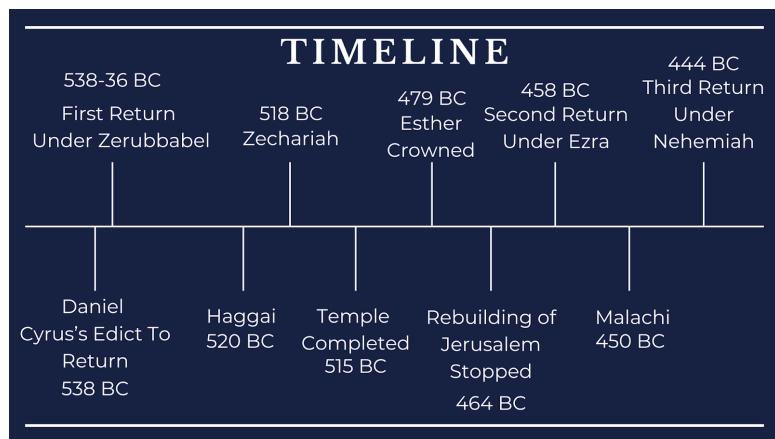

Introduction:

How many of you have enjoyed the book of Daniel?

What's Next?
(Graphic 1)



Part 3: Taught on December 13, 2023

Verse 35b: The Switch

(**Daniel 11:35** *And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time.*)

Hurt: This time phrase signifies that the persecution of Israel will continue until the final period of time in the future, the time which God has appointed.

That phrase, “the time of the end,” or “the end time,” is significant. It signifies the switch that takes place. For starting in verse 36, we leave Antiochus Epiphanes (a type of Antichrist) and go to the actual Antichrist in the Tribulation.

This word, “time of the end” in verse 35 in the Greek is (συντέλεια - *synteleia*), found in the Septuagint, the Greek translation that the NT writers used. Where else do we see this word, *synteleia* in the NT?

(Graphic 2)

UNDERSTANDING
THE TIMING OF DANIEL 11-12

³ Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, ⁴ the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ⁵ "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

synteleia - συντέλεια

The Tribulation
Mark 13:5-23; Luke 21:5-24

⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them: ⁵ "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁶ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ⁷ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁹ All these are the beginning of sorrows. ¹⁰ Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. ¹¹ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹² Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹³ **Daniel 11-12** ¹⁴ And this Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. ¹⁵ Therefore when you see the ¹⁶ abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), ¹⁷ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁸ Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. ¹⁹ And let him who

Fast-forward towards the end of Jesus' ministry, the apostles come to Jesus asking when the *synteleia* will happen: [read Matt24:3]

Here's a great question: How do we know that disciples were referring to the *synteleia* ("end time") of Daniel 11:35? Because of Matthew 24:15. You can have EXTRA CONFIDENCE in your interpretation of Daniel 11:36 and Daniel 12 that this is speaking of the coming Antichrist, with his coming abomination of desolations, undergirded by and the Tribulation time period.

- On a side note, this harmony of scripture also helps you understand Matthew 24. Matthew 24 is often misunderstood and confused because readers are not reading Matthew 24 in context. What's the context of Matthew 24? It's the exact same time period as Daniel 11:36-12 because Jesus said it was so. So when you read Matthew 24, you learn that Jesus is teaching about the Tribulation, the Antichrist, and the Tribulation Saints with greater detail. In other words, Jesus is giving more detail to what we read here in Daniel 11:36-12. If I can summarize Matthew 24 it is Jesus **preparing the Tribulation saints to have all the encouragement and guidance they need when they are persecuted for their faith in the darkest period of human history.**
- Jesus made clear reference to Daniel 11-12 in Matthew 24. Therefore, to fully understand "the end times," Daniel 11-12 is helpful.

Verse 36: Who Is the King?

(Daniel 11:36 “Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done.”)

Who is the King? The Antichrist.

What will he do? (1) He will exalt himself and (2) Blaspheme the Lord. (3) He will be successful.

What’s the Believer’s Appropriate Perspective?

The Antichrist’s prosperity is time-based. He shall only “prosper” in the 7-year Tribulation: no more no less.

Also, everything concerning the Antichrist and the Tribulation is, “determined.” And God guarantees that all of it “shall be done.”

Contemporary Application: If you had any worries or doubts, remember tonight:

Everything is going according to schedule. And everything scheduled in the future (prophecy) must occur: no more, no less than what is pre-determined by the Lord.

May that be a source of comfort to you: There is nothing **unknown** to God. There is nothing **that will occur that is unexpected with God**. He knows all things. And nothing can deter the plan and purposes of God, on a macro-scale with world history, but also on a micro-scale with your life. Praise God.

Verse 37: The Antichrist’s Objective

(Daniel 11:37 He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all.)

Consider the Apostle Paul’s words. Speaking of the Antichrist,

(2 Thessalonians 2:4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.)

The Antichrist exalts himself above all false gods and equates himself to the Lord. No man in history has done and fulfilled these prophecies. But when the Antichrist comes, make no mistake that he will be unmistakable.

Verse 37b: Women?

This verse has two interpretations: Theologians and pastors I deeply respect differ on this. I will give you both views:

Interpretation #1: The Antichrist is Homosexual

One of my favorite theologians sees this text to imply that the Antichrist will be homosexual. In a world that is increasingly worshiping homosexuality, it's not too far out to believe, is it?

Interpretation #2: The False God Desired by Women

This scripture translated from the Hebrew can also be translated this way, as the CSB translates this text, clarifying the prepositional object:

CSB: *(Daniel 11:37 He will not show regard for the gods of his ancestors, the god desired by women, or for any other god, because he will magnify himself above all.)*

- Because the context is *gods*, the “god desired by women” is a clarifying translation that deems “gods” as the object of the preposition.

What view is right? Could the Antichrist be gay? Maybe. Could the prepositional object be a reference to a particular deity? Maybe. **One day, it will all unfold.**

As a precursor to some more things we will read, understand this: As Christians, we need to remember to keep what is essential, essential. And keep what is non-essential, non-essential.

Unfortunately, when it comes to the subject of prophecy, people can sometimes get too caught up in the non-essentials:

Personal Example:

Years ago, when Barack Obama was the president of the US, there were a substantial number of “prophecy-watchers” who claimed that Obama was the Antichrist. They had all these reasons to prove it. Do any of you recall when some letters leaked that suggested the possibility that Obama was homosexual? I remember one individual in my circle going around telling everyone, “Obama is gay! You see, Obama is the Antichrist! He has fulfilled Daniel 11:37!” This man was absolutely certain that Obama was the Antichrist: he was telling people to be ready for the rapture, to get right with God, to go to great lengths to start selling off assets and possessions because the rapture had to happen at any moment.

Did Obama turn out to be the Antichrist? **No.**

Did Obama fulfill the prophecies of the Antichrist? **No.**

I want you to know something. This brother in Christ later acknowledged that he was wrong. He learned a valuable lesson, as we all learn:

What is essential for us in the last days? Remember Daniel 11:35 states that we are reading about the “end times,” the *synteleia*? And then the apostles asked when will the *synteleia* be in Matthew 24, and Jesus graciously revealed more about the Tribulation. Well, did you know Jesus also tells His church what we should be doing in these last days leading up to and during the end times?

(**Matthew 28:18** *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*

Matthew 28:19 *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

Matthew 28:20 *teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to [the *synteleia*, the trib.] the end of the age.” Amen.)*

What’s essential? Making disciples.

What’s non-essential? Conspiracy theories.

Jesus did not command us to look for the Antichrist, **He commanded us to look to the Son of God!**

(**Luke 12:36** *and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately.*)

We aren’t waiting for the Antichrist. The Antichrist will come at that perfect time that God has chosen.

Our waiting is more glorious! We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yes, it is important that we study the Antichrist and know the Antichrist. If it's in scripture, it's important to study. But in everything we study, we have to differentiate between essentials and non-essentials.

Verse 38: A Mysterious Character

(Daniel 11:38 But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things.)

Who is this “god of fortresses” that the Antichrist will honor? Again, theologians differ on this. Is this referring to Satan, power, or the Roman beast? One day, it will unfold.

Verse 39: His Goals

(Daniel 11:39 Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.)

I will quote Constable here:

11:39 The foreign god referred to in this verse may be the god of military might mentioned in verse 38. Alternatively, it may be some other foreign god that he uses for his own ends, or it may even be himself. As Antiochus before him, this ruler will reward those who are loyal to him, and he will support them by bestowing honors and positions of authority on them. Perhaps he will also take bribes, as Antiochus did, and give land to those who pay him off. Another possibility is that he will reward with lands those who are faithful to him.

Constable, Tom. [Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible](#). Galaxie Software, 2003, p. Da 11:39.

Verses 40-44: The Antichrist's War Effort

(Daniel 11:40 “At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through.

Daniel 11:41 He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon.

Daniel 11:42 He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape.

Daniel 11:43 He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels.

Daniel 11:44 *But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many.)*

Based on what we read in Daniel and Revelation, we know this happens at the second half of the 7-year Tribulation. The first half, the Antichrist is at peace with the Jews. But Daniel 9:27 tells us that he manifests his true colors by breaking his covenant with the Jews and ushering in the greatest holocaust of Jews known to planet earth. These verses detail his enemies and his victories around this time.

Verse 45: His Destruction

(Daniel 11:45 *And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.)*

It's very interesting to me to read that the Antichrist wants to set up his kingdom right there in Israel, in Jerusalem, on or near Mount Zion.

- Some could say it makes the most sense for a world empire, since "Israel occupies the most strategic geographical location on earth..."⁸

I think there's more to that: Because the context tells us he exalts himself above all gods, including the Lord, it seems more likely that the Antichrist wants to defy and mock Jesus Christ by setting up his satanic kingdom where Christ promised to set up the true kingdom.

In other words, the Antichrist will somehow think that he was victorious over God's plan. But what does the Bible tell us?

When Jesus comes back at the end of the Tribulation to set up His kingdom, guess what location He first comes to?

(Zechariah 14:4 *And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.)*

⁸ Renald Showers on Daniel 11:40-45.

Bam! Right where the Antichrist establishes his pathetic kingdom, Jesus Christ comes, throws the Antichrist into the lake of fire, and establishes His kingdom at the location He pre-determined before the world began - right there in Jerusalem on Mount Zion. That mountain is not Satan's mountain nor is it the mountain of the muslims. **Jesus Christ owns that mountain and will set up His kingdom there!**

45b: His Destruction

As we read in verse 36, the Antichrist's success and destruction is all predetermined by the Lord. At that perfect moment, the Antichrist's time is up. He's defeated and destroyed.

Now looking to chapter 12 what must be understood is that there is no break. Chapter 12 continues looking at the end of the Tribulation:

Chapter 12

Verses 1-3: The Victory

(Daniel 12:1 "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.

Daniel 12:2 *And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

Daniel 12:3 *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.)*

Verse 1: Concerning the Jews

Daniel is shown that the Jews will suffer tremendously up until this point. Zechariah 13:8 teaches us that $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Jews will die in the Tribulation. Only $\frac{1}{3}$ will survive.

And, as the second half shows, the Jews will be delivered.

Verse 2: The Resurrection

Is verse 2 after the Tribulation or after the Millennium?

I find 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 to be helpful here. This reference seems to occur at the end of the Millennium at the Great White Throne Judgment. Remember the context: This concerns the Tribulation saints. There will be those who are found in the book of life to receive everlasting life. And those who rejected Jesus Christ, Jew or Gentile, will by default go to eternal punishment in hell. You can learn more about the Great White Throne Judgment in Revelation 20:11-15.

Verse 3: The Saints

(Daniel 12:3 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.)

Daniel uses a metaphor from the galaxy. He highlights the Tribulation saints, that those who remain faithful in the Tribulation will receive glory; and those who lead others to the righteousness of the Lord, they will also receive glory. If Daniel 12:3 is a promise exclusive to Tribulation Saints, based on the context, don't worry because God gives the Gentile church similar promises, such as:

(James 1:12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.)

Praise the Lord.

Verse 4: Controversy

(Daniel 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.")

Misunderstanding: Secret Knowledge?

In Daniel 8:26, Daniel is also instructed to seal the prophecy. To seal the prophecy did not imply "hiding," rather it implied that the prophecies will not unfold until God's predetermined time.

What's the "Increase"?

The 2nd half is controversial. Theologians and pastors I greatly respect and admire differ on what this means. What does it mean when the angel told Daniel, “many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase?”

(1). Info-Tech Age

Some say this phrase “knowledge shall increase” refers to the informational-technological age that we are living in. That this is a sign of the days immediately preceding the Tribulation. Is this the correct interpretation?

(2). Progressive Revelation

Some say this phrase “knowledge shall increase” is a direct reference to Matthew 24, where as time progresses, God’s people will better understand these prophecies. Is this the correct interpretation? This is the view that I take.

Remember what Jesus said as an encouragement to the Trib. saints?

(Matthew 24:15) *“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),)*

Here’s the reasoning:

- (1). Daniel and his contemporaries received limited knowledge.
- (2). The Early Church received greater knowledge.
- (3). The Church in 2023 received even greater knowledge. (Why? Because we’ve seen various prophecies fulfilled.)
- (4). The Tribulation saints will receive the most intimate knowledge: For Jesus gave them Matthew 24 as a guide and encouragement that details what they should know and what they should do while living in the Tribulation, while they see the Antichrist fulfill prophecy before their eyes.
 - Example: Recall Daniel 11:37. You and I know can only speculate whether the text implies whether the Antichrist is homosexual or not. Well, one day knowledge will increase to the point where the Tribulation saints will discover the truth on that one.

The Point: God’s prophetic plan has always been progressive in revelation. In Genesis 3:15, “The seed will strike the serpent’s head,” was the first reference to God’s plan of salvation (that Jesus Christ will strike Satan’s head). Fast-forward about 2,000 years, Abraham is promised that in His Seed all the earth will be blessed, a reference to Jesus Christ. Fast-forward a century, Jacob prophecies that the Messiah will come from the tribe of Judah. Fast-forward about 1300 years later, Isaiah prophecies in Isaiah 53 that Christ will be the atonement for sins.

Fast-forward about 700 years, Jesus Christ fulfills those and all the other 300+ prophecies concerning the Messiah. Jesus Christ dies on the Cross for our sins.⁹ Faith in Jehovah was the only requirement for Abraham and for you and I, no matter how limited knowledge each generation had.

Know this. Where we are today, we have the completed canon of scripture Genesis → Revelation. Think about King David, who wrote the book of Psalms. It seems that David only had Genesis → Ruth. And you ask, how did he write the book of Psalms not knowing what we know? He was led by the Holy Spirit; He prophesied by the Holy Spirit. And in his generation, what God had revealed was entirely sufficient.

Verses 5-9 continue this train of thought:

Verses 5-9: Not Yet!

(Daniel 12:5 Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank.

Daniel 12:6 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?”

Daniel 12:7 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 12:8 Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, “My lord, what shall be the end of these things?”

Daniel 12:9 And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.”)

Remember Daniel in chapter 8 asked in a previous vision, “what do these things mean and when will these things happen?”

If I can paraphrase this, this being tells Daniel, “You will not know the timing and you will not understand how it all ends.” Seal it up until God reveals it in His perfect timing.

The Application:

So for you and I, we are in a much different position than Daniel was. Many prophecies have been fulfilled. The canon of scripture closed, Genesis → Revelation. With everything that God has revealed, Genesis to Revelation, are you studying Genesis to Revelation? In these last days, are you seeking to obey His commands in light of Genesis to Revelation?

⁹ Easy bible timeline: [Click here](#).

The new believer who says, “What is God’s plan? What is God’s plan for my life?” “What should I do these last days?” that person simply and exclusively should look to the full and complete revelation of God, from Genesis to Revelation.

Verses 10: Who Will Understand?

(Daniel 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.)

Back in the time period of the Tribulation, only the wise will understand what’s really going on.

Again, Jesus’ words from Matthew 24 are valuable:

(Matthew 24:15 “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),

Matthew 24:16 “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”)

Once those Tribulation saints see the true manifestation of the Antichrist, they will know exactly what to do. The truly wise will be ready.

Verses 11-12: The Timing of Events for the Tribulation Saints

(Daniel 12:11 “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.

Daniel 12:12 Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.”)

The Tribulation saints are prepared to know the exact timing of everything to the date. And the Tribulation saints are encouraged to find the blessedness in waiting for their Savior Jesus to return for them.

Now, there is a 45 day difference between verse 11 and verse 12. So theologians and pastors have studied the significance of this 45 day gap. What happens in that 45 day gap. Is there an intermediary time between the end of the Tribulation and the beginning of the Millennium? What is happening in those 45 days? Personally, as of today, I think this 45 days is as a result of the aftermath of the Battle of Armageddon, the Ezekiel 38 war where it will take

time to clean up the earth from all the corpses from that battle. Nonetheless, we can't be dogmatic. But I know this for sure: Again, one day it will all unfold. 😊

Verse 13: Daniel's Promise

(Daniel 12:13 "But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.)

- (1). Run your race.
- (2). You will rest and receive your inheritance, your reward in heaven forever.

The Lord's marching orders and promise for Daniel was personal. What encouragement. Did you know we have similar promises and marching orders?

(Hebrews 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Hebrews 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.)

Jesus Christ will perfect our faith. Our Savior will bring us safely to heaven. We will be with Him forever. Those promises are UNCHANGING. But until then, what are we called to do? Just like Daniel, we are called to **run our race**.

Some of us are closer to the finish line of that race. And I'm not referring to age only. God has numbered each of our days. I might take my final breath tonight and go to heaven before all of you do.

And to God be the glory! Let us all finish our race well. Let us all go to glory with a good testimony of endurance.

What is the exhortation in Hebrews 12:1?

The race has been set. We need to run it with endurance. And so to run it as we should, we are commanded to do two things:

- (1). Get rid of every obstacle.**
- (2). Get rid of sin, of any kind.**

First, do you have obstacles impeding you?

- (1). Is your job taking you away from what really matters?
- (2). Is your hobby taking you away from what really matters?
- (3). Are certain individuals taking you away from what really matters?
- (4). Has _____ (fill in the blank) been an obstacle in your race right now?

There's no shame in confession and repentance. In various seasons of our lives, the Lord will call our names and show us those areas that we need to let go of, to discipline ourselves, and to choose the better, what really matters.

Second, Do you have sins impeding you?

- (1). Have you been recently choosing jealousy? Because people in a similar season of life as you are succeeding while you aren't. Instead of rejoicing, you're criticizing.
- (2). Have you chosen pride recently? Instead of owning up to your mistakes and sins, you are defending yourself and running away from the real issue.
- (3). Have you chosen bitterness recently? Instead of getting what you wanted, you ended up getting something different. And now, instead of moving forward, you are indulging yourself in your self-pity.
- (4). Have you chosen adultery lately? Instead of remaining pure before the Lord, you are once again engaging in pornography.

It's time to confess and repent. Come to the cross to find forgiveness again. Come and receive the power of the Holy Spirit to live the victorious Christian life.

Just like Daniel, we have a race to run, we have a Shepherd to follow, and we have promises to receive. So, let's keep running, in Jesus' name.
