

# Daniel 12:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.

## Analysis

The solemn oath—"he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever"—represents the most emphatic divine promise possible. Raising both hands (unlike typical single-hand oaths) emphasizes absolute certainty and divine authority. Swearing "by him that liveth for ever" grounds the oath in God's eternal existence and unchangeable nature, guaranteeing the prophecy's fulfillment. This echoes Deuteronomy 32:40 where God lifts His hand to heaven swearing by His eternal life.

The enigmatic timeframe—"a time, times, and an half"—appears also in Daniel 7:25 and Revelation 12:14, typically interpreted as three and a half years or 1,260 days. This period represents tribulation's duration before divine deliverance. The phrase "when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people" describes persecution reaching its climax—when God's people are completely powerless, deliverance comes. God allows scattering to demonstrate that victory comes through divine intervention, not human strength.

The promise "all these things shall be finished" assures that persecution has a definite end. The same Greek word *tetelestai* ("it is finished") appears at Christ's

crucifixion (John 19:30), connecting Daniel's prophecy to redemptive completion through Christ's work. Just as Christ's suffering had a predetermined end accomplishing salvation, believers' tribulation has fixed duration accomplishing divine purposes. This provides hope: current suffering, though intense, is temporary and purposeful.

## Historical Context

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Two-handed oaths represented the most solemn promises in ancient Near Eastern culture, exceeding normal single-hand oaths in gravity and certainty. By taking this extraordinary oath, the divine messenger emphasizes the revelation's absolute reliability—what is sworn will certainly occur exactly as stated.

The phrase "time, times, and an half" has generated extensive interpretation throughout church history. Many see it fulfilled in various historical periods: Antiochus Epiphanes' persecution (167-164 BC), Rome's destruction of Jerusalem (AD 67-70), or still-future tribulation. Reformed interpreters often see multiple fulfillments—patterns recurring throughout history until final eschatological fulfillment. The deliberate vagueness allows application across redemptive history while maintaining hope in definite divine timing.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does the two-handed oath swearing by the eternal God provide maximum assurance that prophetic promises will certainly be fulfilled?
2. What comfort comes from knowing that persecution, even when it scatters God's people completely, has a predetermined duration and purpose?
3. How does the phrase "it is finished" connect Christ's completed redemptive work to the ultimate end of all suffering and tribulation?

## Interlinear Text

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וָאֲשָׁמַע	אֶת	הָאִישׁ	לְבָשׁ	בְּיָרְדָן	אֲשֶׁר	מִמַּעַל
And I heard		the man	clothed	in linen		which was upon
H8085	H853	H376	H3847	H906	H834	H4605
לַמַּיִם	הַנָּהָר	וְכִשְׁמַלְּאוֹ	יָמִינוֹ	וְיָמֵינוֹ	וְשִׁמְאָלוֹ	אֶל
the waters	of the river	when he held up	his right hand	and his left hand		
H4325	H2975	H7311	H3225	H8040		H413
הַשָּׁמַיִם	וַיִּשָּׁבַע	בְּהִי	הָעוֹלָם	כִּי		
unto heaven	and swore	by him that liveth	for ever			
H8064	H7650	H2416	H5769	H3588		
מִזְמַת	מִזְמַת	וְחֶצִי				
that it shall be for a time	that it shall be for a time	and an half				
H4150	H4150	H2677				
תִּכְלָיָהּ	נִפְץ	יָד	עַם	קִדְשׁ		
all these things shall be finished	to scatter	the power	people	of the holy		
H3615	H5310	H3027	H5971	H6944		
תִּכְלָיָהּ	כָּל	אֵלֶּה:				
all these things shall be finished						
H3615	H3605	H428				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Daniel 7:25** (Holy): And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

**Revelation 12:14** (Parallel theme): And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

**Daniel 8:24** (Holy): And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people.

**Revelation 13:5** (Parallel theme): And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

**Revelation 12:6** (Parallel theme): And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

**Luke 21:24** (Parallel theme): And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

**Daniel 4:34** (Parallel theme): And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:

**Isaiah 62:12** (Holy): And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken.

**Jeremiah 4:2** (Parallel theme): And thou shalt swear, The LORD liveth, in truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; and the nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory.

**Deuteronomy 26:19** (Holy): And to make thee high above all nations which he hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honour; and that thou mayest be an holy people unto the LORD thy God, as he hath spoken.