

DAY 10 - JANUARY 17, 2026

Antichrist, Resurrection, and the Last Days (Daniel 11:36-12:13)

The figure described in Daniel 11:36-39 goes substantially beyond Antiochus Epiphanes. Rather, he seems to be the Antichrist described in the New Testament who will come in the Last Days. Antiochus Epiphanes is certainly a type of the Antichrist who does God's people great harm, but the true Antichrist (the antitype) is much worse. See Daniel 7:25; Isaiah 14:13-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; Revelation 13:5-6)

Battles in the last days (Daniel 11:40-45). See Revelation 16:14, 16; 19:19-20a; 20:7-9.

Q1. (Daniel 11:36-45) What do we learn about the character of this Antichrist figure? What seems to be his prime motivations? What does he have to do with the land of Israel? Spiritual warfare (12:1). See also Revelation 12:7-10. Time of Distress (12:1) probably corresponds to the “Great Tribulation” (Matthew 24:21-22; Mark 13:19-20; Revelation 7:14)

Q2. (Daniel 12:1) What will happen during the great distress of God’s people? In what ways does this time seem to conform to the “great tribulation” spoken of in the New Testament?

Resurrection

Daniel 12:2-3 is the clearest reference to resurrection in the Old Testament. Many in the Old Testament didn’t understand life after death (cf. Psalm 6:4). But some did (1 Samuel 2:6; Job 19:25-27; Isaiah 26:19; Psalm 16:10; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Hosea 6:1-2).

However, Daniel has by far the clearest vision of resurrection in the Old Testament.

“Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.” (Daniel 12:2)

The Pharisees dogmatically affirmed resurrection in opposition to the Sadducees, who emphatically denied that there was a resurrection to come. Jesus publicly took the Pharisees’ position (Matthew 22:23-34; Luke 14:14; John 5:28-29; 6:39-40). Also Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; etc.

Q3. (Daniel 12:2) What do we learn about resurrection? How does this compare with New Testament teaching? What is the future of the righteous who are raised? Why do you think the unjust will be raised also?

Q4. (Daniel 12:3) What is the end of those who are wise and influential for God? What is their reward? How does God use your influence currently to advance his Kingdom? What would need to change so that you might have a greater influence for Christ? The power of the holy people is finally broken (12:5-7). Difficult to understand. Time, times and half a time = 3-1/2. Time of intense persecution. Also 7:25; 8:14; 12:11-12). See Revelation 11:2-3, 9; 12:6, 14; 13:5. Perhaps this is seen in symbols in Revelation 11:8-12.

Q5. (Daniel 12:5-7). How long will intense persecution last during the final tribulation? What will happen to God’s people during this? Why do you think this difficult time is revealed to us people who don’t like bad news?

Q6. (Daniel 12:10) In what way will intense persecution in the End Times lead to many being “purified, made spotless, and refined”? In what ways is the Church in our day in such need of this? How do you think we can prepare ourselves for this time?

Lessons for Disciples:

This passage gives us several pieces of information about the future that can guide our values and decisions today.

1. The Antichrist figure will blaspheme, exalt himself above God, and will give himself to war and the acquisition of wealth. He will invade many countries, including Israel, but will finally come to his end (11:36-45).
2. In their time of great distress, God will finally deliver his people (12:1)
3. There will be a final resurrection to eternal life and to eternal condemnation (12:2).
4. The wise and influential in God’s work will shine brightly, that is, be rewarded. We must always be aware of how we are influencing others (12:3).
5. Persecution in the great tribulation will be limited (“time, times, and half a time”). It will seem like the power of God’s people will have been completely broken before Christ intervenes (12:5-7, 11-12).
6. The persecution in the End Times will result in the saints being “purified, made spotless, and refined” (12:10). Persecution, instead of working evil only, may be what the Church needs, so that Christ may “present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless” (Ephesians 5:27)