

“Seal the Book” 2

Daniel 12:4-13

Hello friend and welcome to *Hope for Today*. My name is J. Mark Horst; I’m your friend and Bible teacher. The program you’re listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope, an international Gospel radio and literature ministry.

Last week, we began a study from Daniel chapter 12 titled, “Seal the Book.” On today’s program, we will conclude this study in chapter 12 and also our entire study of the book of Daniel.

The Final REASON (Daniel is told to seal the book) is,

For Information

In verse 5, Daniel’s vision reveals two men standing on the banks on either side of the river. Only one of these men actually speaks, so why are there two? Perhaps to fulfill the biblical requirement for 2 or 3 witnesses as given in Deuteronomy 19:15 and other Scriptures.

One of these men on the riverbank asks a question of the man clothed in linen. If we go back to chapter ten, verse five we learn that the man clothed in linen is the heavenly messenger. The question asked is *how long shall it be to the end, or fulfillment, of these wonders?*

The linen-clad angelic messenger responds by holding up both hands to heaven. That would immediately get your attention wouldn’t it? He swears by the one who lives forever and ever, that the *how long* will be for three and one-half years (*time, times, and a half-time*). There is only one who lives forever and ever, that’s God. And usually, just the right hand is raised in taking an oath. Here, the messenger lifts both hands; I believe this adds to the solemnness of the oath.

The messenger goes on to say that during this time (3.5 years), when the power of the holy people is completely shattered, **all these things shall be finished**. When the 3.5 years of persecution have run their course and it looks like God’s people will be annihilated, then, the time of the end will conclude with their deliverance by the Second Coming of Christ. And Israel, as a people will turn to God as Paul states in Romans 11:26.

I’m sure this final prediction must have grieved Daniel. And he admits he’s bewildered by the prophecy. After all the suffering he’s seen among his people, he’s told there’s more to come. So, he asks again, *what shall be the end of these things?* In response, the messenger says *go your way because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end*. It seems to me that the

messenger is again telling Daniel that some of the things predicted wouldn't and couldn't make sense to him in his lifetime.

As a partial answer to Daniel's question in verse 8, he's told in verse 9 that the time of the end will result in the purification of the saints. They will be *made white and refined*. Furthermore, the messenger says that the righteous will understand what's happening. Jesus talked about difference in understanding between the righteous and the wicked in Matthew 13:10-15. These prophecies will be a significant source of comfort and direction to the true Believers going through this extremely difficult time.

This turbulent time will also reveal the depths of wickedness in the human heart. But the wicked won't understand the events of this time because, according to II Thessalonians 2:11, *God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe THE lie...* This lack of understanding will lead to their ultimate condemnation and destruction.

Verses 11 and 12 give important revelation on the length of *the time of the end*. Verse 11 states that 1,290 days will elapse from *the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away...* This is reckoned from the time when the *abomination that makes desolate* appears. It refers to the interruption of the Jewish sacrifices in the middle of the 7-year covenant, Daniel's seventieth week.

The desecration of the Temple and altar by Antiochus Epiphanes in 168 BC. was a partial fulfilment of this *abomination that makes desolate*. But there was no resurrection of the dead during the time of Antiochus. Since Jesus referred to this in Matthew 24 as being in the future, there must be an ultimate fulfilment yet to come. Jesus further stated that this event would usher in a time of unprecedented tribulation.

We have seen the reference to 1,260 days several times in the book of Daniel. But here, the messenger states 1,290 days. Why are there an additional 30 days? Then, on top of that, verse 12 mentions an additional 45 days for a total of 1,335 days. There is a special blessing pronounced on those who reach this point in time. I suggest that this is a matter that rests in the knowledge of God, but it may be revealed to those actually living through this time.

The messenger doesn't explain the reasons for the variations of numbers of days. Since the 1,260 days are mentioned numerous times, it seems like this time period ends with Jesus' visible, bodily return to Jerusalem as described in Zechariah 14:4.

This event is followed by the judgment of the nations outlined in Matthew 25:31-46 and the regathering and judgment of Israel noted in Ezekiel 20:34-38. The additional 75 days will allow

for the completion of these events. Those who attain this goal are obviously those judged worthy to enter the kingdom. As a result, they are called *blessed*.

Finally, the divine messenger makes a solemn promise to Daniel. “*But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.*” What a blessed promise to an aged, faithful saint and prophet!

Josephus, who didn’t accept Christian teaching, had this to say about Daniel. “Everything was freely given to him unexpectedly, as to one of the greatest prophets. During his lifetime he enjoyed honor and glory, both with kings and the common people.

Although he died, his immortal memory lives on. The books he composed and left behind are still read among us even now, and we have come to believe from them that Daniel consorted with God. Not only did he spend his time foretelling future events, like other prophets, but also he marked off the time when these things would take place.”¹

This final, great prophetic revelation, beginning in chapter 10, is like a capstone on the entire book. It establishes the book of Daniel as foremost among the Old Testament prophetic books. It’s counterpart in the New Testament is the book of Revelation. This final book gives us God’s final word concerning His prophetic plan for the ages.

As we conclude our study in the book of Daniel, it’s my hope and prayer that our studies together have been spiritually and intellectually enriching. My conclusions during this study have been based on what I feel is the most literal reading of the text. That’s how I attempt to interpret all Scripture. They are also based on comparison with other prophetic Scriptures. I freely acknowledge that I could be mistaken in some of the details, but I’ve tried to be as clear and accurate as I can. I hope that in this study you have come face to face with “Daniel’s God: Purpose, Providence, and Prophecy.”

In all of our study in this book of Daniel, the most important question you and I must consider is – are we ready for the return of Christ? Will we ultimately awake, to everlasting life, or to shame *and* everlasting contempt? Will we be among the wise who will shine like the brightness of the firmament, and who turn many to righteousness? When the books are opened will your name and mine be found in them? The time is growing short, we must decide – today!

My friend, were you blessed by this teaching? If so, you can request an audio CD or a printed copy of this complete teaching, “Seal the Book.”

¹ Theodoret of Cyr; Daniel, p 81:1544

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Now friend, I urge you to tune in next week as we begin a new study in the Gospel of John. And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.