DANIEL 12

Go Your Way to the End

Daniel 12 — A Deep Dive

> *"Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.*
> DANIEL 12:3

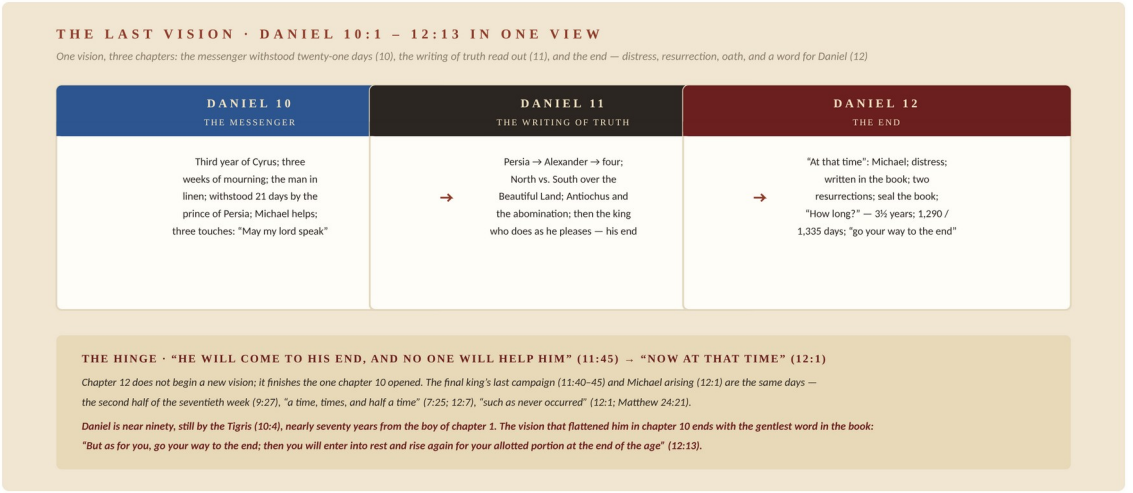
A SMITH FOR CHRIST STUDY · THREE VOICES: TSARFATI · MACARTHUR · GUZIK

Where the story stands

1. Daniel 12 is the end of the vision that began in 10, verse 1 and the end of the book.

2. The messenger has just described the final willful king who “will come to his end, and no one will help him” (chapter 11, verse 45), and “Now at that time” (chapter 12, verse 1) ties what follows to…

3. Then two more figures appear on the banks of the river, and the man in linen swears the oldest oath in the Bible: a time, times, and half a time.



Michael, the Book, and the Resurrection

DANIEL 12:1

Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.

AMIR TSARFATI

Tsarfati reads verse 1 as the Great Tribulation from Israel's side: Michael, Israel's guardian, standing up to fight (Revelation 12, verses 7 to 9) as the dragon's fury falls on the woman (Revelation 12,…

JOHN MACARTHUR

MacArthur calls verse 2 the clearest resurrection text in the Old Testament and will not let anyone soften it: "many" here carries the force of "all," and the alternatives are both everlasting. He presses the…

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik ties verse 1 to Jeremiah 30, verse 7 and Matthew 24, verse 21 and notes Jesus quoting Daniel almost word for word; then he works verse 2 phrase by phrase, sleep, dust, awake, two destinies, with Isaiah…

THE ORIGINAL **MIKHA'EL… YA'AMOD · "MICHAEL… WILL ARISE"**

Michael, the Book, and the Resurrection

"THOSE WHO SLEEP IN THE DUST WILL AWAKE" · DANIEL 12:2 AND THE TWO RESURRECTIONS

One verse, two destinies, both everlasting — and the New Testament setting them a thousand years apart

"THESE TO EVERLASTING LIFE"

"a resurrection of life"
John 5:29 — those who did the good deeds

the dead in Christ rise first
1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:51–55 — the Church

the Tribulation saints and the Old Testament faithful
Revelation 20:4–6, "the first resurrection" — Daniel 12:2a, 13

"they will shine ... like the stars forever" (v. 3)
Matthew 13:43; Isaiah 26:19; Job 19:25–27

"THE OTHERS TO ... EVERLASTING CONTEMPT"

"a resurrection of judgment"
John 5:29 — those who committed the evil deeds

"the rest of the dead did not come to life"
Revelation 20:5 — until the thousand years were completed

the great white throne
Revelation 20:11–15 — books opened; the book of life; the lake of fire

dera'on — abhorrence, used only here and Isaiah 66:24
"their worm will not die and their fire will not be quenched"

THE GAP IN THE VERSE · TSARFATI, GUZIK

Daniel sees both awakenings in one line, as the prophets saw the two comings in one line. Revelation 20 opens the verse up: the first resurrection before the thousand years, the second after. "Many" (Baldwin) carries the force of "all": everyone who ever lived will wake. "Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection" (Revelation 20:6).

How Long?

DANIEL 12:5

Then I, Daniel, looked and behold, two others were standing, one on this bank of the river and the other on that bank of the river.

AMIR TSARFATI

Tsarfati reads the two on the banks as witnesses to an oath, the man in linen is the Lord Himself, and He swears by Himself, because there is no one greater (Hebrews 6, verse 13). The answer is the second half…

JOHN MACARTHUR

“Swore by Him who lives forever.” MacArthur hears the oath as the chapter’s guarantee: the God who lives forever has sworn the timeline, and the oath is as sure as His life.

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik walks the arithmetic: a time (one year), times (two), half a time (half a year), three and a half years, confirmed by every parallel in Daniel and Revelation. He notes the solemnity of both hands raised,…

THE ORIGINAL **VA-YISHAVA BE-CHEI HA-OLAM · “AND SWORE BY HIM WHO LIVES FOREVER”**

How Long?

"A TIME, TIMES, AND HALF A TIME" · THE SAME THREE AND A HALF YEARS, EIGHT TIMES OVER

One year + two years + half a year = 3½ years = 42 months = 1,260 days — the second half of the seventieth week, from the abomination to the return

WHERE	THE WORDS	THE SCENE
Daniel 7:25	"they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time"	*the little horn wears down the saints*
Daniel 9:27	"in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice"	*the last half of the seventieth week*
Daniel 12:7	"a time, times, and half a time"	*sworn by Him who lives forever, both hands raised*
Daniel 12:11	"1,290 days" from the abomination	*the 1,260 plus thirty*
Revelation 11:2	"forty-two months"	*the nations tread the holy city*
Revelation 11:3	"twelve hundred and sixty days"	*the two witnesses prophesy*
Revelation 12:6, 14	"1,260 days" · "a time and times and half a time"	*the woman (Israel) nourished in the wilderness*
Revelation 13:5	"forty-two months"	*the beast's authority to act*

HOW IT ENDS · "AS SOON AS THEY FINISH SHATTERING THE POWER OF THE HOLY PEOPLE" (12:7)

Not when the Antichrist is beaten, but when Israel is broken enough to look on the One they pierced (Zechariah 12:10; 13:8–9) — "and so all Israel will be saved" (Romans 11:26).

I Heard but Could Not Understand

DANIEL 12:8

As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, "My lord, what will be the outcome of these events?"

AMIR TSARFATI

Tsarfati finds verse 8 encouraging: if Daniel could hear this and not understand, we are allowed not to understand everything either. What he was given to understand, he obeyed; what he was not, he left sealed.

JOHN MACARTHUR

"Go your way." MacArthur hears a pastor's answer.

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik is frank: Daniel did not understand, and neither does every commentator, and that is fine, the words are sealed until the end time and will be clearer as it comes. He reads "go your way" as "trust and…

THE ORIGINAL **SHAMA'TI VE-LO AVIN · "I HEARD BUT COULD NOT UNDERSTAND"**

Go Your Way to the End

DANIEL 12:11

From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.

AMIR TSARFATI

Tsarfati lays out the days: 1,260 to the return, thirty more for the judgment of the nations and the cleansing of the land, forty-five more to the kingdom in full, “blessed is he who waits” for day 1,335,…

JOHN MACARTHUR

MacArthur reads the numbered days with restraint and the last verse without any. He will not build a doctrine on the thirty and the forty-five, but he will build a life on verse 13: go your way to the end,…

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik works the two numbers with Chuck Smith’s suggestion, the thirty days and the forty-five as the interval in which the kingdom is set up and the sheep and goats are judged, and marks it as a suggestion….

THE ORIGINAL **ASHREI HA-MECHAKKEH · “HOW BLESSED IS HE WHO KEEPS WAITING”**

Go Your Way to the End

1,260 · 1,290 · 1,335 · THE NUMBERED DAYS FROM THE ABOMINATION — DANIEL 12:11–12

Both counts start from the abomination of desolation (Matthew 24:15). Thirty days past the return, then forty-five more — "how blessed is he who keeps waiting"

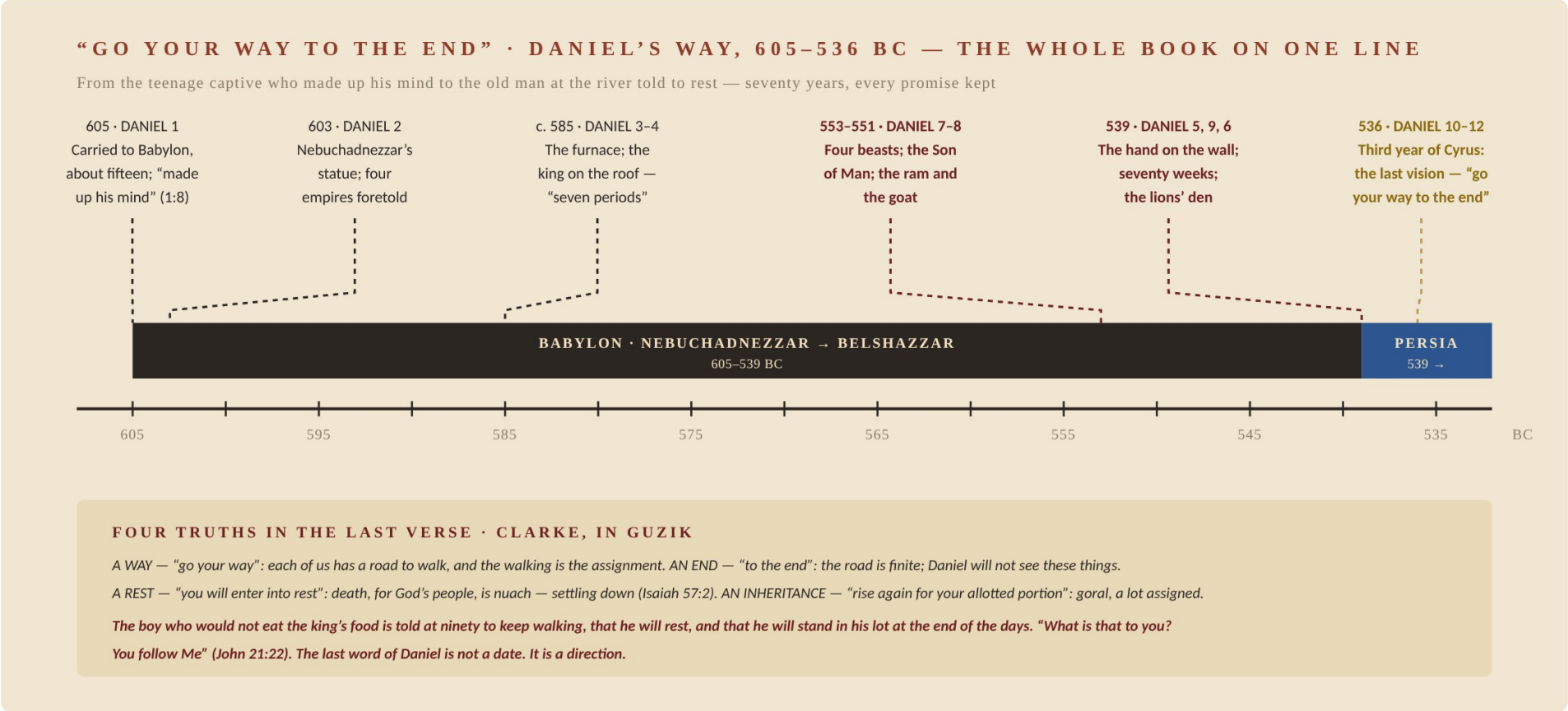


THE THIRTY AND THE FORTY-FIVE · A SUGGESTION, HELD LOOSELY

Guzik, with Chuck Smith: the thirty days past the return may cover the cleansing of the land and the temple, and the forty-five more the judgment of the nations — the sheep and the goats (Matthew 25:31–46) — before the kingdom begins in full. Other careful readers hold other views, and Scripture does not spell it out.

What is spelled out is the beatitude: ashrei — blessed, happy — is the one who keeps waiting (chakah) and reaches the days. "The one who endures to the end, he will be saved" (Matthew 24:13). The numbers are for the ones in the fire; they tell them it is measured, and that it ends in a kingdom.

Go Your Way to the End



What to carry from this chapter

1

“Now at that time” is the time of the final king.

Daniel 12 is the end of the vision of chapters 10–12 and of the book; Michael arises in the days of 11, verses 36 to 45, and the distress is the one Jesus called the grea

2

Rescue is by being written in the book.

Not every Israelite by birth, but everyone whose name God has written, the record He keeps from Exodus 32 to Revelation 20

3

The Old Testament’s clearest resurrection verse has two destinies.

Everlasting life, or disgrace and everlasting contempt, the two resurrections Jesus named in one hour and Revelation 20 sets a thousand years apart

4

The brightest stars are those who lead the many to righteousness.

The maskilim of 11, verses 33 to 35 who taught and fell will shine like the expanse forever (verse 3; Matthew 13, verse 43)

More to carry

5

Sealed means preserved, not hidden.

A scroll was sealed to authenticate and keep it until needed; Daniel is told to seal because the time is far, John not to seal because it is near (Revelation 22, verse 10

6

The oath with both hands.

“A time, times, and half a time”, three and a half years, sworn by Him who lives forever; it ends when the power of the holy people is shattered and Israel looks to her M

7

Daniel did not understand either.

“I heard but could not understand”, and the answer was not more detail but “go your way.”

8

The last word of the book is a direction, not a date.

Go your way to the end; you will rest; you will rise; you will have your portion at the end of the age (verse 13)

Talk it through

1. Who in your life is sleeping toward the second awakening, and what would it cost you to say so?

2. The brightest in eternity will be “those who lead the many to righteousness.” What are you building your life to shine for, and is it that?

CLOSING

Michael stands, the distress falls, the book is opened and the dead awake. Two others on the banks of the river, both hands raised, an oath by Him who lives forever. An old man who hears and cannot understand, told to go his way. And the last word of the book, to him and to us: go your way to the end; you will rest; you will rise; you will have your portion.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

Full Deep Dive, O·I·A study, reflection journal and film: see the Daniel study page.