

Enduring Faith in the Promises of the Better Agreement

Daniel 12:5-12

This study (and next week) will form the last two studies of this incredible book that we call “Daniel.”

I. To understand Daniel 12 one must always keep in mind the major theme of the entire book.

“Any text taken out of its context becomes a pretext.” A pretext is an action built on falsehood or lies.

A. The major theme of Daniel is God’s covenant relationship with the Jews.

It was a **conditional** agreement (it is The Old Covenant and we read of it in “The Old Testament”).

1. The LORD says: **IF** you (Israel) obey and keep my commands, **THEN** I’ll bless you as a nation.
*“If you walk in My ways and keep My commandments, **then** I’ll bless you”* (Leviticus 26:3-4).
2. The LORD says: **IF** you (Israel) rebel, **THEN** I’ll allow other nations to capture and enslave you.
*“But **IF** you do not obey Me and do not carry out My commandments, **THEN** I in turn, will appoint you to sudden terror... **your enemies will conquer you”** (Leviticus 26:14-16).*

B. The history of Israel is rebellion against the LORD and movement into idolatry as a nation.

“I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of her adulteries. Yet I saw that her unfaithful sister Judah had no fear; she also committed adultery” (Jeremiah 3:8).

C. Stoning is the biblical punishment for breaking an agreed-upon covenant.

*“Say to the people of Israel, “Any of the people of Israel who gives any of his children to the god Molech shall surely be put to death. **The people of the land shall stone him”** (Leviticus 20:2).*

The same punishment of stoning was reserved for the adulterous spouse in Israel (see Lev. 20:10).

II. But God, who is rich in mercy, told Daniel that He would inaugurate a NEW AGREEMENT.

This “New Covenant” wouldn’t be for a “favored nation,” but an agreement with all the nations.

A. The MESSIAH (the LORD JESUS) is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

He is EMMANUEL, the LORD with us, the MICHA-EL of God’s people (“Who is like our God?”)

Daniel sees our KINSMAN-REDEEMER as a man “dressed in linen,” all-powerful over the nations.

B. END TIMES refer to the OLD AGREEMENT with the inauguration of the NEW AGREEMENT.

Daniel is all about the coming of the King of kings to inaugurate the NEW AGREEMENT.

C. Daniel founded a “School of the Magi,” and the Wise Men came seeking the King.

Jesus came to be the TRUE ISRAEL – to fulfill the LAW OF GOD in every “jot and tittle,” and He did!

THE NEW AGREEMENT: **Trust the LORD for your righteousness and LIVE your life to its fullest.**

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. ⁶ And one said to **the man dressed in linen**, who was above the waters of the river, **“How long will it be** until the end of these wonders?” ⁷ I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and **swore by Him who lives forever** that it would be for a **time, times, and half a time**; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these events will be completed. ⁸ As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, *“My lord, what will be the outcome of these events?”* ⁹ He said, *“Go your way, Daniel, **for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time.**”* ¹⁰ Many will be purged, purified and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand. ¹¹ From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, **there will be 1,290 days.** ¹² How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the **1,335 days!** ¹³ But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age” (Daniel 12:5-13, NASB).

III. The END of God's agreement with Israel inaugurates the NEW COVENANT for the world.

When does this happen? **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. How blessed is he who keeps and attains to the 1,335 days!”* Jesus quotes Daniel 12:11 when Jesus declares to His disciples:

“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation, spoken of through the prophet Daniel—*let the reader understand*— then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains... Truly I tell you, **this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened**” (Matthew 24:15-16, 34, NASB).

The Messiah is baptized at the beginning of Daniel's 70th Week (Tishri 10, Day of Atonement, AD 26). The LORD said there would be 490 years (70 weeks) “until the END of the COVENANT” (Daniel 9:24-27).

Daniel's 70th week (the last seven years) began at Christ's baptism in AD 26 (Tishri AD 26).

After His baptism, Christ had a public ministry that lasted 3.5 years (see “The Gospels”).

Jesus died on Passover Preparation Day (Nisan 15, AD 30), mid-week after His baptism.

This is MID-WEEK of Daniel's 70th Week (7 years) when the Messiah is “cut-off” (Daniel 9:27).

Stephen is STONED at the end of Daniel's 70th week (fall of AD 33). The 490 years comes to a close.

God is merciful. 40 years after Stephen's stoning (AD 33), the Old Covenant's official end would occur.

40 years after Jesus' ministry began (AD 26), the Romans began persecuting the Jews (AD 66).

40 years after Jesus' resurrection (AD 30), the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple occurred (AD 70).

40 years after Stephen's stoning (AD 33), the Roman siege and stoning of the Jews began (AD 73).

In AD 66, Vespasian became Emperor of Rome and ordered Titus to desecrate the Jews and the Temple.

“What did he do? He seized a prostitute, and entered the Holy of Holies, spread out a Sefer Torah, and committed a sin on it. He then took a sword and thrust it into the curtain dividing between the Holy and the Holy of Holies. A miracle occurred and blood spurted forth, causing him to think that he had killed “himself” (see Megillat Eichah 1:5).

The JEWS fled to Masada to avoid Roman cruelty and the Temple desecration (see Matthew 24:15-16).

Masada. 40 years after Stephen was stoned, the Romans stoned the Jews at Herod's palace (Masada).

When God makes a change in His relationship with the world, a PERIOD of FORTY precedes this change. The gospel goes “to the JEWS FIRST” – “For I am not ashamed of the GOOD NEWS, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16).

What's the GOOD NEWS? The righteousness required by God is obtained by Jesus Christ, the true Israel. Believe in Him and be blessed. Put your trust in Him and receive an eternal righteousness (Phil. 3:7-11).

“Do not be sluggish, but be imitators of those **who through enduring faith inherit the promises.** For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, **He swore by Himself.** God, desiring to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath... (so that) we who've taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us (by the New Agreement). **This hope we have as an anchor of the soul**” (Hebrews 6:12-13,19).