

11:36-12:2 predict events that have not yet occurred. We have not attempted to make a full determination of the meaning of such verses, which would go beyond our present purpose since it would require careful examination of all related passages in other parts of Scripture, but have briefly examined any suggested interpretations that clearly involve errors of fact or logic.

Having seen so many remarkable evidences of past fulfilment of Daniel's prophecies, we have found reason for certainty that these other predicted events will also occur. Just as the past predictions did not contain enough precise information to enable students to know the full detail of the predicted events, the predictions of the future leave much unsaid. We should avoid going beyond what is clearly stated, but we can be sure that whatever God says in His Word will come to pass.

Certain events stand out. A time is predicted when a great anti-Christian figure will arise and will so severely persecute the people of God that their complete destruction will seem inevitable, but eventually God will destroy the persecutor and will establish a new indestructible regime. There are glimpses of these developments in chapters 7 and 11-12; a few very difficult verses in the last part of chapter 9 may also belong in this area.

The Two Crises

A great part of the purpose of the book of Daniel is to prepare God's people for two great crises -- one to come during the course of the third kingdom, the other near the end of the fourth. These are introduced in reverse order.

In chapter 7 we see the rise of the little horn, its growth in power to the point where it would seem about to accomplish the complete annihilation of God's people, and its destruction solely through the power of God.

In Chapter 8 the earlier crisis is introduced, with its occurrence during the time of the third kingdom clearly indicated. The character and career of this other "little horn" and its temporary success in stopping the divine services are