

TEXTUAL ISSUES DANIEL 12

Daniel 12. Be patient—You now know Who wins. During this battle, Michael the great prince [the angel] who protects believers will come forward. A great time of stress will come, so great that it's never happened before. But for those whose names have been written "the book,"⁵¹ they will be delivered.

As for the multitudes who are in the grave, they will awake: some to everlasting life,⁵² others will awake to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise and/or impart wisdom will shine like the heavens. And for those who lead many to righteousness, they will shine like the stars—forever and ever. As for you Daniel, close this scroll until the end of time. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.

So, I Daniel looked about. Before me were **two** others,⁵³ one on this side of the river and the other on the other bank. One of them said to the man clothed in linen—who was above the river's water—"How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?"

The linen-clothed man, still above the waters, lifted his hands toward heaven and I heard him swear by Him who lives forever: "It will be a long time. When the power of holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed."

I heard all this, of course, but I didn't understand. So I asked, "Sir, what will the outcome be?"

He replied, "Let it go Daniel. The words are sealed until the time of the end. Many will be made holy, spotless and refined, but the *wicked will continue to be wicked*. Not that the wicked will understand; only those who are wise will understand.

DANIEL 12

At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. 2Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. 3Those who are wise [or *impart wisdom*] will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. 4But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."

5Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank. 6One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?"

7The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, "It will be for a time, times and half a time [or *a year, two years and half a year*]. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed."

8I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, "My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?"

9He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end. 10Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.

11"From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. 12Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.

13"As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance."

⁵¹"Sayfer" in Hebrew; obviously not "book;" *sayfer* (שְׁפֵר) is used to connote "letters, letter, deed, scroll, or certificate."

⁵²The first clear reference in Scripture to a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. See, for example, John 5:24-30. *everlasting life*. The phrase occurs only here in the Hebrew Scriptures.

⁵³Two was the minimum number of witnesses to an oath (see verse 7; Deuteronomy 19:15).

From the time the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days (3.53 years). Closer to the Lord God is the person who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days (3.66 years). As for you, go your way until the end. You'll rest, and at the end of the days, you'll rise to receive your allotted inheritance."

- Q Why is there a need for an angel to do battle "in the end times?"
- Q Who will be delivered from all this distress? Why?
- Q Why everlasting shame, contempt?
- Q Why will those who led others to righteousness "shine as the stars?"
- Q Why would we be told about this period of "great distress?"
- Q Verses 11-12—talking about Antiochus Epiphanies or another time in the future?
- Q How would you characterize Michael's advice for anyone who fears the agony/distress of "the end?"
- Q What is the believer's "allotted inheritance?"

