

9-7-25 Sermon Title: "God's Plan for the End of Days: Daniel 9–12"

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for gathering us today to hear Your Word. As we open the book of Daniel, open our hearts and minds to understand Your plans for history, for Israel, and for us. Help us to trust in Your sovereignty and prepare us for what is to come. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Introduction

The book of Daniel gives us a remarkable vision of world history and the end of the age. Chapters 9–12, in particular, take us deep into prophecy—covering Israel's future, the rise of evil empires, and God's final victory.

Though these passages can feel complicated, they are full of hope because they reveal that

God is in control, even when history seems dark.

I. Daniel's Prayer and the Seventy "Sevens" (Daniel 9)

In chapter 9, Daniel reads from Jeremiah's prophecy and realizes that the exile of Israel was about to end after 70 years.

Daniel 9:3–5 (NIV)

"So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed: 'Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong.'"

- **Daniel models repentance and intercession** for his people—a reminder for us today to pray for our families, our nation, and the world.

Then, the angel Gabriel brings Daniel an extraordinary message: a timeline of “**seventy ‘sevens’**” (490 prophetic years) that point to key events in God’s redemptive plan:

Daniel 9:24 (NIV)

"Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place."

- **Key takeaway:** This prophecy points to the coming of Christ ("the Anointed One"), His atonement on the cross, and events that lead to the end times.

II. The Spiritual Battle Behind History (Daniel 10)

In chapter 10, Daniel receives a vision but it takes **21 days for the angel to arrive.**

Daniel 10:12–13 (NIV)

"Then he continued, 'Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days.'"

- **Lesson:** This passage reveals a spiritual dimension behind world events. There are **spiritual battles in heavenly places that affect nations and history.**
- Even when we feel our prayers are delayed, they are heard immediately, and God is working behind the scenes.

III. The Kings of the North and South (Daniel 11)

Chapter 11 gives **specific prophecies about future kings and kingdoms**, including conflicts between the kings of the North (Syria) and

South (Egypt). Much of this prophecy was fulfilled historically after Daniel's time.

But it culminates with **a final evil ruler—the Antichrist**—who will exalt himself above all gods.

Daniel 11:36 (NIV)

"The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods."

- **Application:** History is moving toward a climax. Though there will be times of great tribulation, **God remains sovereign**, and these things happen according to His plan.

IV. The Great Tribulation and Resurrection (Daniel 12)

Chapter 12 focuses on the **time of the end**:

Daniel 12:1 (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."

- This verse speaks of the **Great Tribulation**—a period of unparalleled distress before Christ's return.
- **Michael the archangel will defend Israel, and those whose names are written in God's Book will be delivered.**

Daniel 12 also contains a **clear promise of resurrection:**

Daniel 12:2 (NIV)

"Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt."

- **Application:** This reminds us that there will be a **resurrection and a final judgment.**

- The question is: **Are our names written in the Book of Life?** Have we trusted Christ as our Savior?
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V. Closing Lessons for Us Today

1. **God's sovereignty:** The rise and fall of empires is not random—**God controls history.**
 2. **Spiritual warfare:** Just as Daniel's prayer was delayed due to spiritual battle, so too must we persist in prayer knowing that unseen forces oppose God's people.
 3. **Future hope:** While the prophecy warns of a coming tribulation, it ends in **hope for resurrection and eternal life.**
 4. **Readiness:** We must be ready for Christ's return, and like Daniel, be people of **prayer, repentance, and faithfulness** in every season.
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Closing Prayer:

Father, thank You for showing us through Daniel's visions that You are in control of history, even when it seems dark and uncertain. Help us to live faithfully, trusting in Your promises, praying persistently, and staying ready for Jesus' return. May we be found among those whose names are written in Your Book of Life. In Jesus' name, Amen.