

one-half months more than three years; the "1335 days" in 12:12 would be about three years and eight months. The historical materials that have been preserved from the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes are insufficient to enable us to know what happened at these particular times, but we can feel confident that those who lived through that crisis would have been able to see exactly what was meant.

The only point at which there is any real similarity between the prediction in verses 10-12 and the one in verse 7 is the alleged agreement between the periods of time that are mentioned, but even this is far from precise. If "time, times and half a time" means three and one-half years, there is a general similarity but hardly an exact correspondence between the periods of time mentioned in the two predictions.

The fact that so many evangelical writers take both predictions as referring to only one of these crises, in spite of the great differences between them, is probably due to a misunderstanding of the question in verse 8. As rendered in the KJV this question reads: "what shall be the end of these things?" If we assume that when Daniel spoke he placed a slight emphasis on the word "these", we can readily understand the question, as it is rendered in the KJV, as asking for information about the other crisis, rather than about the one that had just been discussed. Some of the recent versions (especially the NIV) render the question in such a way as to rule out this interpretation. Thus the NIV renders the second sentence in verse 8 as follows: "So I asked, 'My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?'"

This translation gives the impression that Daniel is asking for more information about the prediction that had just been discussed, and strongly suggests that the prediction in verse 7 and the one in verses 10-11 must point to the same crisis.

There are three points at which the NIV translation of verse 8 introduces ideas that bring confusion to the interpretation of the chapter:

- 1) The insertion of the word "so" at the beginning of the introductory sentence, thus giving the impression that