

DANIEL

An Exile Longing for Heaven



TRUSTING GOD WHO HOLDS THE FUTURE

DANIEL 12:5-13



Daniel 12:5–13

"Then I, Daniel, looked, and there stood two others, one on this bank of the river, and the other on that bank of the river. And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, 'How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?'... 'Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, made white, and refined... but the wise shall understand... Blessed is he who waits... But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.'"

Daniel: at the Finish Line

A Lifetime of Faithfulness

An old man stands at the edge of a river — a lifetime of faithfulness in a foreign land, watching kingdoms rise and fall.

Wonders Witnessed

He has seen lions' mouths shut, fiery furnaces made harmless, and handwriting appear on a wall.

One Final Vision

Now, near the end of his life, he receives one final, mysterious vision — and two heavenly beings ask the question every suffering saint eventually asks: "**How long?**"



The Answer Daniel Did Not Expect

The answer is wrapped in numbers, symbols, and a command:
"Go your way... the words are closed up and sealed."

Daniel does not get the full blueprint of the future — he gets something better: a **Person to trust**.

The book of Daniel does not end with Daniel understanding everything. It ends with Daniel **resting in Someone who understands everything**.

The Central Theme

*We may not know all that lies ahead, but we can know the
One who holds it.*

Three Attitudes of Trust



I. Submit

Submit to God in Mysteries We Cannot Fully Understand (vv. 5–8)



II. Stand

Stand on God's Revealed Promises (vv. 7–10)



III. Secure

Secure Your Heart in God's Personal Care (vv. 11–13)

POINT I

Submit to God in Mysteries We Cannot Fully Understand

Daniel 12:5–8





The Scene: A Mysterious Vision

- Two heavenly angels, one on each side of the river, framing the man clothed in linen
- The same glorious figure from Daniel 10:5–6 — the preincarnate Jesus, dressed as a High Priest
- *"His face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches..."* (Dan. 10:5–6)
- Out of this scene comes the oldest question of suffering saints

A. Through the Limits of Revelation (vv. 4, 9)

Sealed Until the End

The words are **"closed up and sealed till the time of the end"** (vv. 4, 9). The prophecy is not literally kept secret — it is published in the book of Daniel.

Future Fulfillment

God's people will only understand its meaning at the time of its future fulfillment. Some things about the future God has simply chosen not to unveil — because they are harmful, not helpful.

Deuteronomy 29:29

"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever."

Illustration: Miracle on Ice (1980)

The Strategy

Coach Herb Brooks believed Team USA could defeat the dominant Soviet team — if they trained hard and didn't know what they were up against. He **intentionally chose amateurs** — you cannot fear what you do not know.

The Result

Team USA defeated the Soviets 4–3 in one of the greatest upsets in sports history.

The Lesson

Submitting to God means trusting the character of the One who does know, even when the scroll stays sealed.



B. Through Prayer — "How Long?" (vv. 5–6)

One angel asks Jesus on behalf of every generation of God's people: **"How long will it be until the end of these wonders?"**

This is not idle curiosity — Daniel's people were being crushed under empire after empire. The "How long?" prayer echoes throughout Scripture:

Psalm 13:1

David, alone and suffering:
"How long, O LORD? Wilt
Thou forget me forever?"

Psalm 74:10

Asaph, as Israel is
persecuted: "How long, O
God, will the adversary
revile?"

Revelation 6:10

Tribulation martyrs: "How long, O Lord... wilt Thou refrain
from judging?"



Turning Longing into Prayer

Longing Drives Us to Our Knees

When we face unanswered questions, it is **good** — it drives us to our knees in prayer.

Every Generation Asks

God's people have always wanted a specific timetable: for the pandemic to end, the diagnosis to resolve, the prodigal to come home, injustice to be righted.

The Question Is Not Wrong

Even an angel asks "How long?" — **Transfer that longing into prayer before it turns to doubt.**

C. Through Honest Confession: "I Do Not Understand" (vv. 7–8)

- Jesus gives a promise: Israel's suffering will last only "a time, times, and half a time"
- Daniel's honest reaction: **"I heard, but I did not understand"**
- This is Daniel — the man of unshakable integrity, who interpreted visions the wisest men could not
- If Daniel could walk faithfully with God while still confused about the future, how much more will we!

The Heart of Faith

Faith is not the absence of unanswered questions; it is trusting God even when we cannot fully see around them.

A Warning Against Prophetic Obsession



In an age when every Christian seems to claim gifts to decipher the future, Daniel's confession is a great correction. Our sinful obsession with prophecy keeps us from studying and living by God's *revealed* will.

📖 **James 4:13–15:** "You do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor... Instead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that.'"

POINT II

Stand on God's Revealed Promises

Daniel 12:7–10



A. The Certainty of Jesus's Word (v. 7)

The Most Solemn Oath

Jesus lifts **both hands to heaven** — the most solemn oath in Scripture — and swears "by Him who lives forever."

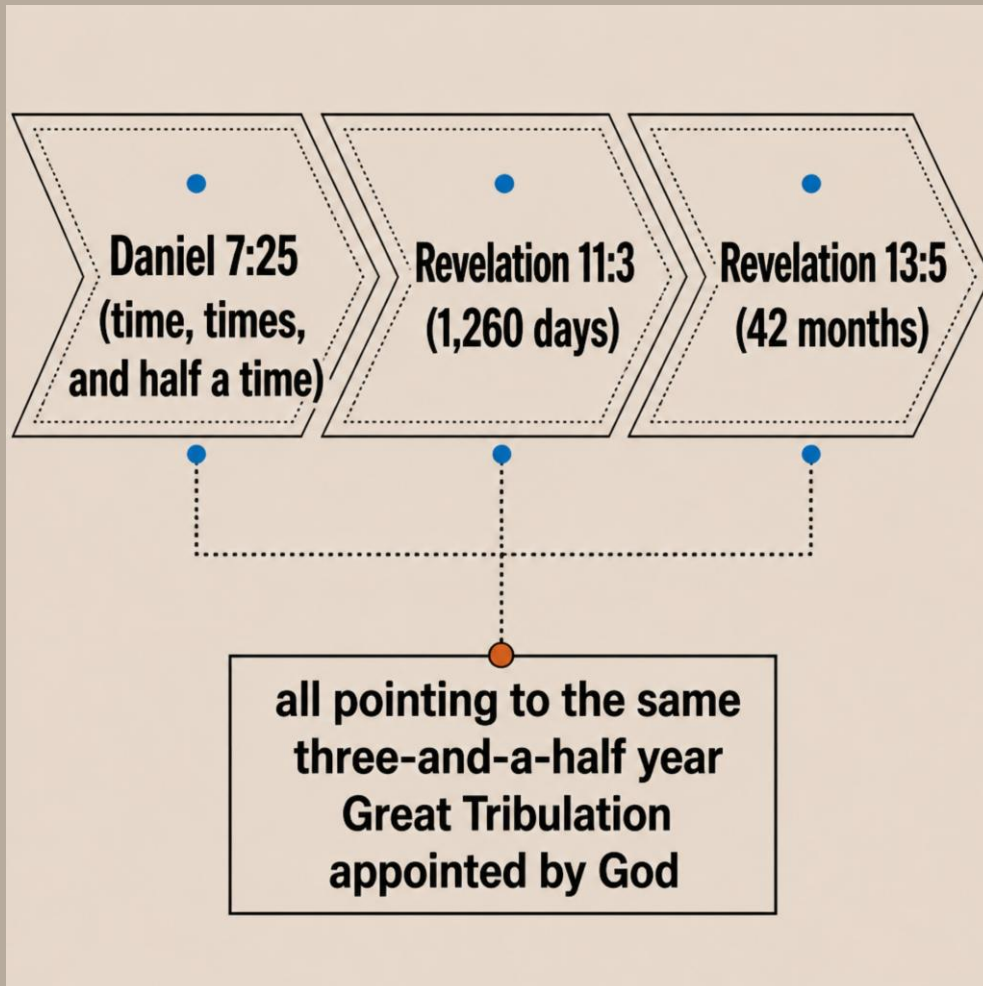
Not Random — Measured

The future is not random, not left to the whims of empires or the schemes of evil rulers. It is measured out: "**a time, times, and half a time**" — a limited, God-appointed period.

Kingdoms on a Leash

Kingdoms may rage, but they operate on a leash held by Jesus, the Eternal One. **Heb. 6:17–18:** God gives His oath so that we might have "strong encouragement" — the most stable ground in the universe when our own ground is shaking.

The Timetable Confirmed in Revelation



Three and a half years: a limited, God-appointed period of the Great Tribulation. The same span is confirmed across both Testaments — God's timetable is precise and unwavering.

- **Daniel 7:25** — *the saints given into the enemy's hand "for a time, times, and half a time"*
- **Revelation 11:3** — *the two witnesses prophesy for 1,260 days*
- **Revelation 13:5** — *the beast given authority to act for 42 months*

B. The Cleansing Purpose Behind the Waiting (vv. 9–10)

The command in v. 9 is **"Go!"** — continue to live a life obedient to God; don't get frozen by uncertainty.

Matt. 6:33–34: "Seek first His kingdom... do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself."

Verse 10: **"Many shall be purified, made white, and refined."** The delay is not divine neglect — it is divine refinement. Circumstances do not create character; they **reveal** it.

1 Peter 1:6–7: "The proof of your faith, being more precious than gold... tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."



Every Day of Waiting Is a Day the Refiner Is at Work

Understanding, Not Just Knowledge

The key is understanding — God's Word must become part of our convictions and faith, not just truth we know.

A Faithful Elder's Prayer

An elder's prayer over me
"Lord, send him enough trials to make him know and depend on You!"

The Refiner's Purpose

Every day of waiting is a day the Refiner is at work — making His Word not just truth, but something we live by.



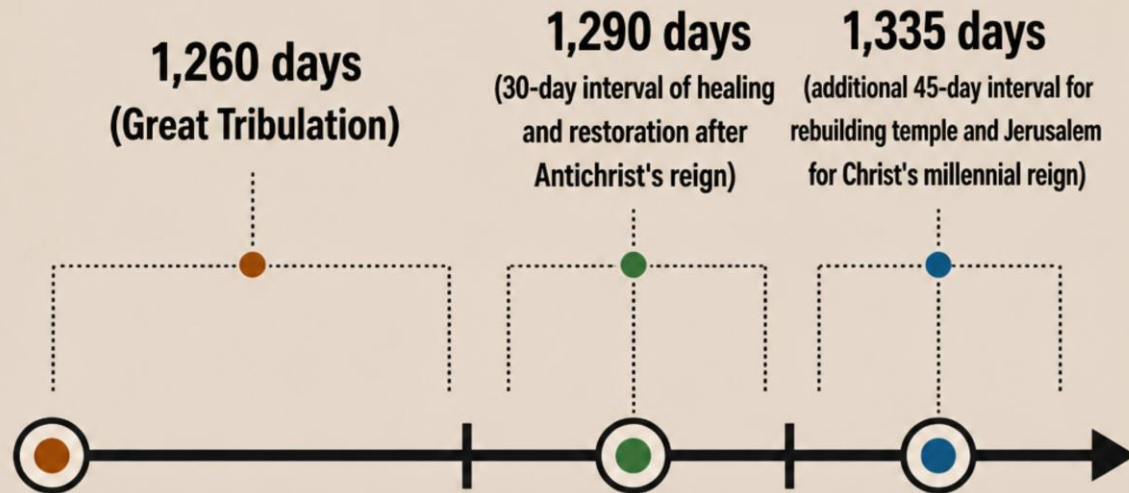
POINT III

Secure Your Heart in God's Personal Care

Daniel 12:11–13



A. God's Specific Plan to Heal Israel's Wounds (vv. 11–12)



- **1,290 days** (v. 11) — from the abolishing of the daily sacrifice and the abomination of desolation by the Antichrist (**30 days beyond the 1,260-day Tribulation**)
- An interval of healing and restoration — perhaps clean-up and restoration after the Antichrist's reign
- **1,335 days** (v. 12) — **an additional 45-day interval**; possibly the rebuilding of the temple and Jerusalem for Jesus to reign for 1,000 years

Blessed Is He Who Waits

"Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days."



Endurance, Not Explanation

The blessing is not given to the one who *figures out* the mystery — but to the one who **endures** to the appointed end. **James 1:12:** "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life."



Every Day Counted

God is not vague about the future in His own mind — He counts every day; not one day of suffering escapes His notice.

Matt. 10:30: "The very hairs of your head are all numbered."



Ordained Days

Psalms 139:16: "In Thy book they were all written, the days that were ordained for me."

B. Daniel's Own Special Promise: Rest and Resurrection (v. 13)



"But you, go your way till the end; then you will enter into rest, and stand again for your allotted portion at the end of the days."

After all the visions, all the empires, all the mysteries — God does not give Daniel a final explanation. He gives him a better final promise: **rest now, resurrection later**. One of the clearest Old Testament affirmations of bodily resurrection and personal hope beyond death.



Romans 8:17: "Heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him."

Conclusion

Daniel ends his book the same way every faithful believer must end their days — not with every question answered, but with everything that matters **secured**.

He didn't need the full blueprint — he needed assurance that the One who swore the oath, who counts the days, who refines His people, and who promises rest and resurrection, was **trustworthy**.

You may not know what the next year holds — but you can know **who holds it**.

The same God who sealed the scroll for Daniel has unsealed the greatest mystery of all in **Jesus Christ**, who died, rose, and promises: *"Because I live, you also will live"* (John 14:19).

"So go your way. Trust Jesus' Promise. Let the furnace refine you rather than harden you. Wait faithfully for however many days remain. And rest in this: your future — down to the very last day — belongs to a God who has already secured it for you."