

GODLY LIVING IN A GODLESS WORLD

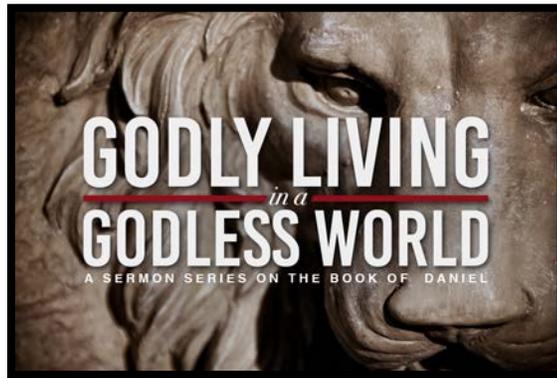
Expositional Study Of Daniel

Daniel 12:4

Written By

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If we've learned anything in our year and half studying Daniel's jaw-dropping study it is this:
God's Messianic Kingdom Program Can't Be Derailed, But It Will Be Hailed (Daniel 12:1-13)

Way back in chapter two, God the Father drew a line in the proverbial sand and flat out said that His Son's prophesied messianic kingdom would utterly destroy and replace all the inferior and wicked kingdoms of this old earth. Do you remember what He said?

⁴³And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery. ⁴⁴And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever (Daniel 2).

Go ahead and underline that word “crush.” It’s from the Hebrew root *deqaq* (דִּקַּק), meaning to completely shatter something . . . like breaking a window with a hammer, or crushing a clay pot with a sledge hammer.¹ David prophesied the same thing in Psalm two when he said the Messiah “shall break them (the nations) with a rod of iron” (Psalm 2:9). Indeed He shall, and then he will institute His worldwide kingdom of peace and holiness. Yes, you can bank on the fact the **MESSIANIC EXPRESS** is coming despite what devious despots, totalitarian rulers, Islamic Caliphate radicals, communists, socialists, out-of-control missile firing police states, expansionistic super power wannabes, and the like have in mind for the world. The Messiah is a ‘comin, and we need Him now more than ever before as the world spins out of control.

As God ties the bow around the prophecy of Daniel in chapter 12, He gives us snapshots of what is to come at the end of time as we know it.

- *The Desolation Of The Passengers* (Daniel 12:1a). The Devil will try and stop God’s plan by wiping out the Jews.
- *The Deliverance Of The Passengers* (Daniel 12:1b). God will deliver a contingent of His people who turn to Him at the end.
- *The Destination of Souls* (Daniel 12:2-3). Two resurrections, divided by 1,000 years, will send people into the Messiah’s kingdom or into eternal punishment.

To these concepts about what occurs as the **MESSIANIC EXPRESS** arrives at the proverbial train station called time, God adds two more:

The Disclosure of the Prophecy (Daniel 12:4)

Watch how Daniel develops this divinely articulated and angelically communicated point:

⁴ But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.

Please. Don’t be confused by thinking this places some kind of divine lock upon the book so it cannot be understood. Far from it. Don’t think this statement is incongruous (and is, therefore, some kind of biblical error) because *we can* understand the prophecy. Let me explain.

First, the Hebrew is so emphatic it is as if God grabs the fragile shoulders of Daniel and says, “Daniel, pay attention! I want you to do something important.” The waw (“and,” pronounced *vav*, like in German) wedded to the non-verb, “but now” (וְאַתָּה) introduces this

¹ S. R. Driver and Charles A Briggs, *The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Hebrew-Aramaic Lexicon*, ed. Francis Brown (Lafayette, Indiana: Associated Publishers and Authors, INC, 1981), 1089. †[דִּקַּק S¹⁸⁵⁵ TWOT²⁶⁸¹] **vb.** be shattered, fall to pieces (BH);—**Pe.** Pf. 3 mpl. דִּקַּק Dn 2:35. **Haph.** break in pieces: Pf. 3 fs. תִּדְקַק 2:34, 45, 3 mpl. דִּקְרוּ 6:25 (all sq. acc.); *Impf.* 3 fs. דִּקַּק 2:40 (abs.), v 44 (acc.); sf. תִּדְקַקוּ 7:23; *Pt. act.* דִּקְרוּ 2:40 (acc.), f. מִדְקַק (K^{46, 3b}) abs. 7:7, 19.¹

powerful command: “conceal” or “shut up” these words, *satam* (סַתַּם), which is a qal imperative from a greater to a lesser. Interestingly enough, construction is used the first time in the Bible in Genesis 3:15 where God tells the Snake, the Devil, he will only bruise the heel of the coming Messiah, but the Messiah will deal a deadly head blow to him (וְאַתָּה תִּשׁוּבֶנּוּ עֵקֶב:). How appropriate to utilize a grammatical construction about the Devil’s demise at the end of a prophecy about the same concept. The phrase, *we’attah* (וְאַתָּה) is also used in a variety of other theological powerful contexts like . . .

- When God told Pharaoh that he nor his servants still didn’t fear him, even after seven terrible divinely ordered plagues (Exodus 9:30, וְעַבְדֶּיךָ וְאַתָּה).
- When God told Moses to lift up his staff and watch the Red Sea part (Exodus 14:16, הָרַם אֶת־מִטְּ, וְאַתָּה).
- When God gave Moses the commandments (Deuteronomy 5:31, פֹּה, וְאַתָּה).

And it is exactly what the Devil heard when God confronted him over his arrogant five “I wills,” which led to his cosmic angelic apostasy: “*But you (we’attah) said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north’*” (Isaiah 14:13):

וְאַתָּה אָמַרְתָּ בְּלִבְבְּךָ הַשָּׁמַיִם אֶעֱלֶה מִמֶּעַל לְכוֹכְבֵי־אֵל
אֲרָיִם כְּסֵאִי וְאִשְׁבַּ בְּהַר־מוֹעֵד בִּירְכַתִּי צְפוֹ

Again, how fitting (and poetically just) for the Devil to, most likely, listen in to the pronouncement in Daniel 12:4 that God’s kingdom prophecy is secure and on track, meaning it will, without a doubt, destroy the false kingdom of the Devil. Amen to that. Now, onto the rest of the meaning of this seemingly cryptic command.

The divine command here “conceal the book” has two viable meanings. One, it can denote a document which is sealed and cannot be tampered with or altered, or, two, it can denote that the full sense, the intricacies of this powerful revelation will not be fully understood until a later date. Both views are, in my estimation, valid contextually and theologically. On the one hand, God revealed through the document sealing process that His prophecy in Daniel was legally secure for all time, underscoring its completion at the end of the age. On the other hand, God underscored that at the end of time, an interest in Daniel would explode as people began to connect, in a very real, practical way, the details of this passage.

I think the closing clause verifies this observation when it says, “*conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.*” God says at the end of time, as the geo-political world devolves as God said it would, certain people will rush

around looking for answers and they would find them in Daniel. There is also room to believe the statement “will go back and forth” denotes a movement of the eyes while reading the Hebrew text. The text here would be the prophecy of Daniel, and the voracious reading would result in a better understanding of just what God prophesied as the events in question unfold on the world stage. Over the last 2,600 years we, along with Daniel, have seen how *utterly precise* his prophecy is, and for those saints who continue to study this book, they will be rewarded with more precise information about God’s prophetic plan as the prophetic dots start getting connected as we approach the end. To this I would add, that the book of Revelation closes with just the opposite command, ⁴⁰ *And he said to me, ‘Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near’*” (Revelation 22). Folks, let me put it to you this way. Since we ARE in the end times, per God’s word to John, the prophecies of God are wide open to deeper analysis to understand them at a level never understood before. And this understanding will, hopefully, result in a strengthening of the faith as we approach dark days, it will motivate us to share our faith, it will move us to prayer, it will cause us to glorify God, and it will move us to pray for the coming of His kingdom. All of that just sends (good) chills down my spiritual spine.

Turning from this great prophetic reality, we next bump into what I’ll label as . . .

The Delineation of Time (Daniel 12:5-12)

Read the text first and then we will come back and offer some salient observations.

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?”

Focus on the two additional angels who suddenly materialized (moving from their dimension to ours is really no problem). Note how inquisitive these angelic beings are, whose thinking, while superior to ours, is also limited (1 Peter 1:12 informs us they are intrigued by the concept of the gospel). They, of all “people” (beings?), can’t wait to find out when all of the prophetic content just detailed in chapters 10 through 12:4 is going to be fully realized, finally. Wouldn’t you want to know this information?

Daniel writes about what happened next (imaging watching and listening to angels talk to each other . . . and it is not heavenly language, but language the prophet understands):

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.

The “man” dressed in linen is, undoubtedly, the great angel who gave Daniel the prophetic content of chapter 10:1 through 12:4. We first encountered him in Daniel 10, verse 4. By raising both of his hands to heaven and swearing, he emphatically stated this prophecy would, in fact, be fulfilled to the letter. And because there were two additional angels present, this verified the prophetic testimony of two witnesses per Mosaic Law (Deuteronomy 19:15; 31:28). Any way you look at it, the **MESSIANIC EXPRESS** is a ‘comin. When is it coming? At the end of three and a half years, or at the end of the second three and a half year cycle of the tribulation (Daniel 7:25; 9:24-27; Revelation 11:3; 12:6) when the Messiah shows up at the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 19).

Now, as these angels conversed, the conversation was, well, above Daniel’s paygrade (to employ a D.C. term). So, he politely stepped into the conversation. Don’t you just love this senior citizen saint? He rephrases the question of one of the angels. Gusty move.

⁸ As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, “My lord, what *will be* the outcome of these *events*?”

What answer does God give him through the mighty angel? Read on and see.

⁹ He said, “Go *your way*, Daniel, for *these* words are concealed and sealed up until the end time.

Interesting, God first basically tells Daniel in our vernacular, “Don’t worry, because these prophetic words are secured until the time of the end when their depth will be open to those who search for meaning of their times.” Then God answers a question Daniel never posed. “What will happen to the Jews (Daniel’s people and the object of his love and concern) at the time of the end?”

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.

God’s words here are reminiscent of what he said back in Daniel 11, verse 35. Both inspired prophetic texts illustrate Israel, as a nation, will be tried, shaped, and honed, especially during the last 3 ½ years of the great tribulation. Note, when God chastens His people, regardless of the dispensation, it is always so they will be partakers of His holiness (Hebrews 12:10). Zechariah gives us the cold, hard to process facts of the chastening God permits. Two thirds of Israel will perish in the Anti-Semitic onslaught of the Anti-christ and his fierce forces (Zechariah 13:8-9). Amos 9:9 informs us that God will judge the sin of Israel as He spiritually prepares them for His arrival so the remnant is prepared to meet Him,

⁹For behold, I am commanding, and I will shake the house of Israel among all nations as *grain* is shaken in a sieve, But not a ¹kernel will fall to the ground. ¹⁰All the sinners of My people will die by the sword, those who say, 'The calamity will not overtake or confront us.' ¹¹In that day I will raise up the fallen booth of David, and wall up its breaches; I will also raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old (Amos 9).

The rest of the context clearly reveals how after God judges Israel, and many turn to Him as the Messiah (Zechariah 12-13), He establishes the long-awaited and prophesied Davidic Empire, with the Messiah as the King of Kings (Isaiah 2:1ff; 9:6ff).

God also tells Daniel that the wicked will act more wickedly as time progresses. Is this not what we are seeing in our day and age? Sadly, it is true. Paul also warned us:

³ Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction . . . (2 Thessalonians 2:3).

Paul says the end of time will not come, which will be preceded by the Lawless One, the Anti-christ, until there is first a world-wide apostasy, or a falling away. People are falling like flies before our very eyes.

- Lawlessness replaces lawful behavior.
- Rhetoric replaces reason.
- Shouting replaces speaking.
- Illogic replaces logic.
- Deviancy replaces normalcy.
- False religions replace true religion.
- Pride replaces shame.
- Immorality replaces morality.
- No sense replaces common sense.
- False history replaces true history.
- Untruth replaces truth.
- Indecency replaces decency.
- Xenophobia replaces love of country.
- Socialism replaces constitutionalism.
- False gender replaces true gender.
- Falsity replaces facts.
- Disloyalty replaces loyalty.
- Emotionalism replaces intellectualism.

- New terms are purposefully created to hide old sins and lawless behavior.

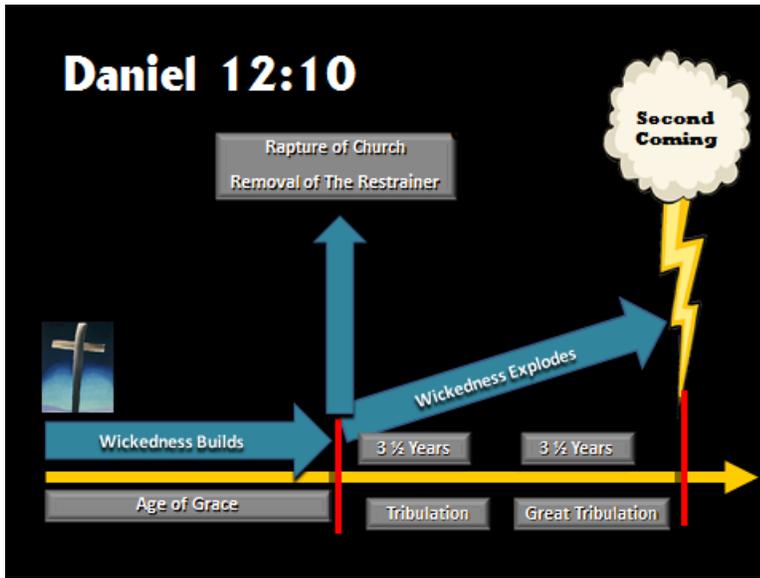
Get the twisted, out-of-control picture? We're unraveling faster than a two-stranded rope which just had its burnt end cut off. Why? Because God is permitting evil to flourish so it will be ripe unto just judgment when He comes to harvest the wheat and to burn the chaff (Matthew 13:30). Again, Paul warned of this development, "But evil men and imposters will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived" (2 Timothy 3:13). Our day is merely building up to the day when evil is fully ripened and then prepared for divine judgment, followed by the establishment of Christ's kingdom.

Paul sheds more light on this in his second letter to the Thessalonians. Speaking about the coming of the Anti-christ, Paul makes these significant observations:

⁵ Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? ⁶ And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains *will do so* until he is taken out of the way. ⁸ Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; ⁹ *that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, ¹⁰ and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. ¹¹ For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, ¹² in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness (2 Thessalonians 2).

Verse 12 sounds a lot like Daniel 12, verse 10. More and more, people will take complete pleasure in wickedness and in being deluding with thinking which is completely unfounded and untrue. And it will, according to Paul, really degenerate when "he who now restrains" is taken out of the way. Who is this? Good question. Let's drill down into this.

In verse six we read, "what restrains him now," denoting what holds back the revelation of absolute evil in the Anti-christ and what keeps wickedness from just washing over us like a tsunami. With this Greek construction the object, viz., *restrain* (κατέχω), is placed *before* the subject, viz., *you know* (οἴδατε), thereby placing stress on the word *restrain*. The neuter aspect of this verb speaks of the force, at this juncture, as highly impersonal. The present tense nature of the participle denotes it is an ongoing, perpetual restraint (τὸ κατέχου οἴδατε). However, in verse 7, the verbiage switches to present active *masculine* singular participle (ὁ κατέχων), thereby underscoring a personality behind the restrainer. To identify who this might be you need ask yourself only one question: Who is the only one capable of holding back the onrush of wickedness? God. Where is He right now in this dispensation? In the Church. Verse 7 says that when He is taken out of the way, then, and only then, does wickedness go to the level



Daniel prophesied with the coming of the Anti-christ. When will the Spirit be taken out of the way? When the Church is raptured into heaven prior to the start of the Tribulation (2 Thessalonians 4:13-18). With the Church, viz., Christians, out of the way, the weeds of wickedness will flourish like never before, but only for a time for the **MESSIANIC EXPRESS** is a 'comin. As Daniel says in 12, verse 10, but those who have insight will understand.

I get what's going on. Hopefully you get what's going on. The world is

ramping up for the coming of the Man of Sin, who will be followed by the Man of Holiness, Jesus, the Christ.

What should we be doing in the meantime?

- Love God above all others.
- Love our neighbor as we love ourselves.
- Be in God's Word more often than not.
- Care for one another like never before.
- Preach the Word in and out of season with courage.
- Stand on God's truths no matter what.
- Share our faith with those who have no faith.
- Defend the truth of God's Word when assailed by the lost.
- Serve with humility like our Lord did.

And be encouraged for the King is a 'comin.