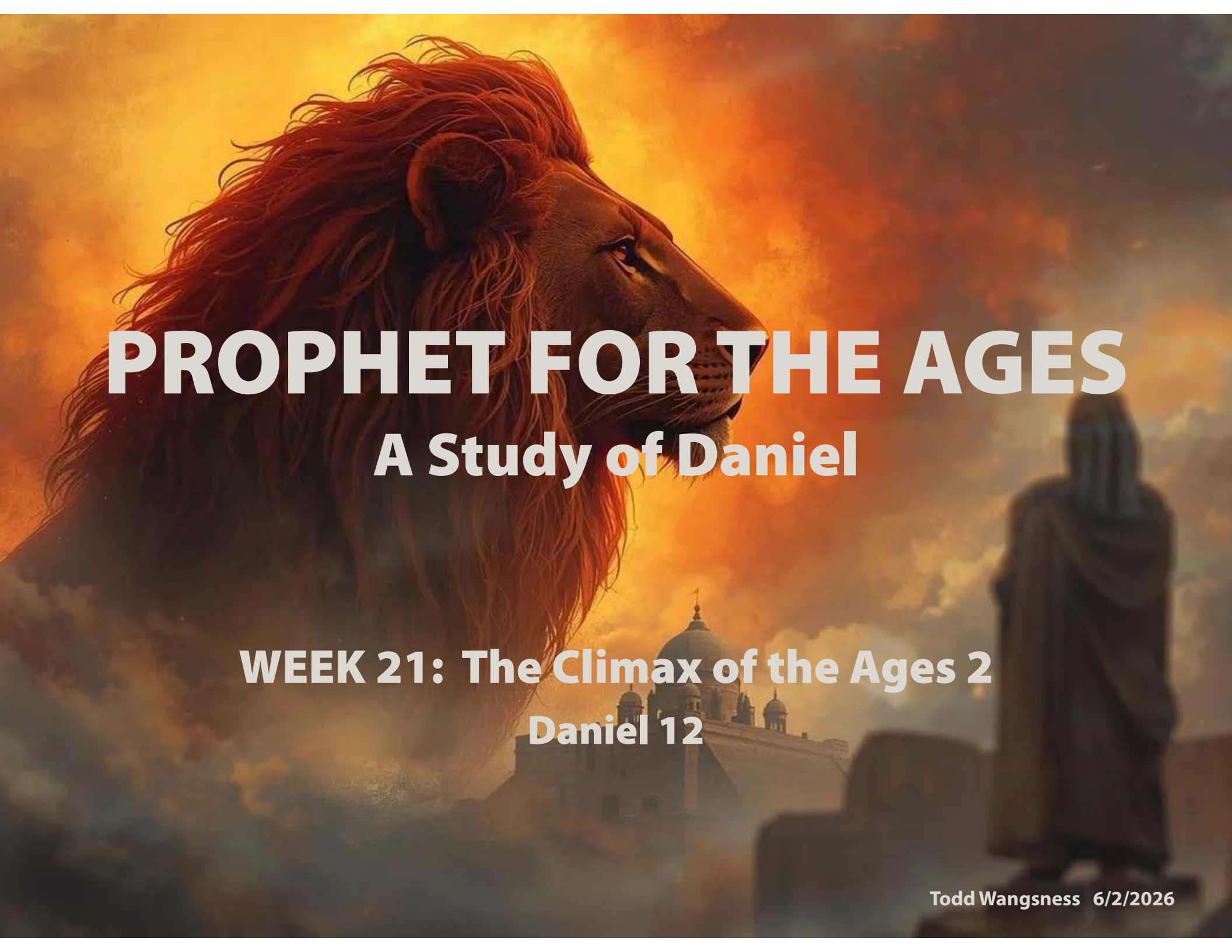




PROPHET FOR THE AGES

A Study of Daniel

WEEK 21: The Climax of the Ages 2
Daniel 12

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Daniel Chapter 12

- Daniel Chapter 12 is the final chapter of the Book of Daniel and serves as the climax and conclusion to the prophetic visions that begin in chapter 10
- It shifts focus from the detailed political and military conflicts of chapter 11 to the ultimate outcome: deliverance, resurrection, judgment, and the end of the age

Key Themes

- **Verses 1-4: The Time of Distress and Deliverance**
 - The archangel Michael ("the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people") arises during an unprecedented time of trouble/distress for Israel
 - Those whose names are written in the book (the book of life) will be delivered
- **Verses 5-12: The Angel's Conversation with Daniel**
 - A specific time period is specified: "a time, times, and half a time" (3½ years), the period during which the "power of the holy people" will be shattered
 - 1,290 days – from the time the daily sacrifice is taken away and the "abomination that causes desolation" is set up
 - 1,335 days – blessed is the one who waits for and reaches this day
- **Verse 13: Final Instructions to Daniel**
 - Daniel is told: "But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days."

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Notable Quote About Daniel 12

"The material described as the fourth vision of Daniel beginning in chapter 10 has its climax in the great tribulation and the resurrection which follows, mentioned in the early verses of chapter 12. This is also the high point in the book of Daniel itself and the goal of Daniel's prophecies relating both to the Gentiles and to Israel. The opening phrase of chapter 12, and at that time, makes clear that this passage is talking about the same period of time as the previous context, that is, 'the time of the end'. Christ described the great tribulation as beginning with 'the abomination of desolation'. This description of the time of the end confirms Daniel's revelation that the time of the end will be a period of trouble such as the world has never known. As a climax to the time of tribulation, verse 2 reveals that there will be a resurrection from the dead."

- John Walvoord

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Michael Takes a Stand

Dan 12:1a *“At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people;*

- The angel that started speaking to Daniel in 10:19 continues the prophecy
- In 11:40, the angel introduced the prophecy regarding the military activities of the Antichrist with the phrase, *“at the time of the end”*
 - Now, he shows that *at that time* means at the same time as the events of 11:40-45, when Michael *shall stand up*
 - *Shall stand up*: Hebrew ‘amad’. To take a stand, to become involved militarily.
- Michael is the *great prince ... over your people*
 - Michael is the archangel appointed to guard the people of Israel

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Jacob's Trouble

Dan 12:1b *and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time.*

- Satan and his cohorts currently dwell in the atmospheric heavens (**Eph 2:2; 6:12**)
- In the middle of the tribulation, there will be an angelic battle in heaven, where Satan and the evil spirits allied with him will be cast down to earth
 - **Rev 12:7-9** *And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*
- Two results of this battle:
 1. Satan's access to heaven will be rescinded, and no longer able to stand before the throne accusing believers
 2. His wrath will be great, as he knows he only has 3½ years before he is bound and thrown into the abyss, so he will be highly motivated to wreak devastation on earth's inhabitants ... in particular, the Jews

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- *“there shall be a time of trouble”*
- All people will suffer in the tribulation – the cataclysmic judgments of this period will affect all humanity left behind after the rapture
 - *Jer 30:7 Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.*
- However, it will be particularly severe for the Jewish people because of the principle spelled out in Isaiah 40
 - *Isa 40:1-2 “Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” Says your God. 2 “Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.”*
- Jesus reaffirmed this fact in Matthew
 - *Mat 24:21-22 “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.”*

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Dan 12:1c *And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book.*

- The angel informs Daniel that *“your people”* (the Jews) *“shall be delivered”*, but only those whose names are written in the *book*
 - The book he references is either the *“Book of Life”* or the *“Lamb’s Book of Life”*
- Some scholars don’t distinguish between the two, but there is ample justification to believe they are two separate books

1. The Book of Life

- This book is mentioned several times in both the Old and New Testaments
- Ref. Exo 32:32-33, Psa 69:28, Phil 4:3, Rev 3:5, 20:12-15
- Many interpreters see this as the record of all people who have ever lived
- Names can be blotted out due to persistent unrepentant sin or rejection of God (supported by verses like Psalm 69:28 and the warning in Revelation 3:5)
- At the final judgment (Revelation 20:12-15), people are judged according to their works from the *“books,”* and anyone not found in the Book of Life is thrown into the lake of fire
- It determines ultimate eternal destiny

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2. The Lamb's Book of Life

- This specific book appears in Revelation and appears to be a record of the redeemed or the *Elect*
- *Rev 13:8 "... whose names have not been written in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world."*
- *Rev 21:27 "... only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life."*
- This is the register of the redeemed ... those who have eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ
- Names are written from the foundation of the world (emphasizing God's foreknowledge and election)
- Names in this book are never blotted out.
 - It guarantees entrance into the New Jerusalem and eternal life
- It belongs specifically to the Lamb (Jesus) because redemption comes through His sacrifice

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3. The Book of Remembrance

- A third book is mentioned in Malachi called the Book of Remembrance
- It appears to be a journal where God records those things that affect our reward
- *Mal 3:16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who meditate on His name*
- This is a special record of the faithful words, thoughts, conversations, fears of God, and good deeds of believers
- It functions like an ancient king's chronicle of loyal subjects who would later be publicly honored and rewarded
- It is not primarily about eternal salvation but about God's personal attention to the devotion of His people, especially in discouraging times
- God uses it to encourage the faithful that their service is not forgotten

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Resurrection of the Dead

Dan 12:2-3 *And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.*

- After the tribulation, certain people will be resurrected
- Contextually, this particular reference is not the church saints, but to the resurrection of Israel
- The Jewish people will experience one of two resurrections:
 - A resurrection to everlasting life
 - A resurrection to shame and everlasting contempt
- Most English translations imply these are simultaneous resurrections – that is not what the Hebrew says – nor does it agree with Revelation 20:5
 - The wording in Hebrew implies there will be some amount of time between the resurrection of the righteous and resurrection of the unrighteous

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- Two groups of saints will be resurrected immediately prior to the start of the Messianic Kingdom (Millennium)
 - Group 1: The Old Testament saints
 - *Isa 26:19 Your dead shall live; together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; for your dew is like the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.*
 - Group 2: The Tribulation saints
 - *Rev 20:4-5 ... Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*
 - The Church saints are not included in these groups as they were resurrected/changed at the rapture
 - The New Testament Church began on Pentecost in Acts 2 and ended at the rapture of the Church
 - There is a 1000 year separation between the First Resurrection and the Second Resurrection

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- However, the first resurrection is not a single event ... it occurs in stages through an orderly progression
 - *1 Cor 15:20-23 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.*
 - The word "order" is a military term used for the sequence of troops
- The First resurrection consists of five stages
 - Stage 1: The resurrection of the Jesus our Savior
 - Stage 2: The resurrection of the church saints at the rapture
 - Stage 3: The resurrection of the two witnesses in the middle of the tribulation
 - Stage 4: The resurrection of the Old Testament saints during the 75 day interval after the tribulation
 - Stage 5: The resurrection of the Tribulation saints shortly after Stage 4
- The Second resurrection occurs 1000 years later
 - *But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished*

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- The Second resurrection occurs 1000 years later – as the Great White Throne Judgment
 - *Rev 20:5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished*
- There are diverse views on whether those born during the Millennium that become saved are considered part of the First Resurrection or the Second
- In my (non-scholarly) opinion, the wording in Revelations 20:15 leaves open the possibility that the Great White Throne Judgment is not *necessarily* a resurrection strictly to condemnation
 - *Rev 20:11-15 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*
- There are more than a few theologians that teach the millennial saints will also be glorified after the Great White Throne judgment, but not with the accolades of those in the First. We will find out who is included in this resurrection when it happens!

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The Book is Sealed!

Dan 12:4 ***“But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”***

- Daniel is instructed to *shut up the words and seal the book*
 - The Hebrew for “shut up” means to “stop up or keep closed”
 - The Hebrew for “seal” means to “affix a seal”
- Consequently, these words will not have any additional clarification or illumination *until the time of the end*
 - The Revelation to John was the start of the illumination
 - John was told to not seal it!
 - **Rev 22:10b** ***“Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.***

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- *[The] knowledge shall increase*
 - The Hebrew text has a definite article in front of *knowledge*
 - What *knowledge*? Namely, knowledge about end-times and the sequence of events!
 - Is it coincidental that God allowed the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls at the same time that Israel was re-established as a nation in 1948?
 - These scrolls contain writings that the Essenes believed in two comings of the Messiah as early as 250 BC
 - As a Suffering Servant sometime between 26 – 33 AD
 - As a Conquering King much later!
 - They contain fragments of Daniel dating back to the 3rd Century BC ... lending credence to the fact that the book of Daniel was written well prior to the events chronicled in the book actually occurring
 - What the angel relayed to Daniel was TRULY prophecy! Pre-recorded history!
 - The scrolls also contain writings that give credence that the Essenes believed in a Pre-Tribulational rapture!
 - An interesting obscure passage ... does it pertain to the Dead Sea Scrolls?
 - *Isa 29:4 You shall speak out of the ground; your speech shall be low, out of the dust; your voice shall be like a medium's, out of the ground; and your speech shall whisper out of the dust.*

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The Power and Will of Israel is Shattered

Dan 12:5-7 *Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank. 6 And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?" 7 Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.*

- Daniel sees two angelic beings on either side of the Tigris in addition to the *man clothed in linen* above the waters
- One of the angels asked the man in linen, "How long until the fulfillment ...?"
- He swore that it would be 3½ years until *the power of the holy people is ... shattered*
 - This likely refers to the power and will of Israel being overwhelmed and broken down by the forces of the Antichrist
 - Then (and only then) they will turn to God and seek His righteousness
 - **Rom 11:26a** *And so all Israel will be saved* (caveat: 'of those who remain')

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The Words are Sealed

Dan 12:8-9 *Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, “My lord, what shall be the end of these things?” 9 And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.*

- **“Go your way, Daniel”:** Daniel was told in no uncertain terms that nothing more would be disclosed at that time

Dan 12:10 *Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.*

- Many (multitudes) of Jews will be purified and refined
- The **“wise shall understand”** (a reference to their salvation)
- But the wicked who do not believe will not gain saving knowledge

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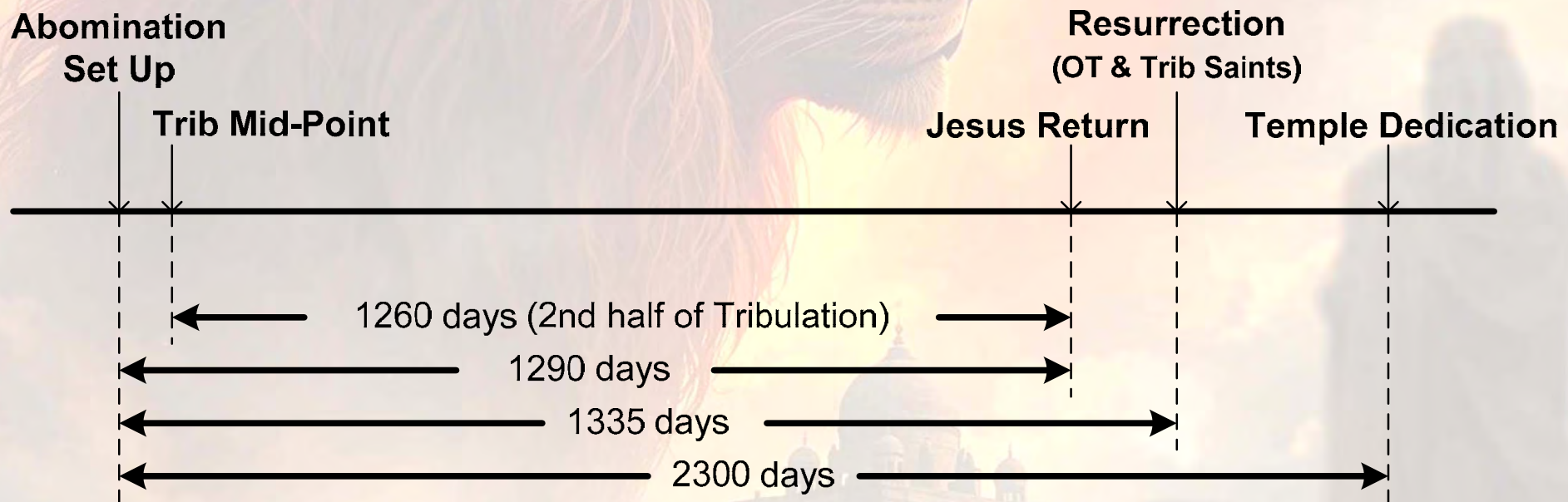
Times Following the Abomination of Desolation

Dan 12:11-13 *“And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days. 12 Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days. 13 “But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.”*

- Three time intervals are discussed in Daniel 12 and a fourth in Daniel 8
 - Dan 12:7 3½ Years (1260 days) from midpoint of tribulation to Jesus' return
 - Dan 12:11 1290 days from Abomination to Jesus' return?
 - Dan 12:12 1335 days from Abomination to resurrection of OT/Trib saints?
 - Dan 8:14 2300 days from Abomination to dedication of the Millennial temple?

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One Possible Scenario for Times



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The Book of Daniel Review

1. What body parts were mentioned in the Great Image of Daniel 2?
2. What were the materials in each of the body parts?
3. How long did Nebuchadnezzar's period of insanity last in Daniel 4?
4. How long after the event of the Handwriting on the Wall did the Kingdom of Babylon fall?
5. What were the beasts in the Vision of the Four Beasts of Daniel 7 and which kingdoms did they represent?
 - What new information was presented in the prophecy of Daniel 7 that was not presented in the one in Daniel 2?
6. What was vision in Daniel 8 about?
7. What historic event happened at the end of the 69th week of the 70 Weeks prophecy?
8. What is the period between the 69th and 70th weeks called?
9. What is the 70th week called?
10. What areas were ruled by the King of the North and the King of the South in Daniel 11?
11. What was the name of the forerunner of the Antichrist in 2nd century BC?