

The Daniel 12 Prophecy and 2023

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ONE of the remarkable things about Bible prophecy is that a single verse may have multiple fulfillments, or layers of meaning. With this in mind, it is fascinating to consider some prophetic timelines in Daniel chapter 12, also known as the Prophecy of the End Time.

Here is the whole prophecy, for context:

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river.

And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?

And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.

And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?

And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.

But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days (Daniel 12 KJV).

The first timeline we will consider is found in verse 11:

“From the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days” (Dan. 12:11).

The standard interpretation of the 1,290 days is that they are literal 24-hour days, counted from when the daily sacrifice is taken away by the Antichrist at the midpoint of the Tribulation. However, because a day may represent a year of actual time in Bible prophecy, it is interesting to count 1,290 *years* from a *past* taking away of the daily sacrifice.

In Daniel's time, the daily sacrifice was interrupted three times by the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar:

- 1) In 606–05 BC, when Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem and deported many Hebrews, including Daniel, to Babylon.
- 2) In 599–97 BC, when Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem, captured King Jehoiachin, and carried off some of the Temple's vessels to Babylon (2 Chron. 36:5–10).
- 3) In 586 BC, when Nebuchadnezzar burned the Temple and carried off all its treasures to Babylon (2 Chron. 36:17–19).

Daniel says to count 1,290 (days or years) from when the daily sacrifice is taken away. So, let's do the math:

Counting 1,290 years from the first interruption of the daily sacrifice (606–05 BC), we arrive at 685–86 AD, the year construction began on the Dome of the Rock, the famous gold-domed Islamic shrine that stands on the Temple Mount.

Counting 1,290 years from the second interruption of the daily sacrifice (599–97 BC), we arrive at 692–93 AD, the year the Dome of the Rock was completed.

Counting 1,290 'prophetic' (360-day) years from the third interruption of the daily sacrifice (586 BC), we arrive at 688 AD, the midpoint of the Dome of the Rock's construction.

Notice that in all three instances, the 1,290 years end at the setting up of the Dome-of-the-Rock structure on the Temple Mount, fulfilling Daniel's words: "From the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away and the abomination that causes desolation set up, there shall be 1,290 days."

The next prophetic timeline we will consider is found in verse 7. Here, when the "man clothed in linen" is asked how long will it be to the end of these wonders, He answers:

"It shall be for a time, times, an half [1,260 days]; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished" (Dan. 12:7).

According to the man clothed in linen (a preincarnate Jesus), "the end" will come after 1,260 days, when God has finished scattering the holy people. Here is the amazing thing: Counting 1,260 years from when the Dome of the Rock was set up in 688 AD, we arrive at 1948, the year the scattering of the Jews was finished. Thus, the 1,260 years—counted from the setting up of the Islamic edifice that has stood for

more than a millennium as a symbol of the Jewish dispersion—mark the *end* of the dispersion, and the beginning of the end times, as foretold in Matthew (24:32–34).

Finally, verse 12 of Daniel’s end-times prophecy contains the ultimate timeline:

“Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days” (Dan. 12:12).

The standard interpretation of the 1,335 days is that they are literal 24-hour days, concluding at an unspecified “blessed” event after the Tribulation. However, because a day may also represent a year, it is reasonable to count 1,335 years from our previously established starting point, the Dome of the Rock:

688 AD + 1,335 years = 2023

Click [here](#) for a chart.

That the 1,335 years conclude at 2023 is significant for two reasons. First, 2023 marks the beginning of a new seven-year Sabbatical week, a likely time for the seven-year Tribulation to begin. Second, an entirely separate prophetic timeline, found in an earlier chapter of the Book of Daniel, points to 2023 as well:

Click [here](#) for a chart.

Daniel says “blessed” are those who wait for and reach the end of the 1,335 days. Could the end of 1,335 years, counted from the Dome of the Rock, see the “blessed hope,” the rapture–resurrection of believing Jews and Gentiles that will usher in the Tribulation?

It is an awesome possibility to ponder.

NOTES:

1. A bible prophecy may have multiple fulfillments that occur as “fractals” in time: an immediate, or short-term, fulfillment that occurs over a span of days, and a long-term, or historical, fulfillment that occurs over a span of years. (For more explanation, see my book entitled, *The Coming Days of Awe*, pp. 17–38).

2. The CEV translation of Daniel 12:11 better mirrors our Dome-of-the-Rock interpretation: “There will be 1,290 days from the time that the daily sacrifices are stopped, until someone sets up the ‘Horrible Thing’ that causes destruction.”

3. The biblical day-equals-a-year principle is found throughout Scripture: Dan. 9:24–27; Gen. 29:27; Num. 14:34; Ezek. 4:5, 6.

4. The Dome of the Rock is not the only abomination that has stood on the Temple Mount since the late seventh century. A second Islamic structure, a silver-domed mosque called Al-Aqsa, has stood at the outer edge of the Temple area since it was originally laid down and consecrated by Caliph Omar in 693 AD. The Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa together comprise what Muslims call the Noble Sanctuary, the third holiest site in Islam.

5. In Daniel 12:7, the “time, times, an half” refer to a prophetic three-and-a-half-year period, equivalent to 1,260 days. In the same verse, the Hebrew word translated “scatter,” *naphats*, sometimes translated “shatter,” means to “disperse” (Strong’s 5310).

6. Rationale for counting the 1,260 and 1,335 years from 688 AD instead of 685 or 693 AD:

- 688 AD, the midpoint of the Dome of the Rock’s construction, is the single date most commonly associated with the Islamic structure.
- 688 AD is the end date that correlates to the ultimate taking away of the daily sacrifice, when the Temple was destroyed: 586–85 BC + 1,290 prophetic years = 688 AD.
- The Gregorian year 688 AD correlates to the biblical year “4448,” pointing cryptically to 1948.

7. Incidentally, there are 191 Sabbatical weeks between the construction of the Dome of the Rock (685–86 AD) and the potential start of the Tribulation week in 2022–23. The number 191 reads forward and backward as “19.” The number 19 denotes God’s perfect order concerning His judgment in Scripture:

<https://www.biblestudy.org/bibleref/meaning-of-numbers-in-bible/19.html>. Also noteworthy: there are 88 Sabbatical weeks between the Temple destruction in 70 AD and the construction of the Dome of the Rock in 685–86 AD.

8. There are two widely recognized Sabbatical week chronologies, which differ by a single year. The standard chronology, associated with Benedict Zuckermann, has the most recent Sabbatical week ending in 2022. An alternate chronology, associated with Ben Zion Wacholder, has the Sabbatical week ending one year later in 2023.

*Table of Sabbatical years (Zuckermann and Wacholder): <http://www.pickle-publishing.com/papers/sabbatical-years-table.htm?fbclid=IwAR2VdkHvh52x6Hm1IWD-skTUPk01T3F2cmIGQrZzCvVL3yQVzTEIwjDNdqQ>

*More on Zuckermann and Wacholder Sabbatical chronologies:

<https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-35306783/documents/d0ade222e9914befb461fd3bff13f887/The%20Prophetic%20Year%202022%20-%20Looking%20Back%20Looking%20Forward%20and%20Looking%20Up.pdf>

9. Yet another reckoning of Daniel's Weeks Prophecy corroborates the 2023 endpoint. Notice that Daniel 9:25 mentions Jerusalem's *wall* being rebuilt:

"From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the prince comes, there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the *wall*."

Jerusalem's wall was ordered rebuilt by Islamic ruler Suleiman in 1536–37 AD. Counting seven and sixty-two weeks (483 years) from the start of the Sabbatical week following Suleiman's order to rebuild, 1539–40 AD, we arrive at 2022–23.

10. It is the return of the Jews to the Land in this final generation (1948 and 1967) that has allowed for the calculations in this study: "And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end" (Dan. 12:9).

11. Some might argue that the pretribulational Rapture is not found in Daniel 12 because the raising of the dead therein is mentioned *after* the Tribulation (vv. 1, 2). However, the second half of verse 2 shows that Daniel is speaking generally of both the first and second resurrection, the former occurring at Jesus' return and the latter at the end of the millennium (Rev. 20:5). The Rapture is part of the first resurrection, thus falling under Daniel's general description. It is also significant that Daniel's phrasing ("many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake") matches the pretribulational rapture phrasing in Isaiah: "Your dead shall live; together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust ... the earth shall cast out the dead. Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, Until the indignation is past. For behold, the LORD comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity" (Isa. 26:19–21).