

22T12b 1290 days

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me @ the PUNLA coffee table. I just have to say it. I don't really like eschatology or end-times theology. I always figured it was going to happen so why worry about it. I would say things like, it does not help me follow Jesus, it does not help me reach others for Jesus, then why. What's the point? And this is true.

And I still kind of feel this way but over recent years, this topic keeps coming up over and over and over again. I think Jesus is trying to tell me something. So, I'm trying to be obedient and study the word of God as Jesus wants me to, not as I would like to do it.

Anyway, here we are talking eschatology again. This time Daniel Chapter 12. Let's remember what we mean by prophecy in the Bible. The word translated in Hebrew is "navi" which means message or proclamation. So in the Bible a prophet is delivering a "navi" or message to someone. Some of these navi are informational, some are directives, and some are foretelling. Today we are dealing with one that is most likely a foretelling navi or prophecy.

This prophecy is almost always linked to end-times similar to the Daniel 9 and the 70 weeks prophecy. The interpretation of this prophecy is very hotly contested like most eschatology. The most common interpretations hinge on the phrase about "the abomination of desolation is set up". But recently as I was studying the Gospels, I asked a simple question. Are there other things that have happened in history that could have fulfilled this prophecy? Wow, that was a much bigger question than I thought.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father. Thank you for your good news. Lord use me to share your message. If I say something in error, please let them remember what you wanted them to hear, not my errand words.

Help us not to be confused by the many voices and opinions we hear. May we stay focused on your word Lord. Guide our discussion. We pay in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.

So, like I said, there are two prevailing opinions or perspectives on Daniel 11 & 12.

The most common perspective believes this prophecy is about end-times and will be fulfilled by the antichrist, similar to the story in Revelation. This could be true. But the question which was asked is why. Why do we think this is end-times?

Okay, Most people believe Daniel 12 is a continuation of Daniel 11. So, let's start there. Daniel 11 begins with a truly amazing prophecy which has come true. Daniel 11:1-4 (NKJV) ¹"Also in the first year of Darius the Mede, I, even I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him.) ²And now I will tell you the truth: Behold, three more kings will arise in Persia, and the fourth shall be far richer than them all; by his strength, through

his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece. ³Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. ⁴And when he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken up and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not among his posterity nor according to his dominion with which he ruled; for his kingdom shall be uprooted, even for others besides these.

The first year of Darius the Mede was approximately 539BC, Daniel predicted the number of Persian kings, the rise of Xerxes (also known as Ahasuerus) in 486BC, his defeat in Greece about 479BC, the rise of the Greek Empire under Alexander the Great about 336BC, his conquests until his death about 323BC. Then Alexander the Great's kingdom was split between his four generals, not his children. Just like Daniel's prophecy.

This is just amazing how Daniel's prophecy matches what we know happened in history. The rest of Daniel 11 from verse 5 to 45 describes how these four kingdoms fought each other. The four kingdoms were Ptolemaic Empire in the area of Egypt, Seleucid Empire in the area of Syria, Kingdom of Pergamon in modern day Turkey area and Macedonia in the area of modern day Greece.

Now this is contested by some, but I believe the King of the North is the Seleucid Empire in Syria and the King of South is the Ptolemaic in Egypt. The history of these kingdoms matches very closely what Daniel foretold. Daniel's prophecy was in about 612BC and these events took place from 323BC until around 60BC when the Romans conquered the Seleucid empire. Now I know not everyone agrees with this. But our objective is to see if it is plausible that these prophecies have been fulfilled by history. And so far, it is very possible based on what we know of historical accounts.

Now this is when things start getting weird in the most commonly accepted interpretation of this prophecy. Everyone appears to agree up to verse 35. Then for some reason, many want us to jump forward in time suddenly to end-times starting in verse 36. It is a giant leap of faith to insert a time gap of thousands of years between verse 35 and verse 36. Those that don't embrace this "gap theory", usually look to the later years of the Seleucid Empire as fulfilling these scriptures. When you look at the history we have, it matches pretty closely. I'm not sure why we try so hard to insert this "gap" to make this an end-times prophecy.

So for today, we are going to say all of Daniel 11 could have been fulfilled prophecy by the Seleucid Empire. Now some contend that Daniel 12 is a continuation of Daniel 11 since Daniel does not start with the date of this prophecy like all his others. This is a pretty good reason but there are some very peculiar things about the next four verses. They are written as a quote or even a poem. Very different from the text in Daniel 11 and very different from the rest of Daniel 12. So I can see why people argue about this of course. But our question was, is it possible that Daniel 12 has been fulfilled in history already and is it possible this is not an end-times prophecy at all. If we try to view these scriptures this way, you can see that Daniel 11 very well could have been fulfilled by historical events.

Now Daniel 12 begins with this, Daniel 12:1-4 (NKJV) ¹*“At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book. ²And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever. 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.”*

Verses 1-3 are written like a poem or psalm. These might point toward the end-times resurrections but not necessarily. So let's take a deeper look at these three verses starting with verse 1. All English translation seem to agree in general. So let's look at the Hebrew Lexicon. I immediately saw a few amazing these. *“At that time Michael shall stand up*, the name Michael in Hebrew is מִיכָאֵל or Mikael which literally means “who is like God” This does not necessarily refer to the Archangel Michael although it might.

“The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people”. The Hebrew words are הַגְּדוֹל (hag·ga·do·l) meaning great or greatest or highest, הַשָּׂר (has·sar) meaning ruler or leader, יַעֲמֹד (ya·'a·mod) there is no perfect English word but it can mean to take a stand or withstand or even fulfill, עַל- (al-) meaning upon, above or over, בְּנֵי (be·nei) is translated all sorts of different ways in the bible but it could mean son or man or brothers or children or even breed or heir, then עַמְּךָ (am·me·cha) which could mean people or every peoples or nation or nations. Okay, most English Bible translations say this is Archangel Michael standing up of Israel, but why? It could just as easily be “the highest ruler” who is “like God” or Jesus. Takes a stand over all people and nations.

And there shall be a time of trouble, the Hebrew is עֵת (et) or time, צָרָה (tza·rah,) meaning distress, trouble, affliction or anguish.

, *Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time*, the Hebrew אֲשֶׁר (a·sher) mean who, which or that, לֹא- (lo-) which can mean lots of things in English not, before, never or cannot, beyond, וְהָיְתָה (ve·ha·ye·tah) meaning be or become or even or cause, גּוֹ- (go·vy,) meaning people or nation or even every nation, אֲדָמָה (ad) meaning as far as or up to, until or while, הַעֵת (ha·'et) time or appointed time or some.

So without getting to bogged down in the language to language translation. If you are not working with a preconceived concept, could this be talking about Jesus. The Highest Ruler, takes a stand for all people. Time of distress. More than before for all people until the appointed time. Sounds kind of like Jesus doesn't it.

What about verse 2 then, ²*And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt*. This sounds like the end times judgement or does it. *And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth* is translated from four Hebrew words, וְרַבִּים (ve·rab·bim) meaning much, many or great, מִיִּשְׁנֵי (mi·ye·she·nei) meaning sleep or asleep, אֲרָחוֹק (a·far)

meaning earth or dust, אֲדָמָה (ad·mat-) meaning ground of land. Many sleeping in the dust of the ground. To my astonishment the “*shall awake*” part has no Hebrew word in the lexicon. The Hebrew text only says many sleeping in the dust of the ground. Nothing about resurrection. It continues with “*Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.*” This is actually six Hebrew words, אֵלֶּה (el·leh) these or who or others, עוֹלָם (o·v·lam,) can mean eternity or everlasting it can also mean long duration, to paraphrase. Some to everlasting. Next four words are וְאֵלֶּה (ve·el·leh) these or others, לְחַרְפוֹת (la·cha·ra·fo·vt) meaning reproach or contempt or shame, עוֹלָם (o·v·lam,) can mean eternity or everlasting, לְדִרְאוֹן (le·dir·o·vn) meaning contempt or aversion.

So verse 2 seems to say, those who are dead. Some eternity, Some shame of eternal contempt.

I'm going to stop this analysis here. Verses 1-3 do not have to be end times resurrections and judgement. This is very factual, not a specific time prediction. Jesus came to take a stand for all people, every nation at the time appointed, Some who die with have everlasting life with Jesus, some will have everlasting torment without Jesus. This part of Daniel vision could very easily be talking about Jesus, not Judgment Day per say.

This little substory ends quite abruptly when Daniel is told to seal the writing up until a later time. Basically, Daniel this does not pertain to you. Of course, none of Daniel 11 pertained to Daniel either, some of these events took place over the 500 years after Daniel died. Why do so many Scholars and theologians want to make this about end times? I have no idea, but no one else does either.

But now it is about to get even more intriguing. Then Daniel sees something else. Daniel 12:5-10 (NKJV) *⁵Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank. ⁶And 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?” ⁷Then 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. ⁸Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, “My lord, what shall be the end of these things?” ⁹And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. ¹⁰Many 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.*

So, I don't want to get bogged down on these verses, the man tells Daniel it's not for him to understand so seal it up. But then something really remarkable is said, Daniel 12:11- 13 (NKJV) *¹¹“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. ¹²Blessed 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.”*

These verses really perplexed me. Let's look close at verse 11 *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.* Every English translation had some version of 1290days from the time the sacrifices are stopped. So I decided to look at the Hebrew lexicon version we had available. To my utter shock and amazement the Hebrew was very different than the English. The phrase, *And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away*, is actually three Hebrew words וּמַעַת (u-me-'et) הַתְּמִיד (hat-ta-mid,) הוֹסֵר (hu-sar) meaning time-continuity-turned a side. No mention of daily sacrifice. So I continued with *, and the abomination of desolation is set up.* This is actually three more Hebrew words שִׁקוּץ (shik-kutz) שׁוֹמֵם (sho-mem) וְלֵתַת (ve-la-tet) meaning detested thing to be desolated or appalled put or set. So the Hebrew seems to say something more like time continuity turned aside “by a” detested thing to be desolated or appalled “is” put or set “up”. What if this appalling thing is Jesus' crucifixion? I was a little shocked. But the Hebrew language seems to indicate something different than the common English translations. Then it continues with, *there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.* 1290 days is about 3 ½ years about the length of Jesus earthly ministry, I thought. What if 1290days is the length of Jesus ministry until his crucifixion when He was the detested thing desolated that was put or set up.

Now verse 12, ¹²*Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.* This puzzled me for a while. If the 1290days was Jesus' ministry until Jesus Crucifixion then why are we blessed and happy if we wait until the 1335 day or 45 days later. Then it hit me, Pentecost. Pentecost is always 7 weeks after Passover. 50 days from Passover to Pentecost. So, this bothered me 45 and 50 don't match or do they. We learned earlier this year that Jesus was 3 days and 3 nights in the grave according to His prediction. Counting backwards, Saturday night, Friday night, Thursday Night. Passover would have been Wednesday the 14th day of Nissan, then 50 days later Pentecost. Now, count Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday (5 days) plus 45 days to Pentecost. But the problem is Jesus was not Crucified until at least Thursday mid-day. So, no matter how you count it, it does not match the 45 days from 1290 days until 1335days.

So, maybe it's not Crucifixion to Pentecost. Then what, is there something else that could match this better. What if the “detested thing” which causes the desolation of Jesus was not the crucifixion but the betrayal. According to Matthew 26:1-16. Jesus is in Bethany as the house of Simon the leper after which Judas agrees to betray Jesus. This is two days before Passover or 52 days before Pentecost. Still not 45 days though. Then a thought came to me, what happened 45 days later, did we know. Acts 1:1-3 (NKJV) *The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also*

presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Being seen by them during forty days after resurrection. 40 days from resurrection to ascension, then 3 days and 3 nights to Passover and the crucifixion and the betrayal was 2 days before Passover. 40+3+2 which is 45 days.

Is it possible then that the 1290 days was Jesus' ministry on earth, ending with the detestable betrayal of Jesus two days before Passover, then 45 days later His Great Commission to the church and then His ascension? Blessed is He who waits for the Great Commission, then a few days later the holy spirit came to the early believers on Pentecost.

Now I don't know if this is right. But I can see how it could fit. I don't have to make any significant assumptions, no "gap theories" to manage the timeline.

This is how Daniel 11 & 12 flow from this perspective. It flows steadily from Daniel to Persian kings, to Alexander the Great, to his generals in Daniel 11. Daniel 12 begins with facts about Jesus and those who follow Jesus, then finishes with a description that matches the earthly ministry of Jesus, His betrayal, crucifixion, resurrection, Then the Great Commission followed by the ascension 45 days later. And if it does, it is utterly amazing and encouraging. Meaning everything in Daniel 11 and 12 could have been fulfilled in history from Daniels time to Jesus.

I thought this was one of those ah-hah moments. Possible at least.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father. Thank you for your good news. Help us to listen to you as we study and research your word. Help us not to be confused by the many voices and opinions we hear. May we stay focused on your word Lord. Help me Lord to let your word lead the way so we can see your message. Thank you, Jesus, for what you did for me or all of us. We pray in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.

Okay, I don't know if this is the correct way to interpret Daniel 12. But this approach does not need to invent a new way to interpret the fulfillment of prophecy to be true. I did some research and to my surprise, there are quite a few theologians who have similar interpretations. So, maybe it's not crazy. I'm sure not claiming any special revelation only that I felt urged by the Holy Spirit to consider this. I'll leave it up to you to decide what you want to believe. And in the end, if I'm wrong or if you're wrong or if all of us are wrong, it really does not matter. My belief about this does not impact the way I follow Jesus, or how I try to share my belief in Jesus with others. Our opinions on this and other issues like it, does not change our final outcome. But what this interpretation did for me was to allow me to see the fulfillment of scripture right before my eyes. Daniel wrote this more than five hundred years before Jesus and if it came true fully in Jesus. That truly encourages me.

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