

Daniel: Go Your Way Till The End

Daniel 12:5-13

MPS God strengthens His people by faith to persevere to the very end and receive His reward of eternal life.

OBJ Every person should believe in Jesus for eternal life because of God's answers to Three Questions.

INTRO What's the biggest question on your mind and heart today? Have you thought much about the end of the world lately?

READ Daniel 12:5-13

Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream. ⁶And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, "How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?" ⁷And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished. ⁸I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, "O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?" ⁹He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end. ¹⁰Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand. ¹¹And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days. ¹²Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days. ¹³But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."

Daniel's final vision holds one last interaction. Two additional angels appear, one on each side of a stream. The "man clothed in linen", who has been explaining the vision to Daniel, now stands above the stream waters. One of the the angels asks him, "How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?" The man above the waters raises his hands toward heaven and states, "for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished." Daniel responds that he heard but did not understand, so he asks, "O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?" The angel instructs Daniel to go his way because these words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end. He states that many will purify themselves and be refined, but the wicked will still act wickedly. Understanding is promised for the wise. Then, he repeats that the abomination that makes desolate will be for 1,290 days. And, blessed is the one who waits for the 1,335 days. Finally, he tells Daniel to go his way til the end, for he shall rest and stand in his allotted place at the end. And with this Daniel's record concludes.

The conclusion of Daniel's record holds a sense both of weariness in his current situation but consumed in lasting hope and promise. How accurate a picture of the Christian life this provides, does it not, so often wearied in our current situation but never without hope! The Christian life is one held by the promise of God's salvation! There is much Daniel has learned and understood in his life, and some he still does not know. But in all, his hope remains and God's promise pervades his life. **God gives Daniel all he needs to persevere every day and promises that he shall rest and stand in his allotted place at the end of his days.**

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Three questions dominate any conversation on end times, "When will it be?", "How will it happen?", and "What should I do to prepare for it?" Everyone wants to know the answer to these questions regarding the end of time at the time of the end. Even the angels are talking about it! And in Daniel's concluding record, God is gracious to respond to them.

OBJ Three Questions God's answers to invite our faith in Jesus Christ for eternal life.

Q#1: How long till the end? [5-7]



When you talk about the end times, everyone wants to know “How much longer?” and “When will it happen?” These are natural questions for us to ask. Daniel was gifted by God to understand visions and dreams and he wanted to know too. So God tells him when it will be. The angel “*raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.*” There we have the exact time when it will happen. **Are there any further questions? Yes! What does “a time, times, and half a time” mean? And, what does “the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end” mean?**

TRANS While we do not know the date and time according to our calendar and clock, there are some things we can say. **A “time, two times, and half a time” is a familiar phrase we have heard before.** Scholar Sydney Greidanus notes, “In Daniel 7:25 we were told that the Antichrist “shall wear out the holy ones of the Most High ...; and they shall be given into his power for a time, two times, and half a time.” These symbolic numbers add up to three and a half times. In the Bible, seven denotes a full, complete period of time—God created the world in seven days. Three and a half times is half of the complete, perfect number “seven.” Therefore it denotes a relatively short period of time, a short period of persecution.”¹ Paul House states, “Most commentators take the phrase to mean approximately three and a half years.² From Revelation we read of a seven year period of judgement known as the tribulation, where God’s people are to great suffering.³ This phrase references a cutting short of the AntiChrist’s rule by God, which means it is a phrase of great hope for us. And here in Daniel we see that the promise of the shortness of the persecution is secured by an oath from God Himself. Raising a hand was a common means of both parties entering into a covenant with one another, like swearing an oath. Raising both hands signifies a covenant that is completed by the one making it, not dependent on both parties. **God makes an oath by His character alone to promise His people that He will cut short Satan’s rule to usher in eternity!**

The answer to “How long till the end? can be stated in three ways.

Answer#1: Shorter than you imagine, and not longer than God’s power is sufficient to strengthen you to endure. The purpose of Scripture is to get our focus off of our suffering and on to God’s sufficiency. No matter what we face, God will prove greater in every way and measure, and to every extent, to produce His glory through our life. Jesus teaches, “*Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, ...²⁷And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*”³⁴“*Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. Matthew 6:25a,27,33-34*

As long as your suffering is your focus, “you” become the center of your life, worry consumes your thoughts about all things, to produce fear and anxiety as the consuming reality of your heart to damage and destroy the goodness, joy, peace, and faith God wants to give to you. **But when God is set as the center of your life, He always prove greater and more glorious than you dared imagine because He alone produces faith for more grace for greater glory in all things!**

Answer#2: No one knows exactly when, but we do know we are in the last days, and it could be any day. The words once sealed in Daniel’s day(12:9) are no longer, according to John’s Revelation, because the time is near.

“And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.” Revelation 22:10

Answer#3: Only God the Father knows the day, but we know it will be in His perfect timing. God works in the passing of time, *chronos*, for the perfection of timing, *Kairos*, to accomplish His perfect will. **And we know and are certain of this, that the perfection of God’s will and timing is that which is near!(Revelation22:10)**

¹ Sidney Greidanus, [Preaching Christ from Daniel: Foundations for Expository Sermons](#) (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2012), 402.

² Paul R. House, [Daniel: An Introduction and Commentary](#), ed. David G. Firth, vol. 23, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (London: Inter-Varsity Press, 2018), 183.

³ David Haines, “[The Tribulation](#),” in *Lexham Survey of Theology*, ed. Mark Ward et al. (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2018). Haines writes, “Posttribulationism, often held by those who adhere to a historic premillennialist view, maintains that the church will pass through a future tribulation prior to being removed from the earth by Christ. The church will be protected by God as it experiences continual tribulation, but the church will not experience the wrath of God. Posttribulationists do not think that the church will be raptured prior to the second coming of Christ but will meet him in the air as he comes to judge the earth.”



TRANS Thankfully, God tells us what will happen.

Q#2: What will be the outcome? [8-10]

The angel provides clear understanding for Daniel that answers this question. The words of this prophecy were sealed in Daniel's day because the timing of their revelation had not yet come. But with the coming of Jesus Christ and Him ushering in the kingdom of God, and then by John's Revelation, the words are now unsealed. And Daniel 12:10 tells us what will happen, "*Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand.*" Of the angel's explanation to Daniel, John repeats in Revelation,

¹¹Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy."

*¹²"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. **Revelation 22:11-13***

The outcome is that there will be those who are following Jesus and those who follow Satan and selfish ways. Those who follow the Evil One will continue in their selfish ways, becoming more and more like what sin and wickedness produces in them, increasing guilt and greater shame, to utter condemnation. *Those who trust in the Lord will continue to follow Him by faith. Though they experience suffering, their lives are only purified and refined more and more into their righteousness in Christ Jesus, which will be revealed as even more glorious.*

TRANS *The real question here is, what is the day and time producing in you?*

Q#3: What about now: How do we live until He returns? [.9-10, 12-13]

The angel answers this question for us when tells Daniel twice to "*go your way*" and enter into the rest and place that awaits you from the Lord.

But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days." **Daniel 12:9, 13**

The way a Christ-follower lives with the Word unsealed is the same as the way a God-follower lived when it was sealed, faithful to go your way in following Christ daily. Rest is the promise of every Christ-follower; not laziness or couch-vegging, not worry nor anxiety, but true, whole-being rest of pervading peace, and deep, abiding joy. And this rest will be in the place the Lord Jesus has prepared for you! Jesus said,

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going." ⁶Jesus said to him, "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."* **John 14:1-5, 7**

You know the way! His Name is Jesus. Follow Him, Christian, by faith! The time is now and the end is near. You do not have any promise not guarantee of a future instance. You only have right now. So this question helps us from our thinking, **What about now? How will you live NOW until Christ returns?**

Until He returns, we watch and wait, and gather to worship in His Name, to be clothed with His power from on high, and testify to His glory and goodness.

Until He comes, we go, to share the gospel across the street for our neighbor and to the ends of the earth for the nations, because as long as He is patient, there are more to hear among every people, nation, and language.

Until we rule with Him, we live sacrificially to serve like Him, that others may know, see, feel, hear, and encounter the love of God.

Until He rewards, we persevere, because we know the time is not yet perfected in His Will, and we know that we are being purified and refined by any fire of persecution we may endure. For as long as He is patient with us in our sin, we can be confident He will prove sufficient for us in our suffering. The length of God's patient is the strength of our perseverance.

Until Jesus splits the sky, we rightly divide the Word and speak the truth in love, because we are building up one



another into Him as His glorious habitation for glory.

Until Heaven is our eternal home, the **fellowship of Christian community is our refuge and foretaste** of glory divine.

Go your way, Christ-follower, go your way in following Jesus by faith every day! And you shall find the place and rest He has prepared for you!

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