

From Babylon to Jerusalem - (Daniel) ch.11 & 12

by Zac Poonen

Zac Poonen's sermon explores the prophetic details in Daniel chapters 11 and 12, highlighting the rise and fall of empires and the significance of prayer in God's plan.

Duration: 59:13

Scripture: Psalm 75:7, Daniel 11:1-2, Daniel 11:4, Matthew 6:33

Topics: "From Babylon To Jerusalem"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker focuses on Daniel chapter 11 and the continuation of the angel Gabriel's message to Daniel. The chapter recounts historical events that were to take place in the future. The speaker highlights the division of Alexander the Great's empire into four parts, as prophesied in the scripture. The sermon emphasizes the theme of God's sovereignty, as seen in the rise and fall of kings and kingdoms, and encourages believers to have faith in God's control over those in authority.

Transcript

We'll turn now to Daniel chapter 11. In our last study we were considering how this angel Gabriel came and spoke to Daniel. He spoke of the conflict he had with the evil spirits that were governing the kingdom of Persia.

And chapter 11 is a continuation of what the angel is saying to Daniel. The whole chapter is a continuation of what the angel is saying to Daniel concerning events that were to take place in subsequent years. We know that all scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for our spiritual perfection.

And therefore we believe that this passage of scripture also is inspired by God and is profitable for us for our own perfection. Even though it's actually just a recounting of history that would take place in the future. I mentioned that the first six chapters of Daniel were history recorded after the events took place.

And the last six chapters of Daniel were history recorded before the events took place or what we call prophecy. And chapter 11 is particularly significant in this connection because it gives a whole lot of details. And the great value for us as we see this chapter and compare it with the history of the world at that particular time is to see the exactness with which everything that the angel told Daniel was literally fulfilled down to the last letter.

And therefore God has laid it down in the scriptures for our encouragement to know that what is prophesied concerning the future events as well will also be fulfilled exactly and literally. And so the angel continues to speak to Daniel and says in the first year of Darius the mean I that is the angel Gabriel arose to be an encouragement and a protection for him. Darius had some type of fear of God through the influence of Daniel as we saw in the earlier chapters particularly chapter 6. And so the angel Gabriel protected him no doubt as a result of Daniel's prayer.

And there we see how our prayers influence the angels of God to protect world leaders who need to be protected for the furtherance of God's purposes. And that's why we are told in 1 Timothy chapter 2 verse 1 to pray for prime ministers. I mean paraphrasing it for today presidents, kings, those in authority so that we can lead a peaceable life.

Daniel's prayers affected the ruling of Darius over the kingdom. And now the angel continues to say now I will tell you the truth he says. Behold three more kings are going to arise in Persia.

And that was literally true in history we don't want to go into all the details but history tells us there were three more kings after that in Persia and then a fourth will gain more riches than all of them. And history tells us that that was a king called Xerxes who was the richest of all the Persian kings. And as soon as he becomes strong through his riches he will arouse the whole empire against the realm of Greece.

And that's another thing we read in history that the Persian king Xerxes when he got puffed up because of his riches and his wealth decided to go and render a crushing blow upon the Greeks and he did not succeed. And that was the end of the Persian Empire and the kingdom of the Greeks began to take over from that point. But the significant phrase we read here is when he becomes strong.

In other words when he gets puffed up. There's a verse in Psalm 75 which says that God raises up one and puts down another. Psalm 75 verse 7. God is the judge and that is something that we have seen right through the book of Daniel.

What it says in Psalm 75 7 God raises up one puts down another. And this is why we have faith when we pray for those in authority in the land that God is in control otherwise we would be wasting our time in prayer. So when he becomes strong God pushes him down.

And then we read a mighty king will arise that is in the realm of Greece and that is Alexander the Great. As we read in history and he would rule with great authority and do as he pleases. But as soon as he has arisen or in other words as soon as he has come to a great height and magnified himself and puffed himself up.

He will be his kingdom will be broken up. It's the same old story again. He gets puffed up and God pushes him down.

And that's exactly how we read in history. And his kingdom will then be parceled out or divided into four parts. Let me read to you at this point from the Good News Bible.

Kings that have not descended from him will rule in his place. Now these are events that were going to take place nearly 200 years after Daniel's time. But the angel is telling Daniel it's going to be a time a great king is going to rise.

And when he gets puffed up the kingdom will be divided. It will fall. He will die.

But his sons will not take over the kingdom. That's exactly what happened. Alexander's sons did not rule the kingdom.

They were killed and his kingdom was divided. History tells us between four of his generals exactly like it says here it will be divided into four parts. And then it says in verse 5 onwards right up to almost the end of the chapter is a description of two of those kingdoms that arose out of this fourfold division of Alexander's Empire.

Alexander's Empire was divided into four. I mentioned that in an earlier study one general took Greece, another took Syria, third one took Turkey and a fourth one took Greece. And the two most powerful of the lot were Syria and Egypt.

Now you know if you know your geography of the Middle East that Syria is north of Israel and Egypt is south of Israel. And here in Daniel chapter 11 almost the entire chapter is devoted to the wars that took place between Syria and Egypt and the significance of it lay in the fact that they were always going across the land of Israel in order to fight with one another. And that's why the history of these two kingdoms which came into the hands of two of Alexander's generals is described in this chapter.

And when it says here the king of the south in verse 5 that is south of Jerusalem. There's a verse in the Old Testament where I think it's in Ezekiel where Jerusalem is called the center of the earth and everything is in relation to Jerusalem. The king of the south is south of Jerusalem that is Egypt and the king of the north spoken of in verse 6 is north of Jerusalem that is Syria.

Now these things have some interest for us because we find that Syria and Egypt have been enemies of Israel even today. And this is something that has begun long ages ago. And so I want to read now from the Good News Bible this section it's very much more plain and simple so that we can understand it and as we read along I'll explain how this was fulfilled in history literally.

Verse 5 then the king of Egypt will be strong and one of his generals however will be even stronger and rule a greater kingdom. This is actually what happened. The king of Egypt was a man called Ptolemy P-T-O-L-E-M-Y and one of his generals moved out and began to rule in Syria and became what is called the king of the north or the king of Syria.

So that's the introduction that we read there and in this chapter we read of 22 wars that took place in history and God has given us a description of them and later on now as we look back Daniel didn't understand it all but now as you look back and compare it with history we find an exact fulfillment of those 22 wars in the history of the Middle East at that particular time. So we see that the Middle East has been a area of war right from that time.

All this took place two three hundred years before Christ came to earth and even right up to Christ's time and now we see the same thing happening now that the Middle East just like the years before Jesus came the Middle East was a scene of great battle in the same way now the years before Jesus second coming again the Middle East is a scene of great battle and Syria and Egypt were significant countries in relation to Israel before Jesus first coming and we find that Syria and Egypt are significant countries in relation to Israel in before the second coming of Christ and this is why this chapter has some significance for us because it relates the history of the wars between Syria and Egypt and that were mostly waged in the land of Palestine and I want to say one more thing about prophecy

that very often in all in the Old Testament prophecy has a dual fulfillment that means very often something that is said has got a double meaning more than one meaning I'll give you one example of that if you turn to the book of Matthew chapter 2 and verse 15 where it says about Jesus being taken into Egypt that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophets and that was the prophet Hosea and this is a quotation from Hosea chapter 11 verse 1 might be fulfilled saying out of Egypt did I call my son but when Hosea wrote it in Hosea chapter 11 verse 1 he was not referring to Jesus he was referring to Israel God's son being brought out of Egypt but here we find a double fulfillment out of Egypt I have called my son refers to Israel coming out of Egypt it also refers to Jesus being brought

back from Egypt after Joseph and Mary took him there when Herod was killing seeking his life so that's just one example of the double fulfillment of prophecy in the same way we find here in Daniel chapter 11 there are certain things which are said which had one fulfillment prior to the first coming of Christ and it has a second fulfillment before the second coming of Christ this is why this has reference to the last days in which we live so what has already been fulfilled we can see very easily we only got to compare it with history but what is going to be fulfilled we shall see God willing in our lifetime so this is why it's exciting and so verse 6 after a number of years the king of Egypt that is Ptolemy will make an alliance with the king of Syria now the kings of Egypt were all called

Ptolemy and the kings of Syria were called Antiochus 1st 2nd 3rd etc this is how the city of Antioch in Syria got its name from one of the generals of Alexander the Great who ruled Syria in the line of Antiochus and after a number of years the king of Egypt will make an alliance with the king of Syria and give him his daughter in marriage and this literally happened that Ptolemy king of gave his daughter in marriage to the king of Syria but history tells us that she was murdered by the king of Syria's first wife and that's what it says here the alliance will not last she her husband that is the king and her child and the servants who were with her will all be killed and the king of Syria's first wife put her own son up on the throne and soon afterwards one of her relatives that is this

Egyptian princess who married the king of Syria her brother became king in Egypt and he will attack the army of the king of Syria to take revenge for the murder of his sister now this is exactly fulfilled in history it's amazing the detail that Gabriel gave to Daniel and he will attack the army of the king of Syria enter their fortress and defeat them he will carry back to Egypt the images of their gods and the articles of gold and silver dedicated to those gods after several years of peace verse 9 the king of Syria will invade Egypt but he will be forced to retreat and that too was exactly fulfilled this is what prophecy really is history written in advance and I think there's perhaps no passage of scripture in the entire Bible like Daniel chapter 11 which gives such exact details of

certain wars down to small details like so-and-so's daughter being given in marriage to the other king and then being murdered and things like this which are exactly fulfilled in history it's just one of those chapters God's put down in scripture to teach us is foreknowledge and that is the benefit for us and going through this chapter the son to the king of Syria will then prepare for war and gather a large army and one of them who was known as Antiochus the Great will sweep on like a flood and attack an enemy fortress and in his anger the king of Egypt will go to war against the king of Syria and capture his huge army he will be proud of his victory verse 12 and of the many soldiers he has killed but he will not continue to be victorious and then verse 13 the king of Syria will then go

back and gather a larger army than he had before you see when we read this we would think that this is a description of events that have already taken place when you're going down to such detail but it is history

written beforehand the king of Syria will do this and when the proper time comes he will return with a large well-equipped army and then many people will rebel against the king of Egypt and some violent men from your nation Daniel that is the Jews will rebel because of a vision they have seen but they will be defeated and so verse 15 so the king of Syria will lay siege to a fortified city and capture it and the soldiers of Egypt will not continue to fight even the best of them will not have enough strength now these are events that took place over a period of hundreds of years

sorry many tens of years it started off around 330 when Alexander the Great conquered that area and the history of that period goes on right up to about 165 years before Christ so the description in Daniel chapter 11 is a period of about 165 years of history in which all these details are given and further we read in verse 16 the Syrian invader will do with them as he pleases without opposition he will stand in the promised land and have it completely in his power it's because it's affecting the nation of Israel that this history is recorded you see history interests us only in the way it affects the people of God and that's why this chapter was written down for Daniel's instruction verse 17 the king of Syria will plan an expedition using his whole army and then he does the reverse of

what the king of Egypt did in a previous generation in order to destroy his enemy's kingdom he does the same thing he will make an alliance with the king of Egypt and this time it's the other way around he gives his daughter Cleopatra in marriage to Ptolemy in Egypt hoping that his daughter will help him to defeat the enemy but his plan will not succeed it says she will not take a stand for her father or be on his side she took the stand of her husband and her father Antiochus the Great was disappointed now this is again literally it was like that in history history gives us the names of these people and then verse 18 after that he will attack the nations by the sea and conquer many of them but a foreign leader will defeat him and put an end to his arrogance indeed he will turn the

arrogance of Syria's king back on him and then verse 19 that's when the king of Syria was defeated by the Romans and that's the period in the history of the world when the Roman Empire was just beginning to come up it wasn't a world power then it was beginning to come up then the king will return to the fortresses of his own land but he will be defeated and that will be the end of him and that is the time when we read that this man Antiochus the third or Antiochus the Great was killed and he will be followed by another king that was his own son who will send an officer to oppress the people with taxes in order to increase the wealth of his kingdom and this too was literally fulfilled in history but then after some time in a very short time that King will be killed but not publicly and not

in battle history tells us that Antiochus the Great's son was poisoned by his own servants and there was a fulfillment of what God had written there he was not killed in battle he was poisoned by his own servants and then we read in verse 21 that after this son had died poisoned by his servants strictly speaking his son should have come to the throne of the king of the kingdom of Syria but he did not and verse 21 onwards describes a king I'll just tell you his name in a moment who rules Syria who is one of the clearest types of the Antichrist that is ever recorded in the scriptures that's why it's significant from verse 21 onwards then the angel went on to explain the next king of Syria will be an evil man who has no right to be the king because he was not the son of the previous king he

was the brother of the previous king but he will come unexpectedly because the king's son was too small and seize power by trickery and that's exactly what happened and he was known in history as Antiochus Epiphanes E-P-I-P-H-A-N-E-S Antiochus Epiphanes and the significance for us of this man is that in the scriptures he is portrayed as a type of the Antichrist and he will come unexpectedly and seize power by

trickery and anyone who opposes him verse 22 this happened about 175 years before Christ including and when it says they're the Prince of the Covenant the old covenant representative in Israel at that time was the high priest and that's referring to the high priest and that's also true that there was a high priest in Israel at that time called Onias we read of it in a book called the

book of Maccabees in the apocryphal books and there we read about Antiochus Epiphanes in that in those books of Macca the books of Maccabees and there we read that a high priest himself was swept away and wiped out as it says here in verse 22 and this Antiochus Epiphanes verse 23 will by making treaties he will deceive other nations now as you read along remember this is a picture of the Antichrist that's going to come and that's why a great deal of detail is given us about this particular King almost till the end of the chapter all the other Kings 175 years almost was compressed into a very short passage of scripture verse 5 to 20 but when it comes to this particular King great detail is given and the significance for us is that here is someone who is portrayed for us the way the

Antichrist is going to rise up in the last days he will grow stronger and stronger verse 23 even though he rules only a small nation to begin with he will invade a wealthy province without warning and will do things that none of his ancestors ever did he will divide among his followers the goods and property he has captured in war and thus make friends with his followers and increase his popularity and we read further he will make plans to attack fortresses but his time will soon run out then verse 25 still talking about Antiochus Epiphanes he will boldly raise a large army to attack the king of Egypt who will prepare to fight back with a huge and powerful army but the king of Egypt will be deceived by some of his own friends and will not be successful his closest advisors will ruin him

and that's the king of Egypt will be defeated and many of the Egyptian soldiers will be killed and his army will be wiped out this literally happened when Antiochus Epiphanes invaded Egypt then here it speaks about the conference table which is very a familiar thing in these days they have this conference table the two kings will sit down at the same table but their motives will be evil and they will tell lies to each other an exact description of all the conferences that go on for peace between the various nations today and that's exactly it happened before it happened 165 years before Christ and it's going to happen now in these days the conference table they will tell lies to each other and deceive each other they will not get what they want because the time for it has not yet come

then the king of Syria verse 28 will return home with all the loot he has captured determined to destroy the religion of God's people you see from Egypt he passes through Israel and here is where he becomes a type of the Antichrist in Israel he will do as he pleases and then return to his own land later on he will invade Egypt again but this time things will turn out differently because verse 30 the Romans will come in ships and oppose him the ships of Khitim or Cyprus and he will be frightened the Roman power was building up at this time particularly their fleet and then he will turn back in anger and try to destroy the religion of God's people here is where as I said he becomes a picture of the Antichrist and because the Roman fleet chased Antiochus Epiphanes out of Egypt he came back

to Syria and passed through Jerusalem and now see what he did in Jerusalem and we will see that this is exactly what the Antichrist is going to do in Jerusalem in a future day the double fulfillment of prophecy and we read here he will follow the advice of those Jews who have abandoned their covenant with God there are going to be certain Jews who abandon their covenant with God and turn and take the side of the Antichrist and that happened before in the days of Antiochus Epiphanes and some of his soldiers will desecrate the temple in Jerusalem and the way they did that was they took a pig they knew the Jews don't

eat pigs they don't eat pork and they took a pig and sacrificed it on the altar in the temple Antiochus Epiphanes did that and he took a statue of Jupiter and placed it in the

most holy place of the temple that's a picture of how the Antichrist one day will set up his own image in the temple in Jerusalem in a future day the dual fulfillment of prophecy and then they will set up the abomination of desolation this is the abomination of desolation which Jesus spoke of in Matthew 24 prefigured in the statue of Jupiter being put up by Antiochus Epiphanes 165 years before Christ now Jesus said that we need to understand about this abomination of desolation that's why we need to consider this passage of scripture carefully and then we read in verse 32 by deceit by deception deception is going to be one of the greatest means by which the Antichrist is going to fulfill his purpose he will win the support of those who have forsaken the covenant of their God but those who

know their God will display strength and take action and there we see the contrast in verse 32 it's one of the most important verses in the chapter between the compromisers and the wholehearted it says that when Antiochus Epiphanes comes into Jerusalem there will be certain Jews who will compromise and take his side forsake the covenant and there will be others and we read about them in the book books of Maccabees in the apocryphal books Maccabees were a group of five brothers who was the son of one of the sons of one of the priests and they were the ones who stood for the truth against Antiochus Epiphanes they endured tremendous persecution in those days the way this king of Syria used to taunt the Jews was by forcing them to eat pork and there are amazing stories of martyrdom where the

Jews would refuse to eat pork and they would be tortured for it and slain and they would stand true to their faith for a small thing like that an example for those who are going to take a stand for the Lord for small things in the last days it's not in the big things Antiochus Epiphanes didn't tell the Jews to kill or to commit adultery a small thing he said take a little bit of pork to prove that you deny the Word of God and that teaches us that in the last days is going to be through small compromises a small little thing by which we deny and forsake the covenant so when it speaks here in verse 32 about those who forsake the covenant it was not by disobeying one of the great Ten Commandments but by the small things and this is why we emphasize in these days it's an obedience to the

small things that the wholehearted are distinguished it was exactly like that at that time when Antiochus Epiphanes tested the Jews and there were these leaders called the Maccabean brothers who stood up for God the people who knew their God verse 32 will display strength and take action they fought physically because their kingdom was earthly but we who stand for spiritual truth fight a spiritual battle but the example of the Maccabean brothers is a tremendous example and I just want to emphasize that verse 32 is a very important verse for those who are wholehearted in the last days the secret is to know God to know God personally not know the Bible but to know God the people who know their God will be strong there is no other way to be strong verse 33 and those who have insight

those who have revelation among the people the wise leaders of the people it's referring in its primary fulfillment to the Maccabean brothers and their followers it's referring in a secondary fulfillment to the overcomers in the last days the wise leaders who have revelation will share their wisdom with many others this is an important ministry in the last days that if God gives us wisdom we are to share that wisdom with many others yet they will fall by the sword that means they will be persecuted and some of them will be killed in battle some burnt to death some will be robbed and made prisoners and while this killing is going on verse 34 God's people will receive a little help God ensures that they are that our pressures never become too great for us to bear and while the killing is

going on God's people will receive a little help even though many who join them will do so for selfish reasons in hypocrisy and with flatteries it says in the King James Version in other words as we take a stand for the Lord is overcomers in the last days we are going to find certain people joining us or seeking to join us who are not sincere who are not wholehearted in their private life God's Word warns us and any person who wants to stand for God must recognize that fact that in the midst of the whole hearted there will be people coming in with speaking flattering words beware of flattery in the last days coming in hypocrisy insincere seeking to come in the midst of God's people with as it says here selfish reasons that's why we need to be shrewd as serpents and not swallow anything

that anyone comes and tells us and believe that he's wholehearted just because he comes to the meetings or just because he appears to be interested in hearing the Word of God God's Word warns us about everything that's going to come but some of those wise leaders those who have revelation will be killed they will fall by the sword they will suffer but as a result of this the people will be purified the slaying and persecution will only purify the church until the end time and here is an amazing phrase this will continue until the end comes the time that God has set God has set an exact time for these things and then the end will come now we move to verse 36 and here is a much clearer description of the Antichrist himself also referring to the king of Syria the king will do as he pleases

this is also a picture of the Antichrist and he will magnify himself above every God as we read in 2nd Thessalonians chapter 2 he will exalt himself above every God and he will speak monstrous things against the God of God he will prosper he'll be able to do this until the time when God punishes him and for that which is decreed will be done in the Good News Bible paraphrases that last phrase of verse 36 like this listen to it God will do exactly what he has planned and that's one of the great messages that comes through to us in the book of Daniel God will do exactly what he has planned and the fact that all the previous things have already been fulfilled in history is written for our encouragement that when the Antichrist rises God is going to do exactly what he has planned it's not

going to go out of control and we read further the king will ignore the God of his ancestors served and he will also ignore the God that women love we read of that in Ezekiel and chapter 8 verse 14 women had a God called Tammuz whom they worshipped the God of fertility he will ignore that he will be anti God he will be anti religion he will be anti children he'll be a great promoter of abortion we can see the beginnings of it already and because he will think he will ignore every God because he will think he is greater than any of them verse 37 and then verse 38 it says instead of all this he's going to be anti God anti religion anti children we see some of that in communism already if you read of the history of communist countries you see they are anti all these things and instead of all

this he will honor the God of war his God will be the God of war the God of fortresses and the God of wealth to whom he offered gold silver jewels and other gifts to a God his ancestors never worshipped it says here the worship of power and wealth and verse 39 to defend his fortresses he will use people who worship a foreign God he will use the help of a foreign God literally means he will be helped by evil spirits those are the foreign gods behind every demon there is an evil spirit evil spirits are the ones who are going to help the forces of the Antichrist in the last days he will give great honor to those who accept him as their ruler those who bow down and take his image and put them into high offices and give them land as a reward first 39 he will give great honor and land and

property to those who will submit to his authority now this literally happened to during the days of Antiochus Epiphanes and it's going to happen again in the days of the Antichrist and finally it tells it says

as I said in verse 36 until the time comes and history tells us that Antiochus Epiphanes died of a terrible disease and while he was dying of that disease he said this is because I desecrated the temple in Jerusalem that God has punished me and that's how he died the Antichrist is also going to meet a similar fate verse 39 he will use the help of evil spirits and put in power those who submit to him now verse 40 when the king of Syria's final hour has almost come that's almost the end of the age in as far as we're concerned it's the final battle when his hour is almost come we read

the king of Egypt will attack him and the king of Syria will fight back with all his power using chariots forces and many ships that was how it was in those days in the last days it'll be with missiles and aircraft and various other things he will invade many countries and this is the time when the Antichrist is going to rule that whole section of the world like the waters of a flood he will even invade the promised land that is the time when he's going to break the covenant with the Jews and kill tens of thousands but the countries of Edom Moab and what is left of Emon will escape which is today known as Jordan I don't know the significance of that but it seems to say here that the country of Jordan is going to escape for some reason or the other but we can be pretty sure that we shall

see the fulfillment of that when he invades all those countries Egypt will not be spared Egypt will be conquered he'll take away Egypt's hidden treasures he will conquer Libya and Sudan who will be behind him Libya and Ethiopia it says here in verse 43 will follow at his heel but at that time rumors from the east verse 44 and from the north will frighten him and that speaks of the forces that come in across the Euphrates that we considered when we studied Revelation 16 perhaps Chinese forces from the east and he will fight furiously killing many people verse 45 he will set up his royal tent that is his palace between the seas that means between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea that is in Jerusalem and the holy mountain on which the temple stands but finally he will come to his end

and there will be nobody to help him and that is a description of how it was with the king of Syria and that long section beginning from verse 21 right on till the end of the chapter is a pretty good description God has given us of how the Antichrist is going to rise up to power and that is why this portion of scripture has significance for us and if we keep this in mind we will see the developments in the world in light of what we saw in this chapter now we come to chapter 12 at that time that is at that particular time the period of history when the Antichrist has broken the covenant with the Jews it says Michael the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people will arise and we considered that when we studied Revelation chapter 12 oh there was war in heaven and Michael

the Archangel fought with the devil and his angels and the devil and his angels were cast out to the earth from the second heavens from the heavenlies they were cast down that's prophesied in Daniel 2 this warfare among evil spirits which we saw in Daniel 10 we see in Revelation 12 and finally Satan is cast down and that's the chapter in Revelation 12 where we have this wonderful verse about the overcomers Revelation 12 11 but they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb by the word of their testimony and they loved not their lives unto the death that is the time spoken of here and there will be a time of distress that is the great tribulation such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time that is for a period of three and a half years and at that time your people but not

all your people only those whose names are found written in the book that is the hundred and forty four thousand Jews whom we considered in studying Revelation chapter 7 who will be sealed with the mark of God on their foreheads will be protected from the Antichrist will be rescued and then you see Daniel as I said sees this mountain peak and then misses out the valley of two thousand years and sees the mountain

peak beyond and sees it all as one and he does not see the church age because it was hidden from him and he sees it all together right on to the end that's why he sees the king of Syria Antiochus Epiphanes and the Antichrist as though they were one and then he comes right on to the end of time where he speaks of the resurrection of the dead and that is the second coming of Christ

in verse 2 the two resurrections and many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake these to everlasting life but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt which means that there will be two resurrections a resurrection to life and the resurrection to damnation which is again at the end of the thousand year reign of Christ but Daniel sees it all together because he does not see this valley of 2,000 years of church history and he does not see the other value of 1,000 years beyond that where Jesus reigns on the earth he sees all the mountain peaks and sees them all as one from his standpoint in history but there are these two resurrections and those who have insight this phrase comes again and again in these last two chapters those who have revelation teaching us that if

you want to be an overcomer in the last days there's a great need for revelation and those who will teach others on the basis of spiritual revelation will shine brightly in the day of resurrection this is speaking about rewards there will be rewards given after the resurrection verse 3 those who have had revelation and who have been wise who have acquired wisdom during their earthly life will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven and those who have taught righteousness to other people will shine like the stars forever and ever so we see there's a special reward for those who have led others to righteousness not just led others to forgiveness of sins but those who have led others to a righteous life this is going to be the mark of true leadership in the last days and

that's why brothers and sisters we need to look for leadership of the type described here in verse 3 those who can lead us to righteousness not help us and soothe our consciences in a compromising half-hearted life they will shine like the stars forever and ever and it says in 1 Corinthians 15 verse 41 and 42 that the resurrection of the dead is going to be like many stars and you know when you look up into the sky not all the stars have the same degree of brightness and the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 15 verse 41 and 42 that the resurrection of the dead is going to be like that that not all believers are going to shine with the same degree of glory if we ask a question do all the stars have light the answer is yes will all believers be like Jesus the answer is yes a second question do

all the stars have the same degree of light no will all believers have the same degree of glory no there will be different degrees of glory like the stars like a 5 watt bulb and a 100 watt bulb and a 1000 watt bulb all light but different degrees of light not all have been equally wholehearted in leading others to righteousness some have led people to righteousness corresponding to a 5 watt bulb or a 0 watt bulb others have led people to righteousness to a greater degree and some to a greater degree and that is going to be their degree of glory in eternity and there the compromises will be seen pretty clearly and then verse 4 it says as for you Daniel conceal these words these words are hidden Daniel this book is the one book in the Old Testament which is concealed it's going to be

revealed at the end of time we find its revelation very clearly particularly in the last century seal up the book until the end of time many will travel back and forth it's one of those verses in the Old Testament which teaches that in the last days there's going to be a tremendous increase in travel it's an amazing thing that up till about 200 years ago man traveled on animals just like Adam imagine that for nearly 6,000 years 5,800 years there was no progress in the speed of travel but suddenly something has happened particularly in this realm of travel in the 19th century and even more in the 20th century and much more

after the Second World War suddenly the speed of travel has increased so much frequency of traveling back and forth across the earth has increased and knowledge will

increase there's never been an increase of knowledge in the realm of science as there has been in this century three things in this book in this verse the book of Daniel will be opened up at the last time many will travel back and forth in the last days and knowledge will increase now I also mentioned that this also refers I believe to traveling back and forth Christians traveling here and they're trying to hear the Word of God we read in the book of Amos which is three books after Daniel three books after Daniel Amos chapter 8 and verse 11 I'm sending a famine into the land says the Lord God not a famine for bread or a thirst for water Amos 8 11 is a very important verse for the last days but rather for hearing what does it say not the Word of God which is the Bible that will be

distributed all over the Bible society will take care of that but the words of the Lord the words of the Lord speaks of the prophetic words of the Lord the prophetic word that word which comes out a revelation of the Holy Spirit on the Bible there will be a famine of that and people will travel from one sea to the other from east to west from the north to the east they will go to and forth just like we were in Daniel 12 for to seek not the Word of God they've got it printed in their hand but the word of the Lord which was an Old Testament expression for the prophetic word which came by revelation of the Spirit and they will not find it there will be a multitude of conventions people will go to and fro Daniel 12 for says from this convention to that convention to the other one to the other

one to the other one you see it being fulfilled in these days but the word of the Lord will be lacking in these conventions knowledge Daniel 12 for will increase Bible knowledge will increase Bible schools will multiply concordances and helps to understand the Greek and the Hebrew and everything else will multiply but the revelation of the Spirit will be missing it's being fulfilled in our day Daniel 12 for then I Daniel looked and behold two others were standing verse 5 one on this bank of the river and one on the other bank of the river and one said to the man dressed in linen who was above the waters of the river how long will it be until the end of these wonders and I heard the man dressed in linen something like we read in Revelation chapter 10 who was above the waters of the river

as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for one year plus two years plus half a year three and a half years we see that in Revelation 2 and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people all these events will be completed in other words when the persecution of God's people ends then all these things will be fulfilled it's going to be literally like that and then verse 8 as for me I heard but I could not understand he was honest he couldn't understand so I said my Lord what will be the outcome of these events how will it all end verse 9 he answered you must go now Daniel because these words are kept secret and hidden until the end comes Daniel could not understand it it was not even revealed to him but it's

revealed to us upon whom the ends of the ages have come we read in one Peter chapter 1 and then it says further in verse 10 but many people will be purified in the last days and this is the word God is doing in these days many people will be purged purified and refined three words they'll be made white the margin says they'll be purged made white and refined this is the word God is doing in these last days preparing the overcomers for the last day but the wicked will act wickedly this is exactly like Revelation 22 11 you know Revelation 22 11 he who is holy let him be holy he who is filthy let him be filthy Jesus said the wheat and the tares the wheat will grow what about the tares will they also grow yeah they're also going to grow those who are seeking godliness will be purged purified

and refined but the tears the wicked they will keep on acting wickedly but these revelations in the book of Daniel and the revelations of the spirit in the last days concerning the purified life verse 10 last part none of the wicked will understand but those who have revelation those who are wise will understand now that's a very important phrase that teaches us that understanding does not depend on our intelligence it depends on whether you love righteousness and hate iniquity we could paraphrase that verse 10 like this those who love iniquity will not understand even if they sit in the meetings and listen to all the messages but those who love righteousness and hate iniquity they will understand so spiritual understanding comes not through study and through intelligence but through

loving righteousness and hating iniquity Hebrews 1:9 says that the Lord anointed Jesus with the oil of gladness which is also the oil of the one who brings revelation because he loved righteousness and hated iniquity and so we see the same thing here it's wisdom is the way to understand verse 11 from the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished the Antichrist rules and the abomination of desolation is set up there will be 1290 days 1260 days plus a 30-day extra period maybe to complete the battle of Armageddon and all the events connected with the end time and then a further 45 days after that how blessed is he who remains faithful until the 1335 days are over there's an extra 75 day period here spoken of beyond the one three and a half years which is going to be the preparation for the

setting up of the Millennium and when the 1335 days are over 75 days beyond the three and a half years then the Millennium will be set up and that is the meaning is half meaning of this verse how blessed is the one who remains faithful as it says in the Good News Bible and attains to the Millennium to enter in in faithfulness who can be raised up as it says in verse 2 to the resurrection of everlasting life and who can shine like the stars as it says in verse 3 because he was faithful until the very end and then here is a word of encouragement to Daniel verse 13 as for you Daniel let me read from the Good News Bible be faithful to the end then you will die but you will rise to receive your reward at the end of time what a wonderful way in which to close this book and the one thing we see

here is that Daniel wanted to understand but the angel said sorry verse 9 sorry these are sealed up you won't understand but even if you don't understand Daniel that's not necessary for you at this particular time be faithful and that's the message that finally comes through to us you haven't understood all about the king of Syria and the king of Egypt and this that and the other will never mind brother be faithful till the end that's the main thing you haven't understood all the details of how the Antichrist is going to come up never mind you can still be like Daniel he couldn't understand because he lived in another time we can understand because we live in these days but it's possible for us to understand and not still not stand with Daniel in the final day if you are not faithful

because the important thing is not understanding but faithfulness and God told Daniel you will rise and you will stand in your allotted portion at the end of time there is an allotted portion for Daniel in the millennium on this earth that portion has been allotted to Daniel for his faithfulness and that's the message that comes through to us that God is looking that we he might give us also our allotted portion this is the significance of Hebrews 12 where it says let every man be careful that there be no man like Esau who lost his allotted portion lost his birthright for a mess of pottage for a single meal it says let there be no man among you you got an allotted portion in the millennium that God's reserved for you but you can lose it like Esau lost it for some earthly thing that you

prefer instead of that allotted reward that God has for us in the final day and so the word that comes through to us also is the same be faithful till the end be faithful till the end many will be purged purified and

refined go into that purging process be purified be refined in the last days and stand clear of compromise in the small things stand true and the word applies to us also you will rise and receive your reward at the end of time similar to the words of Jesus in Matthew 24 he who endures to the end will be saved in order to receive his reward in that final day be faithful unto death Revelation 2 10 and I will give you a crown of life and all the messages to the overcomers in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 come through to us in that final verse of the book of Daniel Daniel was the

great instrument in God's hand as we saw to move God's people out of Babylon into Jerusalem and this is our calling to in these last days to lead God's people those who have insight to righteousness out of spiritual Babylon into spiritual Jerusalem and to prepare his people to be the body and the Bride of Jesus Christ so that we can be ready for his coming Amen.

Let's bow before God. Heavenly Father we pray that the word of God that we have heard will prepare us for the coming days thank you that you have given us your word to guide us help us to walk in the light of it to be prepared to be used by you to be available for you for the fulfillment of your purposes and to learn all that we can learn from the life of Daniel so that we can glorify you and honor you in this day and age in the place where you have kept us in this city to be your witnesses in Jesus name Amen

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