21](#)

In addition to these natural disasters, there will be a devastating plague to strike the earth. A demonic-locust plague will inflict all the ungodly and evil of the earth.

[Revelation 8:13-9:11](#)

Scripture paints a horrifying picture of events sweeping across the face of the earth during the days of the great tribulation. Nevertheless, the days of suffering will come to an end. As pointed out above, the Lord Jesus Christ will put an abrupt stop to the rampage of evil and death upon earth. The promise of this hope is also given in this verse of Scripture, a hope that is given to all those who sincerely place their trust in Christ.

c. True believers will be delivered through the great tribulation (**[Daniel 12:1^c](#)**). What does it mean to be *delivered*? In this instance, it certainly does not mean that believers will not suffer persecution or martyrdom during the tribulation, for many will bear the marks of their faith for Christ. Being delivered here means that God will strengthen the believers through the persecution, strengthen them in their faith and assurance of life eternal, the fact that it will be worth it all. For those who are martyred, the LORD will deliver them into His very presence quicker than the eye can blink. They will be delivered from the *second death* and given life eternal in the very presence of God (**[Rev. 21:8](#)**).

But note the identity of true believers: they are those whose names are found written in the *Book*. Obviously this is the *Book of Life*, a register in which the names of all believers are recorded (see—**[Rev. 20:12](#)** for more discussion. Also see **[Exodus 32:33](#)**; **[Psalm 69:28](#)**; **[Malachi 3:16](#)**; **[Luke 10:20](#)**.) Every believer who has his name written in the *Book of Life* will be delivered. As will be seen in the next major point, believers will be raised from the dead and delivered from the *second death* to live eternally with the LORD (**[John 3:16](#)**).

[John 3:16 \(NASB\)](#)

“¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

[John 5:24 \(NASB\)](#)

“²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

[John 14:2-3 \(NASB\)](#)

“² In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

³ If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also.”

2 Corinthians 5:8 (NASB)

“⁸We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.”

Revelation 21:8 (NASB)

“⁸But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

3. (Daniel 12:2-3) Resurrection, Prophecy Concerning, Surety of— Judgment, Prophecy Concerning, Surety of—Reward, Dealing with State of Being, Glorified—Rewards, to Whom, Soul Winners— Rewards, Kinds of, to Shine Like the Stars: the resurrection of the dead and the coming judgment will take place in the end time of human history.

This prophecy **gives three significant facts** about the coming resurrection and judgment:

a. The dead will arise. This is one of the most wonderful promises ever given to the believer. When a believer leaves this earth, his spirit immediately goes to live with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 24:42-43 (NASB)

**“⁴²They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish;
⁴³and He took it and ate *it* before them.”**

2 Corinthians 5:8 (NASB)

“⁸We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.”

Philippians 1:21-23 (NASB)

“²¹For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

²²But if *I am* to live *on* in the flesh, this *will mean* fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose.

²³But I am hard-pressed from both *directions*, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for *that* is very much better.”

In addition, the believer is given the wonderful promise of a new and glorious body. After hearing about the horrors to come upon the earth, this wonderful promise was bound to be a strong encouragement to the aged Daniel, now about 80 years old. Death was not the end, not for him nor for his people. Nor will death be the end for anyone who has put his trust in the LORD. The LORD is going to raise all dead bodies from the dust of the earth. Right after the terrible persecution and wars of the antichrist and the horrors of Armageddon, many of those who lie dead will arise.

Who are the “**many**” involved in this resurrection? The answer is seen in Gabriel’s wonderful promise just given to Daniel: “**Your people**”—the Jews—will be delivered ([Daniel 12:1](#)). Most likely, the *many* of this resurrection refers primarily to Israel. Apparently this is the same resurrection discussed in [Revelation 20:4-6](#), which is referred to as the *first resurrection* ([Rev. 20:5^b](#)).

The second and final resurrection will take place after the millennium, the one thousand year reign of Christ on earth. At that time, all the wicked of the earth will be raised to face the final judgment of God. This is the clear declaration of Scripture: As the reader studies the prophecy of Daniel, another passage discussing the resurrection in detail should also be studied—[1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:3](#).

Interpreters who hold to a pre-tribulation rapture or a separate coming of Christ for His church say this is actually the very first resurrection that takes place. The position is that Christ can come at any moment; therefore our eyes are to be focused upon Him, looking for His return, not for the appearance of the antichrist. In this position, we must prepare ourselves for the Lord’s return, not for enduring the sufferings and horrifying tribulations that are coming upon earth. As a consequence of these thoughts and of the teachings of Scripture, [1 Thessalonians](#) is interpreted as the rapture of the church, the return of Christ for His followers who are to be taken out of the world before the tribulation of the antichrist is launched upon earth.

As is seen from these Scriptures from various books of the Bible, the righteous and the wicked are not resurrected at the same time. In the words of the excellent commentator **Steven R. Miller**:

“At first glance one might receive the false impression that the resurrection of the righteous and the wicked will occur simultaneously....But this is impossible in light of other Scripture, particularly the parallel passage of [Revelation 20:4-6](#), which distinguishes the first resurrection of the saints who are raised immediately after the tribulation period [the same group described here] and the second resurrection of the wicked occurring a thousand years later. As is the case with other Old Testament prophecy (e.g., [Zech 9:9-10](#)), future events separated by many years or telescoped together with later revelation qualifying the time difference....All persons will indeed be raised, even though there will be a period of time separating the resurrection of saints and unbelievers.

Now, when the *many* are raised from the dead, what happens? The judgment! Some will be raised to live with Christ eternally. And tragically, some will be raised to shame and everlasting contempt. These will face the eternal condemnation and judgment of God.

The excellent expositor **Gleason L. Archer** says this:

“The word for “**everlasting**” is *olam*....Originally *olam* meant “**lifetime**” or “**era**,” “**age**” but when it is used of God and His life [without beginning or end] it takes on the connotation of endlessness, i.e., eternity. Thus in [Psalm 92](#) we read, “**from everlasting to everlasting [me olam ‘ad-olam] you are God.**”

Those who argue simply on the basis of “lifetime” or “age” are only an age-long punishment in hell rather than one of endless duration may reckon with the many passages and the Old Testament that apply *olam* to the endless life and sovereignty of God himself. In other words, if hell is not eternal, neither is God; for the same Hebrew and Greek words are used for both in the Bible (c.f. [Rev. 4:10](#); [Rev. 20:10](#); [Rev. 21:8](#)). The corresponding Greek word *aion* exactly parallels the Hebrew *olam* in connotation and semantic development.

Jesus Christ tells us that there will be a resurrection of all the dead. Some will be involved in the resurrection of life, but all who have done evil will be involved in the resurrection of condemnation and damnation.

John 5:28-29 (NASB)

“²⁸ Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice,
²⁹ and will come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment.”

b. The *wise* of the earth will be greatly rewarded when they are raised from the dead. The *wise* are the true believers, the persons who are wise enough to trust Christ as Savior and Lord ([Daniel 12:3^a](#)). Standing before the judgment seat of Christ, all believers will be rewarded with the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, a glory that is described here to be as bright as the heavens themselves. Of course, the brightness of the sky or heavens refers to the light, glory, radiance, and beauty of the starry sky as it shines so brilliantly on a dark night. Believers will be glorified and given positions of honor, ruling and reigning as kings and priests under the supreme rule of Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Matthew 10:42 (NASB)

“⁴² And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.”

Matthew 25:23 (NASB)

“²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'”

Luke 6:35 (NASB)

“³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil *men*.”

Luke 19:17 (NASB)

“¹⁷ And he said to him, 'Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.’”

Romans 2:10 (NASB)

“¹⁰ But glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Romans 8:16-18 (NASB)

“¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

Romans 11:33-36 (NASB)

“³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

³⁴ For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR?

³⁵ Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN?

³⁶ For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.”

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NASB)

“⁹ But just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.”

1 Corinthians 6:2 (NASB)

“² Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent *to constitute* the smallest law courts?”

2 Corinthians 4:17 (NASB)

“¹⁷ For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.”

Ephesians 6:8 (NASB)

“⁸ Knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.”

2 Timothy 2:12 (NASB)

“¹² If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us.”

Hebrews 11:24-26 (NASB)

“²⁴ By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

²⁵ choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,

²⁶ considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.”

1 Peter 5:1-4 (NASB)

¹ Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,
² shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;
³ nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.
⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

Revelation 1:5 (NASB)

⁵ And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood.”

Revelation 3:21 (NASB)

²¹ He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

Revelation 5:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”

Psalms 73:24 (NASB)

²⁴ With Your counsel You will guide me, And afterward receive me to glory.”

c. The believer who is faithful and diligent in leading others to Christ—to follow Him and His righteousness—will receive a very special reward. He will shine like the stars forever and ever. The idea seems to be that he will receive a higher position of glory than the less diligent and faithful among believers (see [DEEPER STUDY # 4—Rom. 8:17](#) for a list of rewards to be given believers).

Matthew 4:19-20 (NASB)

¹⁹ And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

²⁰ Immediately they left *their* nets and followed Him.”

Matthew 13:43 (NASB)

⁴³ Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

Matthew 19:27 (NASB)

²⁷ Then Peter said to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?"

Romans 9:3 (NASB)

³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed, *separated* from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh.”

Romans 10:1 (NASB)

“¹ Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for *their* salvation.”

1 Corinthians 3:14 (NASB)

“¹⁴ If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.”

1 Corinthians 9:19-20 (NASB)

“¹⁹ For though I am free from all *men*, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more.

²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law.”

1 Corinthians 9:22 (NASB)

“²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some.”

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NASB)

“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.”

Galatians 6:9 (NASB)

“⁹ Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.”

2 Timothy 2:10 (NASB)

“¹⁰ For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus *and* with *it* eternal glory.”

Jude 1:21-23 (NASB)

“²¹ Keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

²² And have mercy on some, who are doubting;

²³ save others, snatching *them* out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.”

Revelation 5:9-10 (NASB)

“⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

¹⁰ You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”

Proverbs 11:30 (NASB)

“³⁰ The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who is wise wins souls.”

4. ([Daniel 12:4-13](#)) Great Tribulation, Prophecy Concerning, Time of—Prophecy, Concerning Great Tribulation, Time of—Prophecy, Duty, to Preserve; to Make Available; to Study; to Seek to Understand—Faithfulness, Results, Inheritance: the length of the great tribulation was predicted to be three and one-half years.

Take a moment and think back through the prophecies of Daniel—all twelve chapters—about all that God reveals to him concerning the future. What a *man of God* he must have been, loving the LORD and following Him with all of his heart. As we close this last section of his great book, we need to acknowledge how much we owe Daniel. It is his prophecies that open up and enable us to understand so many of the other prophecies of God’s Word. For example, over 70 passages from the **book of Daniel** are quoted or referred to in the New Testament. Much of the great **book of Revelation** would be unclear without the prophecies of Daniel to help us understand them. In the words of **Warren W. Wiersbe**, “*We today are able to study prophecy because Daniel was faithful in his day.*”

As Daniel closes his great book of prophecy, he stresses five major points:

a. The angel Gabriel commanded Daniel to seal or preserve the prophecies of his great book ([Daniel 12:4](#)). To *seal* a document meant to preserve the document by putting it in a safe place and protecting it so that it would be available to those who would need it in the future. God wanted the prophecies of Daniel preserved and made available to all of His dear people. He wanted His people to treasure and protect the precious prophecies for all future generations.

Down through the centuries, God’s people would seek to understand these prophecies. And as the events took place, they would understand more and more of what God had foretold. Through the events of history, they would know that the LORD is in control of the rulers and nations of this world and even of the suffering they had to bear. In the end, the LORD would be victorious, and they would be delivered from the sufferings and hardships of this world. Through the fulfillment of the prophecies, God’s people could be assured that every promise of the LORD was true and would be fulfilled.

b. The great prophecy of the end times is now ready to be concluded. But before it is, God wants Daniel to know the length of the great tribulation that is coming upon the earth. Standing there with Gabriel, Daniel looked and saw a striking scene. One angel stood on each side of the Tigris River, and standing in mid air above the river was the Man clothed in linen, the awesome Person Daniel had seen at the beginning of his vision, probably Jesus Christ ([Daniel 10:5-6](#)). The Lord Jesus was suspended in midair, standing exalted above them all. One of the angels shouted out to the awesome Person clothed in linen, asking Him how long these astonishing events would last when they began to occur ([Daniel 12:6](#)). Even the angels have a natural interest in the future events that are predicted by God, the same as we do ([1 Peter 1:12](#)).

Daniel saw the awesome Man in linen lift his hands and swear a solemn oath: That the time of the great tribulation will be controlled by God; therefore it will be brief: **three and one-half years (1260 days)**.

That the events of the great tribulation will last until the **holy people (Israel)** are broken and utterly defeated ([Daniel 12:7](#)).

Keep in mind that the antichrist will sign a treaty with Israel at the beginning of the tribulation, which will be a seven-year period of terrible trials upon the earth. But in the middle of the seven years, the antichrist will break the treaty and the last half of the seven years begins, the period of the great tribulation ([Daniel 9:27](#)). As verse seven says in the present passage, **it will be during the last three and one-half years that Israel will be literally crushed**. But as we have just seen above, **at the end of the three and one-half years**, the Lord Jesus will return to stop the antichrist in his tracks by slaying him and the enemy forces under his command. At that time, the LORD will establish the kingdom of God on earth ([Zechariah 14:1-11](#)).

c. Daniel was confused and did not understand much that had been revealed to him in the prophecy ([Daniel 12:8-9](#)). So he asked for a more detailed explanation, longing to know what the outcome of the events would be. No doubt, his concern was for his own people, the Jews. After all, the awesome Person dressed in linen had just made an alarming statement, declaring that his people would be broken and utterly defeated by their enemies.

Thus Daniel desperately wanted to know if they would survive as a people or nation. He was undoubtedly wondering how any people could survive such horrifying wars and catastrophic events as had just been described. But the prophet's question was not answered, not directly. He was simply told to go on about his life, living day by day for the LORD. The prophecies were being preserved for God's people who were to live in the end time of human history. It was not necessary for him to know any more than what had already been explained to him. **The rest of the prophecies would be fulfilled in future generations.**

d. The angel went on to say that in the intervening time between Daniel's own day and the end time, many believers would be **purified, cleansed, and refined** ([Daniel 12:10](#)). In the process, they would grow closer to the LORD and be stronger witnesses for Him. The events and sufferings described in these prophecies would actually be used by God to strengthen His people. Even the sufferings of the great tribulation would arouse many to call upon the LORD for help and deliverance; and by their calling, they would draw closer to the LORD. Thus the trials and sufferings would refine God's people, making them stronger in their faith and witness for Him.

But this would not be true with unbelievers. Many of the wicked would continue in their sin instead of repenting and seeking the LORD. Being ignorant of God's Holy Word, they will not discern the signs of the times, nor will they understand that the hand of God is behind the events and using them to arouse people to turn to Him in repentance.

Only the wise, the true believers, will understand that God is fulfilling His prophecy and warning to the human race. Thus in the last days of human history, wickedness will not decrease but rather increase and flood the face of the earth until it reaches its summit under the antichrist.

e. The explanation about the timing of the great tribulation continued ([Daniel 12:11-12](#)). [Verse eleven](#) tells us that the great tribulation will be launched when the antichrist breaks his covenant or treaty with the Jews ([Daniel 9:27](#)). **Two other significant events** will also signal the beginning of the great tribulation: the abolishing of the Jews' freedom of worship and the setting up of the *abomination of desolation* in the temple. The abomination will probably be a statue representing *imperial worship*, a symbol of the *state*. The Jews and all other people under the antichrist's authority will be required to give their first loyalty to the state, the government that had brought peace and prosperity to the earth (see—[Rev. 13:4-8^a](#); [Rev. 17:2](#). Also see previous [DEEPER STUDY # 1—Matthew 24:15](#) for more discussion.)

Note that 30 more days are added to the length of the great tribulation, making the time 1290 days ([Daniel 12:11](#); also see [Daniel 12:7](#)). **What is the purpose for the extra 30 days?** Scripture does not say, but perhaps it is the time needed to judge the nations (see—[Matthew 25:31-46](#)). Yet the 30 days were not the only extra days added to the total ([Daniel 12:12](#)). **Forty-five more days were added**, which indicates that the great tribulation will last for a **total of 1335 days**. Again, Scripture does not explain the purpose for these extra 45 days. Perhaps they will be used for Christ to organize and set up His government in Jerusalem and throughout the world. **Whatever the case, 75 extra days will be needed for Christ to fully establish His kingdom on earth.**

f. **As the great book of Daniel closes**, the angel Gabriel gives God's dear prophet a great hope an astonishing promise ([Daniel 12:13](#)). If Daniel will go on and live his life faithfully to the end, he will rise from the dead and receive the wonderful inheritance that has been set aside for him by God Himself. What a glorious hope.

Thought 1. Every believer who is faithful to the end—that goes about living life faithfully for the LORD—will rise from the dead and receive the inheritance set aside for him by the LORD God of the universe. Any person who believes in the LORD enough to follow in His footsteps of righteousness and be a strong witness for Him will be greatly rewarded. Scripture repeatedly confirms this wonderful truth:

[Matthew 10:32 \(NASB\)](#)

“³²Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.”

[Acts 26:18 \(NASB\)](#)

“¹⁸To open their eyes so that *they may* turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.”

Romans 8:16-17 (NASB)

“¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,
¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.”

1 Corinthians 12:13 (NASB)

“¹³ For by one Spirit *we* were all baptized into one body, *whether* Jews or Greeks, *whether* slaves or free, and *we were all* made to drink of one Spirit.”

Galatians 3:26-29 (NASB)

“²⁶ For you *are all* sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
²⁷ For *all of you* who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.
²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; *for you are all* one in Christ Jesus.
²⁹ And if *you belong* to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.”

Ephesians 1:11 (NASB)

“¹¹ Also we have obtained an inheritance [in Christ], having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will.”

Colossians 3:24 (NASB)

“²⁴ Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.”

Titus 3:7 (NASB)

“⁷ So that being justified by His grace *we would be made heirs* according to *the* hope of eternal life.”

Hebrews 6:17 (NASB)

“¹⁷ In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, *interposed* [confirmed] *with* an oath.”

1 Peter 1:4 (NASB)

⁴ To *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.”

Thought 2. When we see Jesus, it will be enough to be conformed to His perfect image. Listen to what God's Holy Word says:

Psalms 17:15 (NASB)

“¹⁵ As for me, I shall behold Your face in righteousness; I will be satisfied with Your likeness when I awake.”

1 John 3:1-3 (NASB)

“¹ See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

² Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

³ And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

Philippians 3:20-21 (NASB)

“²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

²¹ who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”

Romans 8:28-29 (NASB)

“²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.”

Thought 3. The excellent **expositor John Phillips** says the following in closing his commentary on the book of *Daniel*:

“Daniel’s days were drawing to a close. The angel turned to him with a final prophecy, one for him personally. He would continue on his way. Death would overtake him, and he would rest. Time would pass. The things that he had seen and heard would be fulfilled. Empires would rise and fall. The Christ would come only to be cut off. The ages would pass. The antichrist would come. The Messiah would come again.

Yes, Daniel would rest in death, but that was by no means all. He would also stand in resurrection. He would receive his “lot” of inheritance. He would enter into his reward and have his share in the glories yet to come. Thus, abruptly, the book ends.”

Thought 4. The excellent **commentator Gleason L. Archer, Jr.** closes his commentary on *Daniel* with these words:

*“**Revelation 20:4** states, “I saw thrones on which were seated those who were given authority to judge,” that those who had died as martyrs will at that time “come to life” and reign with Christ a thousand years. Surely Daniel will be outstanding among the galaxy of judges and kings. Yet it is also true that those of us who are sincere and obedient believers will have a part in this glory and will see Daniel on his throne. And far eclipsing such honors as these will be the supernatural glory of the Son of Man Himself, the Son of God incarnate, who will assume supreme control over the entire earth. His dominion was stretched from sea to sea and from the Euphrates to the ends of the earth (**Zech 9:10**). And under his rule the earth shall be filled with righteousness, “as the waters cover the sea” (**Isa 11:9**).”*