

Doing hard things well

Daniel 12:4-13

- We are at the close of Daniel and what an amazing book this is, presenting the future of man, and all its challenges and difficulties, and yet using the life of Daniel to show us how we are to live in the midst of all the chaos and confusion.
- The book of Daniel proves to us that if we continue to put The Lord first and keep His Word and His values, no matter what problems, circumstances, or immense pressure we face, we can still walk with The Lord in integrity, remaining steadfast while keeping The truth of His Word, as we fulfil His will. We've followed Daniel since he was a teenager, and what we read about him at 15, he's still doing at 90.

V4-13

- In the book of Revelation 1:3 there is a blessing to all who read it, hear it, and apply it, for the time is near in which all these things spoken prophetically will come to pass. Here in the book of Daniel 12, we're living in the days that were shown to him thousands of years ago, history has already proven that much of what he wrote has come to pass, so with all that we know that's **happening prophetically**, how shall we as believers should **live presently** > **V3** says we should be investing in souls.
- Nothing is as costly to us as our lives, and nothing is as dear to The Lord as someone's soul, so if you are willing to give that which costs you the most, in order to gain that which is most valuable to The Lord, God says this is what you can expect in return. A high yield on your investment, both here on earth as people lives change for the better, and when we stand before The Lord you'll shine like the stars forever!
- **V4** shut up the words and seal the book, signifying that the words should be kept safely until the time when they are needed. This shows that this prophecy of Daniel's was valuable in his day, but there will come a day > "**the time of the end**".
- There's coming a day when this prophecy would be even of more importance, therefore seal it until that time. Which is why this message needed to be treasured and protected, shared with all who will listen, as everyone who hears this prophecy will not want to obey.

- Even as society advances in science, medicine, knowledge, transportation, information, since this has been written, think of how few actually believe what Daniel has said, even after history has proven it to be true. For just as knowledge has increased so has people's unbelief > **Amos 8:11-12**.
- I think about the left behind series, first appearing in 1995 and running all the way through 2007, then the movie adaptations 2000, 2002, 2005, and a reboot in 2014. Both the books and movies did very well, as both believers and unbelievers read and watched equally the warnings about the last days, yet very little changed.
- **V5-7** Daniel is back at the riverbank of the Tigris mentioned in chapter 10, and he sees two Angels one on each side of the riverbank. One of the Angels asks a **3rd** figure Who is there, Who is clothed in linen and hovering above the waters, "how long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be"?
- The Man in linen held up His Right Hand and His left Hand and swore by Him Who lives forever that the trouble will last for a time, times, and half a time, which is three and a half years. In **Math 5:33-37** Jesus told His disciples not to swear an oath by heaven, by earth, or by their own head, yet in **Gen 22:16-17** and **Heb 6:13** The Lord swore by Himself that these things would come to pass.
- Hovering over the waters > **Gen 1:1-2**, this along with several other things is why I believe this is not an Angel but a Christophany with Jesus making an OT appearance. **V8-9** "How long, and how will it end" are questions we all ask when times are difficult and the future in doubt right?
- **V9** speaks to us that God knows how much we need to know and how much we can take, so He may not reveal everything to us > Deut 29:29- that's when we need to trust that Father knows best and apply what we do understand.
- **V10-13** He does tell Daniel four things here > **1**. The wicked will continue to behave wickedly, and the righteous will continue to be righteous. Situations and circumstances may change but the character of people won't, whatever's in them will come out of them. **2**. Although you may not understand fully, those living Godly during these times will, so let that be an encouragement to you.

- **3.** Blessed are those who endure hardship, temptation, threats, war, and intolerable cruelty, as the reward will far outweigh the sacrifice. **4.** Daniel for your faithfulness, your reward is resurrection and rest. Just for clarity sake many believe that the **1,260** days when Jesus returns, **1,290** days is when Jesus government is officially installed, **1,335** days is when the nations will be judged > Math 25.
- Daniel is filled with exciting and frightening prophetic thoughts, so you have to love what he is told **V9** and **V13**, as twice he is told to go his way, as the words are sealed, there is nothing you can do about it, therefore **V13** is meant to soothe him as he's told his future is rest. It literally means to let alone and settle down, to trust wow! This is a summary of Daniel's life, taken away as a boy, to a foreign land, immersed into an ungodly culture, and told how to survive by being sinful, yet he trusts God.