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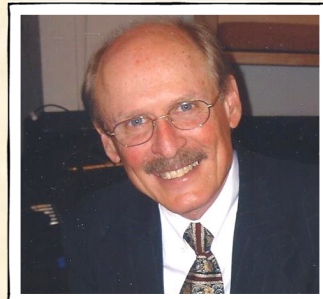
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Bible Study

Cornelius Sends a Delegation

1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, 2 a devout *man* and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. 3 About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, “Cornelius!”

4 And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, “What is it, lord?”

So he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.

5 Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. 6 He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do.” 7 And when the angel who spoke to him had departed, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier from among those who waited on him continually. 8 So when he had explained all *these* things to them, he sent them to Joppa.

Peter’s Vision

9 The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. 10 Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance 11 and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth.

12 In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. 13 And a voice came to him, “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.”

14 But Peter said, “Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean.”

15 And a voice *spoke* to him again the second time, “What God has cleansed you must not call common.” 16 This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again.

Summoned to Caesarea


17 Now while Peter wondered within himself what this vision which he had seen meant, behold, the men who had been sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon’s house, and stood before the gate. 18 And they called and asked whether Simon, whose surname was Peter, was lodging there.

19 While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are seeking you. 20 Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them.”

21 Then Peter went down to the men who had been sent to him from Cornelius, and said, “Yes, I am he whom you seek. For what reason have you come?”

22 And they said, “Cornelius *the* centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you.” 23 Then he invited them in and lodged *them*.

On the next day Peter went away with them, and some brethren from Joppa accompanied him.



Bible Study

Peter Meets Cornelius

24 And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends. 25 As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped *him*. 26 But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man." 27 And as he talked with him, he went in and found many who had come together. 28 Then he said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean. 29 Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?"

30 So Cornelius said, "Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, 31 and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. 32 Send therefore to Joppa and call Simon here, whose surname is Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea. When he comes, he will speak to you.' 33 So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God."

Preaching to Cornelius' Household

34 Then Peter opened *his* mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. 35 But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. 36 The word which *God* sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all— 37 that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. 39 And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. 40 Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, 41 not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, *even* to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. 42 And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God *to be* Judge of the living and the dead. 43 To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."

The Holy Spirit Falls on the Gentiles

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. 45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, 47 "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *have*?" 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

Prophecy Studies

Daniel 10-12 Final

Introduction to the Prophecy of Daniel 10-12

Daniel chapters 10-12 are the last of the prophetic chapters of the Book of Daniel, and they entail just one long vision encompassing an expanded account of the **same story told** in Daniel 2, 7, 8, and 9. Each of those preceding chapters tell the story of the rise and fall of world empires from the time of Daniel until the day when Jesus Christ sets up His eternal kingdom, each subsequent prophecy adding more detail to the one before. This last prophecy of Daniel takes three chapters to tell what took only one chapter each in previous visions, and much of this vision covers a history of nations that were especially current to God's people in ages past.

In the first verses of Daniel 10 (verses 5-9), Daniel writes of a dramatic encounter he has with Jesus Himself, much as John describes his encounter with Christ in Revelation 1:12-19. After Daniel sees Jesus, Gabriel, the messenger of the vision, speaks to Daniel and says, "O Daniel, man greatly beloved..." (verse 10) – the same words Gabriel uses to address Daniel in verse 19, "O man greatly loved..." and AGAIN in the previous chapter, "You are greatly beloved" (Daniel 9:23)! In the same way John, the New Testament prophet and author of Revelation, speaks of himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (John 21:20), Daniel, the prophet of the Old Testament who systematically reveals the prophecies of the end of time, is noted as a man loved by Christ!

Daniel 10, a remarkable chapter at the end of the Book of Daniel which authenticates the truth of the book by a personal encounter with Christ, introduces the detailed vision recorded in chapters 11 and 12 which establish the historical point in time – "The third year of Cyrus, King of Persia" (10:1). These chapters are an extended account and a repeat of the previous visions which indicate that the empire of Greece would follow that of Medo-Persia (verse 20). Cyrus is now the king of Persia. The previous visions also established the same sequence of the rise and fall of Babylon, Medo-Persian, Greece and Rome, as we find in this vision, with the "setting up of the Kingdom of God" ending the story of all Daniel's visions.

The Breakdown of Daniel 11

- ♦ Daniel 11:1-39 – The history of God's people and the nations in power **prior to the last days of our time!**
- ♦ Daniel 11:4 – "The mighty king" in this verse is Alexander the Great – the first and most powerful king of the Grecian Empire.
- ♦ Daniel 11:5-21 – The history of the Grecian empire and its rulers following the death of Alexander the Great – the four generals of Alexander who divided up his kingdom – Lysimachus to the north, **Seleucus** to the east, Ptolemy to the south, and Cassander to the west.
- ♦ Daniel 11:21 introduces the **Seleucid** king, Antiochus Epiphanes, who becomes the Antichrist of the Old Testament and who foreshadows the Antichrist of Revelation.
- ♦ Daniel 11:22 introduces the Christian era with the "breaking of the Prince of the covenant", Jesus Christ.
- ♦ Daniel 11:23-35 tells of the history of Pagan Rome, the rise of the Papacy, and the Reformation of the Middle Ages.

- ♦ And finally, Daniel 11:36-45 describes the final Antichrist of our time.

The terms, “King of the North” and “King of the South,” describe nations familiar to the readers of Daniel’s time, yet they are to be seen as prophetic of “the time of the end” (Daniel 11:35). For example, the “King of the North” is Babylon, which was to the north of Jerusalem, our reference point and the center of the Old Testament Church, and represents the Babylon of Revelation – the conglomerate of religion under the reign of the Church of Rome, the Papacy, which persecutes the Church of the New Testament at “the end of time.” The “King of the South” is Egypt and the embodiment of atheistic, anti-Christian ideology which we have seen in our nation and in the world in recent years. Though this ideology opposes and resists the Christianity of our day, it will eventually surrender to the power of Babylon, the Catholic Church and all the religions of the world which we already see falling into line with the ecumenical advances of the Papacy to “become one in faith”!

The “news from the east” of Daniel 11:44, which “troubles” the King of the North,” is the news of the return of Jesus Christ which causes “Babylon” (Revelation 14-18) to “go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many” – the true followers of Christ. This verse is Daniel’s version of Revelation’s depiction of the Papacy, the “Harlot” and her “daughters” of Revelation 17:1-6.

“The abomination of desolation” of Daniel 11:31 and 12:11 is Antichrist – corrupt, false religion “in bed with” corrupt government – that which is blossoming today as a compromised Christian faith joins with patriotic government AND with the campaign of a new Catholic pope whose stated mission is to become the peacemaker of nations and the unifier of faiths.

In his second week, Pope Leo moves on his ambitious agenda



Pope Leo XIV rides through St. Peter's Square at the Vatican May 21, 2025, before holding his first weekly general audience.



Pope Leo XIV greets Buddhist monks who present him with gifts during a meeting with religious leaders at the Vatican May 19, 2025.

In his first address the night of his election as Pope Leo XIV, the new pontiff sketched out **a vision of his papacy** in just 500 words.

Outlining an ambitious agenda, **Leo said he wanted to:**

- ♦ Continue Pope Francis' synodal process to reform the church structures to make them more inclusive and welcoming;
- ♦ Use his papacy to promote peace, both inside the church and within the world;
- ♦ Lead the church to "build bridges with dialogue and encounter" with other Christians, followers of other faiths, and those with no faith at all.

Leo celebrated his inaugural Mass on May 18 as the new pope and in the span of just one week, he has backed up those initial words with further action.

The day after the inauguration, Leo met with the representatives of the ecumenical and interfaith groups who had traveled to Rome for the occasion.

"As bishop of Rome, I consider one of my priorities to be that of seeking the reestablishment of full and visible communion among all those who profess the same faith in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit," he told them.



Set against the backdrop of the upcoming 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea — which helped formulate the creed shared by Christian churches — Leo said that **this is the moment for urgent action to unite as one body**. The new pope is also

expected to travel to Turkey to celebrate that milestone anniversary later this year in what is likely to be his first international trip. *National Catholic Reporter*, May 23, 2025.

Daniel 11:45, the last verse of this chapter, is a verse of particular interest, the fulfillment of which is yet before us and of a very curious nature.

"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."

This verse is about the "King of the North" – the Papacy, and it foretells a time when before his fall, demise and judgment, as described in Revelation 18, "he will plant the tents of his palace between the sea [the Mediterranean] and the glorious holy mountain [Jerusalem]." This prophecy appears to indicate that the Church of Rome is going to build a palace in Israel before Jesus returns – a very interesting prophecy indeed!

We live today at a time when scenes described in prophecy are literally coming alive like still images of the past becoming fresh videos of the present! We are also living at a time when the unexpected and the unimaginable is becoming the fodder of the daily news! We are living in the "time of the end", and the details of prophecy heretofore seen "dimly as in a mirror" are taking a life of vivid reality. The prophecy of Daniel 11:45, predicting that the Papacy will "build the tents of his palace" in Israel conjures up vivid possibilities, like:

- 1) Could this happen in Gaza as part of a political attempt to bring peace and stability to the region?
- 2) Could this become the "temple" that dispensationalists predict will be built in Israel?
- 3) Will such a venture be part of bringing not only Christians, but Jews into a religious alliance as Rome becomes the final world empire in its fullest expression?

How this prophecy is fulfilled and what the rationale for its fulfillment will be is still to be seen, but in light of the speed with which prophecy is being fulfilled, nothing should come as a surprise!

Daniel 12 – The Final Three-and-a-Half Years of Time on Earth

Chapter 12 is the final chapter of Daniel and describes the final journey of the Church on earth. It begins with an image of Jesus, Michael – the same name John gives Jesus in Revelation 12:7 – compare the verses!

John: "And war broke out in heaven: **Michael** and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought..." Revelation 12:7.

Daniel: "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. 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. 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 [**the righteous receive their reward**]." Daniel 12:1-3.

This first verse of Daniel 12 above has a parallel passage in Revelation 10:1-7. **There is incredible continuity in the Bible, and in Prophecy!**

1 I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire [this too is Jesus!]. 2 He had a little book open in his hand. And he set **his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land**, 3 and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. 4 Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them." 5 The angel [Jesus is sometimes called and "angel"] whom I saw **standing on the sea and on the land** raised up his hand to heaven 6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should **no more delay**, 7 but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel [a **resurrection** at "the last trumpet" 1 Corinthians 15:52], when he is about to sound, **the mystery of God would be finished**, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

In Daniel 12:1-3, Jesus stands up as the Mighty Prince. His feet are firmly planted on the earth and sea – His dominion! There is a resurrection! And the story of sin and the victory of the Savior over sin and death is finished! And those who have placed their faith in Christ inherit eternal life!

There is also mention in Daniel's verse of "a time of trouble such as never has been nor ever will be." Jesus speaks of this as well in Matthew 24 and tells us when that Great Tribulation will begin!

"Therefore, **when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place**" (whoever reads, let him understand), ... then **there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world** until this time, no, nor ever shall be. "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened." Matthew 24:15, 16, 21, 22.

And as Jesus continues His discourse in this passage on the final events which face His followers, He also tells us that "immediately after the tribulation of those days, **God's people will be delivered** – everyone whose name is written in the Book of Life." Paul puts it all together in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – the coming of Jesus, the resurrection of the saints, the multitudes of the saved ascending to meet Christ in air, and the return to their heavenly home!

In these last two chapters, Daniel is taken in vision all the way from his day to the return of Jesus and the resurrection of the saved of all ages! It is a picture of defeat for the enemies of God and a victory – verily a rescue of the saints from persecution, for the pain of this life, and from the sleep of death! Paul says,

"Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed – in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and **the dead will be raised** incorruptible, and **we shall be changed**. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?'" 1 Corinthians 15:51-55.

The "More" You Don't Want to Miss!

Daniel could have put his pen down at this point, for the first three verses of Daniel 12 tell the end of the story. There's a time of trouble for God's people, followed by a resurrection of the saints who have died, and Jesus delivers His people, taking them to the place He promised to prepare for us before His death (John 14:1-3).

But there's more you must know, and Daniel was given that information in the final verses of this chapter before he lays down his pen. He is told in verse 4 that this prophecy is for "the time of the end" – for those of us living now! This chapter is especially for us! Jesus even refers to Daniel's prophecy in Matthew 24:15 and says, "Let the reader understand." We must not miss this, for God reveals to **us** the timeline that is ahead for **us**!

As I write this **final** piece of commentary on this **last** piece of prophecy in this **concluding** piece of this **last** chapter of Daniel, I'm overwhelmed with total amazement at the detail God gives us of the **last** stretch of time here on earth and the time of His return! It's like a spectacular "**grand finale**" of everything we have studied in the books of Daniel and Revelation combined! We know the characters of end time prophecy, now. We know who the players are in the final act on the eschatological stage. We know that in the end, right wins, death doesn't have the final word, the apparent defeat of Calvary was in fact a victory over the prince of darkness. We understand that the war against Christ and His Church which began in heaven **before creation** ends with the destruction of evil and **a new creation**. Daniel knows all this too, for at one point after being told that Satan would "even rise up against the Prince of princes" [Jesus Himself], he "fainted and was sick for days" Daniel 8:25, 27. But this "great Prince, Michael [Jesus Himself]" at the beginning of this chapter "stands up," "lifts His hands to heaven," and says in John's parallel version, "It's over! There will be no more delay!" And at that time, the saved of all ages are "delivered." There is a resurrection to everlasting life, and the story of mankind ends in a victory over evil **because One came before** as the ultimate "Sacrifice" Who won an eternal victory over Satan, evil, all the persecuting empires of earth, and death!

But Daniel still had one important question – "**How long** will it be until all this is over, and **when** will the end of these things be?" Daniel 12:6. "How much longer, Lord?" is his question. "How and when will all this end?" The answer is given in the last seven verses of the Book of Daniel, and for the follower of Christ today, **we also want to know and are told in these verses!**

"Then I heard the Man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river [Jesus], when He held up his right hand and His left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever [His Father], that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time [**three-and-a-half-years**]; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered [as stated also in Revelation 11:7 after the Two Witnesses' **three-and-a-half-years of testimony**], all these things shall be finished.

Then Daniel said what you may ask, "Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, 'My lord, what shall be the end of these things?' And He said, 'Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed **till the time of the end**. '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**. And **from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, AND the abomination of desolation is set up [all one event]**, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days [**three-and-a-half-years plus an additional 30 days**]. Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days [**three-and-a-half-years plus the extra 30 days and 45 more**]. But you, go your way till the end; for **you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days [the great resurrection at the time of Jesus' return!]**'" Daniel 12:7-13.

So, let's "unpack" the meaning of this prophetic timeline. The answer to Daniel's first question, "How much longer, Lord?" is given as a total of 3 ½ years (verse 7). That time frame is reiterated and confirmed

twice in Revelation (Revelation 11:3; 13:5) in reference to the great tribulation and persecution of God's people at very end of time. Jesus said in Matthew 24:15, 21, "When you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place, ... then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be." This time of the Great Tribulation for the Church of the end will be 3 ½ years in length. And "Immediately after the tribulation of those days," Jesus says, "the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, ... and [we] will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" Matthew 24:29, 30.

And when does that time period begin? That's what Daniel didn't understand, which is why he asked his question again. And in verse eleven, God tells Daniel, "From the time that the daily sacrifice [**the worship of the true God**] is taken away **and** the abomination of desolation [**a mandate to worship a false god**] is set up [**two concurrent events**], there shall be 1,290 days." Two things we learn from this verse:

- 1) The beginning of the last three-and-a-half-years of time on earth will begin when the right for God's people to **worship** according to their conscience is revoked and replaced with a mandate to **worship** "the beast and his image." Compare Revelation 13:15 with Revelation 14:7! It's all about the **worship** and **allegiance** to Christ the Creator or to Antichrist the false christ!

"The dragon [Satan] was enraged with the woman [the Church], and he went to make war with the last of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God [**including the Sabbath of the fourth commandment**] and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" [**the biblical Gospel**] Revelation 12:17.

- 2) When the mandate to render allegiance to Rome and her "daughters" of false religion [Babylon] and to receive the "mark" of that allegiance in the hand or forehead is enacted (Revelation 13:16) – when the authority of "the abomination of desolation" [false religion backed by corrupt government] is established and occupies the place of God, there will be 3 ½ years left before
 - ♦ A decree is issued for the death of those who refuse the mark of the beast (Revelation 13:15), and
 - ♦ The seven last plagues of judgment fall upon the wicked (Revelation 16:1-21).
- 3) The additional 30 days of Daniel 12:11 which are added to the 1,260 days of Daniel 12:7 likely represent a time of notice after which the "sentence of death" — the decree for those who refuse the mark — becomes effective. The Bible doesn't say why there are three different time prophecies listed (1,260 days, 1,290 days, and 1,335 days) but it does say that the first one is when the false worship of the beast is instituted/mandated and the time of trouble for God's people begins, and the last one is resurrection day for Daniel and the righteous dead! I believe the 45 days between the 1,290 and the 1,335 is when the plagues of Revelation 16 fall upon the wicked – about the same amount of time it took for all the plagues of Egypt to fall at the time of Israel's deliverance and the beginning of their journey to **earthly** Canaan. The parallels of the plagues of Egypt in Exodus and those upon Babylon in Revelation are not coincidental, the latter being that which precedes the journey of the Church to **heavenly** Canaan!

At any rate, as these events begin to unfold, there is no question but that these prophecies will be fully understood in detail by the Church which lives through that time. For me, just knowing that which is revealed in these prophecies is enough for me. We know who the players are in the final conflict between Christ and Satan, and between the Church and the powers of evil. We know what the issues of the conflict will be and what to look for as the Devil rallies his forces against God's Church. And we are given the sign that begins our final trek of 3 ½ years on earth — "When you see the abomination of desolation standing in the place of God," demanding allegiance to the false religious system, the false gospel, and the false Sabbath, and the receiving of the "mark of the beast" which gives only the bearers of the "mark" the right to "buy and sell" and to live under the protections of government – rights which will be taken from the faithful followers of Christ — then I will know that Jesus will return in the time revealed in prophecy! **I so look forward to that day!**