

described in detail. There is here no suggestion of destroying the wicked kingdom but only a promise that the divine services will be reinstated.

Chapters 11-12 again describe the two crises, this time in chronological order, giving considerable historical detail of the events leading up to the earlier crisis, describing it briefly, and then jumping forward to the later crisis, adding new details to the picture in chapter 7. In chapter 12 a question about each of the crises is raised and answered, again in the reverse of the chronological order, ending with the crisis that would face Daniel's people first, not saying that it would be followed by the coming of God's final kingdom, but promising that at its end the divine services that had been stopped would be restored.

God does not wish His people to be caught by surprise, but always to be aware of the fact that He is in complete control. Preparation of God's people to meet these two crises is one of the great purposes of the book, but there is a more pervasive purpose -- to give God's people assurance that He controls all things, that He knows the end from the beginning, and that His people need never despair, since God alone is omnipotent and in the end His supremacy will be apparent to all.