



## A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF DANIEL

### YES, NO & MAYBE

1. I am more of a details-oriented person than the people sitting on either side of me.
2. I learn best by getting the big picture first, and then digging into the details.
3. God doesn't need us to know the nitty-gritty details of prophecy.
4. God still has not shared important details regarding the afterlife.
5. God is more interested in sharing prophetic details about other kings than Himself.

### DIG DEEPER

« If God gave you a vision of the future, how detailed would you want Him to be?

› **READ Daniel 12:1-4** (NIV)

*“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. 2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to **everlasting life**, others to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. 4 But you, Daniel, **roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.**”*

›› **At that time...**

• (vs 1) “At that time” connects with 11:40 and does not begin something new. The story told in chapter 11 is held together by references to time, especially that time when Antiochus will meet his end. His atrocities will continue only for a time (11:24). The end will be at the time appointed (11:27). At the time appointed he shall ... come into the south (11:29). The fall of Antiochus is referred to as the time of the end (11:35, 40). So, this verse refers to the end of Antiochus.

• (vs 2) **Everlasting Life** - Generally, the Israelites hoped for a long life on the earth (Exod. 20:12) rather than for a future resurrection. The ideal was to live to “a good old age,” like Gideon (Judg. 8:32). Belief in resurrection from the dead became quite strong at the time of the Maccabees (cf. 2 Macc. 7:9, 23). It grew out of the belief that God would vindicate and reward the faithful who were suffering and dying under the oppression of the likes of Antiochus.

« The previous chapter (11) is a shockingly detailed description of what would happen politically from that day in Daniel's life to the end of Antiochus IV Epiphanes's life almost 400 years later. God has already given Daniel broad brushstrokes of this time of the future. **What does it say about God that he would once again return to this time of prophecy to reveal this level of detail?**

° Why do you think that God is sharing this specifically with Daniel? What does this say about God?

› **READ Daniel 12:5-10** (NIV)

*5 Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood **two others**, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank. 6 One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, **“How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?”***



## DIG DEEPER...CONTINUED

7 *The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, "It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed."*

8 *I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, "My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?"*  
 9 *He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because the words are rolled up and sealed until the time of the end. 10 Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand."*

- (vs 6) **How long will it be?** - Literally, the angel is asking "how long will it last?"

- (vs 8) **Daniel's Question: What's the Outcome?** - In those days Daniel's interests are in his people and in their return from captivity to the homeland. Yet strangely each of the visions focuses on the coming of a king in the distant future who will violate God's people and try to crush their worship of God. Daniel is puzzled by the discontinuity between his concern for his people's return from captivity and the vision of a future tyrant.

- « Why do you think that God is more concerned about this, rather than what Daniel is concerned about?

- What other unanswered questions has the entire 12 chapters of Daniel raised for you?

- « What does the book of Daniel reveal to you about God that you've never thought of before?

➤ **READ Daniel 12:11-13 (NIV)**

11 "From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. 12 Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.

13 "As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance."

- « The most important thing to God is summed up in the final words of this book (vs. 13). What does this tell you about God's character?

## MY PRAYER...

1. How aware am I of the spiritual warfare going on around me today?
2. In what ways am I allowing negative influences to sway me away from showing God's love?
3. What new aspect of God's character does He want me to know?

