

How Does Our Story End?

Daniel

11:36 - 12:13



Eschatology is the study of last things,
the exploration of endings, conclusions,
and culminations.

God intends to unveil not merely the end of this historical season of trial, but how the people of God's ultimate Season of Trial will be brought to its definitive conclusion.

Daniel 11:36-37 (ESV)

36 “And the king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the indignation is accomplished; for what is decreed shall be done. 37 He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers, or to the one beloved by women. He shall not pay attention to any other god, for he shall magnify himself above all.

Daniel 11:38-39 (ESV)

38 “He shall honor the god of fortresses instead of these. A god whom his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. 39 He shall deal with the strongest fortresses with the help of a foreign god. Those who acknowledge him he shall load with honor. He shall make them rulers over many and shall divide the land for a price.”

Daniel 11:40-41 (ESV)

40 “At the time of the end, the king of the south shall attack him, but the king of the north shall rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen, and with many ships. And he shall come into countries and shall overflow and pass through. 41 He shall come into the glorious land. And tens of thousands shall fall, but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom and Moab and the main part of the Ammonites.”

Daniel 11:42-43 (ESV)

42 “He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. 43 He shall become ruler of the treasures of gold and of silver, and all the precious things of Egypt, and the Libyans and the Cushites shall follow in his train.”

Daniel 11:44–45 (ESV)

44 “But news from the east and the north shall alarm him, and he shall go out with great fury to destroy and devote many to destruction. 45 And he shall pitch his palatial tents between the sea and the glorious holy mountain. Yet he shall come to his end, with none to help him.”

Daniel 12:1-2 (ESV)

1 “At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. 2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

Daniel 12:3-4 (ESV)

3 “And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. 4 But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”

Daniel 12:5-6 (ESV)

5 Then I, Daniel, looked, and look, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream. 6 And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, “How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?”

Daniel 12:7 (ESV)

7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.

How does our story end?

- The strength of God's holy people will be shattered (Dan. 12:7).

“For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.”

(2 Corinthians 1:8-9; ESV)

How does our story end?

- The strength of God's holy people will be shattered.
- In a time of great trouble, God's people will be rescued (Dan. 12:1).

“And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.”

(Matthew 24:22; ESV)

How does our story end?

- The strength of God's holy people will be shattered.
- In a time of great trouble, God's people will be rescued.
- A desolator meets his predestined end (Dan. 11:45).

“For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God... whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.”

(2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, 8; ESV)

How does our story end?

- The strength of God's holy people will be shattered.
- In a time of great trouble, God's people will be rescued.
- A desolator meets his predestined end.
- The Son of Man's everlasting kingdom is established on the earth (Dan. 7:13-14).

“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.”

(Daniel 7:13-14; ESV)

“Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

(Matthew 24:30-31; ESV)

How does our story end?

- God's people are renewed, forgiven, and made holy (Dan. 12:3).

“Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place.”

(Daniel 9:24; ESV)

“For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility... in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.”

(Romans 8:19-21; ESV)

How does our story end?

- God's people are renewed, forgiven, and made holy.
- Death itself is defeated and overturned by resurrection. Justice is established and wrongs are made right (Dan. 12:2).

“Evil is intractable and powerful, with deep roots and sharp claws. No amount of education, activism, or democratic reform will ever eliminate it. The apocalyptic parts of the Bible remind us that we live in a world that cannot simply be fixed. It needs to be recreated.” (Iain Duguid)

Daniel 12:8-10 (ESV)

8 I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, “O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?”

9 He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end. 10

Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand.

Daniel 12:11-13 (ESV)

11 “And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days. 12 Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days. 13 But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days.”