



# Unshakable Faith

## THE BOOK OF DANIEL

### Week 12

Theme: Perseverance of the Promise (Chapter 12)

#### Weekly Memory Verse

*“And you? Go about your business without fretting or worrying. Relax. When it’s all over, you will be on your feet to receive your reward.”*

– Daniel 12:13 (MSG)

#### Day 1: Promise

##### Prayer of Illumination

*Lord, remind us of Your promises- that they are yes and amen in Christ. Amen.*

##### Reading

Read Chapter 12 entirely, then focus on Daniel 12:1.

##### Meditation

What is the Lord revealing to you today through Daniel 12:1?

What do these verses say about God’s character?

How does this apply to us today?

##### Contemplation

What do you do when the Lord has revealed something that doesn’t line up with what you see? Daniel, in this last chapter, is given a promise right from the beginning - a promise that will shape his mind, his heart, and his message. Verse one tells us that Michael was an angel sent to protect the people of God, and it is recorded, “Everyone whose name is found written in the book- will be delivered” (v.1). But in that same verse, it says, “There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then.”

This is a crossroads moment for Daniel. In one sense, the angel says things are about to be the worst they've ever been. On the other hand, the angel says, but "the names written in the book will be delivered." Daniel has a choice: which will he focus on and listen to the most?

If Daniel were to listen to the warning of distress without the hope of deliverance, he would succumb to fear. If Daniel were to listen to just the voice of hope, he would miss the reality of what was to take place. In all seasons, we cannot forget that the promises of God are our anchor points that we can focus on. They are what we can cling to. His promises are what help us confront the brutal facts of our reality and yet, help us to not lose hope in the end of the story. What would it look like if our first response to everything this week was rooted in the promises of God?

### Reflection

Reflect on what you know to be true about God. What are some promises He has revealed to you recently?

Spend some time this week memorizing 2 Corinthians 1:20, *"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God" (NIV).*

## **Day 2: Resurrection**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

*Father in Heaven, we look to You for hope in all things. We face whatever the future holds because we look forward to a day when we are resurrected with You in a city, unlike any city, here on earth. Amen.*

### **Reading**

Read Chapter 12 entirely, then focus on Daniel 12:2-4.

### **Meditation**

What is the Lord revealing to you today through Daniel 12:2-4?

What do these verses say about the human condition?

How does this apply to us today?

### **Contemplation**

Curiously, the Old Testament has very little to say about resurrection. It simply is not a major theme. That is why this passage from Daniel is so striking. As Biblical scholars tell us, it is the first unmistakable reference to resurrection and, in this way, it marks an important turn in the development of Biblical theology.

Here, resurrection is offered as foundational to Israel's hope. There is terrible trouble on the horizon, but God will make sure that everything is set right when God gives new life to people who lost their lives in the struggle to remain faithful to God.

By the 1st Century, this promise had become a central part of the theology of the Pharisees, which is why it was such a central part of the theology of St. Paul. He recognized that Jesus had given this promise. What was supposed to happen at *the end of history* suddenly happened in *the middle of history*. God had resurrected Jesus from the dead, and this is why resurrection is the foundation of Christian hope.

Just like Jesus was resurrected, the Father will resurrect us at the end of all things. So when early Christians went looking for Biblical passages that could help them understand what had happened to Jesus, we too are able to look towards resurrection. Similarly, Christians are also invited to read Daniel looking for hope: hope that - ultimately - our lives, our history, and our world rests in the hands of a Covenant-Maker who will not give up on His creation!

### **Reflection**

Where do you need hope today?

What personal, familial, local, national, or global stories are threatening your hope?

What does Daniel 12 promise *you* today? What does Daniel 12 promise God's Church today?

## **Day 3: Shift**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

*Lord may our hearts be open to the peace that passes all understanding when we find ourselves in the middle of chaos. Help us not lean on our strength but shift our focus on Your character and ability to do exceedingly and abundantly above all that we can imagine or think. We receive Your peace and truth. Amen.*

### **Reading**

Read Chapter 12 entirely, then focus on Daniel 12:5-7.

### **Meditation**

What is the Lord revealing to you today through Daniel 12:5-7?

What do these verses say about God's character?

How does this apply to us today?

### **Contemplation**

How long will this trouble last? How long will it take for things to change? How long will I be in this situation? These are valid questions when we find ourselves amidst chaos. It's human and familiar for us to be anxious, question, and live in unresolved spaces. But, we can be **FREE** in our minds. Just because we have these feelings, questions, or thoughts, doesn't mean God is far off. It's when we find ourselves in this place that we have to shift our focus. We turn our focus on the promise and character of God! We take heart because we know that He is with us and will never leave us.

From that grounding, we can shift the focus of our questioning. What is this here to teach me? How is this situation bringing me into a greater knowledge of who God is? In what way can I grow through this? When we shift our focus, it opens our minds to see from God's view, bringing hope, understanding, and peace. Will you shift your focus today?

### **Reflection**

Pause for a moment and ask God to show you where He is in the midst of your situation.

What Scripture are you grounding yourself in today?

How are you guarding your heart, your ears, and your mind today to maintain the peace that comes from God?

### **Weekly Memory Verse**

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*– Daniel 12:13 (MSG)*

## **Day 4: Assurance**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

*Lord God, with all of the many questions we have in our minds about the uncertainties of today, we ask for You to help us to stay focused on Jesus, who is our Hope. Amen.*

### **Reading**

Read Chapter 12 entirely, then focus on Daniel 12:8-13.

### **Meditation2**

What is the Lord revealing to you today through Daniel 12:8-13?

What do these verses say about God's character?

How does this apply to us today?

### **Contemplation**

I have been tempted on numerous occasions to fast forward a section of a movie that I'm watching to hurry to the end to see what will happen. The suspense of it all is too much, and I just want to hit that fast-forward button so badly. I do like surprises so I patiently wait and watch until the end, but I have so many questions!

We've come to the end of Daniel's story and looking back we see how much he has suffered, endured, and most of all remained faithful to God. Here he is, having a conversation with the angel about what will happen in the future. Daniel is no stranger to receiving bad news. Remember the Lord had spoken to him and gave him interpretations of other dreams. This time it's different. This time, he receives a visitation from an angel to deliver news about things to come. He hears phrases such as "the time of the end" and "a time of anguish". He listens intently to what the angel is telling him about this horrible time period and what will happen, but he doesn't quite understand. He does what most of us would do and asks how will all of this finally end? The angel doesn't give him much of an answer except for a few nuggets that are not enough for Daniel to understand.

We still don't have all of the answers and neither did Daniel. The angel tells him basically to go on and keep living his life until the end. Then, he will rest and rise to receive an inheritance. This is the assurance that we have in Christ. We don't have to have all of the answers to these mysteries in the Word, however, we can find rest in the One who holds the world in His hands.

### **Reflection**

Take time today to praise God for the prophetic words revealed to Daniel and for preserving them for us to read and study today.

In what ways is it challenging for you to rest and not know all of the answers?

## **Day 5: Pause & Reflect**

*Ask the Lord, journal, and pray through the following questions ...*

God, what are some of the takeaways from Chapter 12 that you want to highlight in my life?

Spend time today posturing yourself to listen and reflect on each day's theme:

- Promise
- Resurrection
- Shift
- Assurance

What is one thing you are going to do in response to this week's message and reading plan, and who is going to hold you accountable?

Write down one takeaway and one action step in a journal to commit to it.

## **Weekly Memory Verse**

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