

one under Antichrist, predicted in 11:36-12:1, only a few verses earlier and also in 7:8, 20-22 and 24-26. This interpretation is supported by the points in common between the words in 12:7 and those in the previous accounts of this crisis. The most obvious similarity is the occurrence of the phrase "a time, times, and half a time" which is found in Daniel 7:25 as the length of time during which the saints will be handed over to the Antichrist. A still greater point of similarity is the fact that Daniel 12:7 says "When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed" while Daniel 7:21-22 speaks of the boastful horn as waging war "against the saints and defeating them, until the Ancient of Days came" and 11:36 predicted that "he will be successful until the time of wrath is completed."

Thus the crisis described in v. 7 is very different from the one produced by Antiochus, which came to an end through the valiant fighting of the Maccabees.⁵

In verse 8 Daniel tells of his difficulty in understanding what had been said about one of the crises, and proceeds to ask for information about the other. In view of the answer he receives we can understand his question as meaning: What will be the end (latter part) of these other events?

Before answering Daniel's question the messenger gives him some words of encouragement, expressed in the form of a command, plus a prediction. The command, "Go your way Daniel," is really an assurance that Daniel can continue his own activities without fear "because the words are closed up and sealed until a time of end."

This assertion might suggest that Daniel had already carried out the command to seal the words of the scroll (v. 4), but the continuous account of the vision allows no time when that could have occurred. Therefore it seems likely that God is assuring Daniel that, though Daniel's duty to preserve the scroll intact is still an important factor, God is overseeing his activity and will protect this portion of His inerrant Word even after Daniel has passed on. Since this assurance is referring to divine activity it may also include