

Daniel 12:5-13

March 30, 2025



CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

MAIN POINT

The book of Daniel concludes with comforting assurances on the bank of the Tigris River. Though Daniel wouldn't understand everything he had been told, he could trust that God was fully in control.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What are some things that have been revealed to Daniel in our study the past several weeks?

Why might this information have been overwhelming? How do you typically respond when you feel overwhelmed by new information?

In our study the past several weeks, we've been walking through prophecy given to Daniel by the angel on the banks of the Tigris River. This prophecy contained very detailed descriptions of what would happen immediately following Daniel's lifetime and a glimpse into the end times. Our text today wraps up the events on the bank of the Tigris



River after Daniel received the account of truth from the angel (11:2) and rounds out the book of Daniel as a whole.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 12:5-7

What did Daniel see in these verses?

Where have we seen a man dressed in linen in Daniel before? (See Daniel 10:5.)

What did the man dressed in linen tell Daniel?

Just before this text, Daniel had been given instruction to keep the revelation he received secret and sealed (12:4). The command to “seal” the book didn’t mean to keep it secret as we might define it—to keep it hidden or not tell anyone—but rather to keep it safe until the end times when its full meaning would be better understood.

Following this instruction, Daniel looked and saw two more angels standing on opposite banks of the river. These angels would serve as witnesses for the oath the linen-dressed man would make. (The standard of two witnesses was set in Deuteronomy 19:15.)

Daniel previously referenced the man dressed in linen in chapter 10. The description Daniel gave then is like the apostle John’s description of Christ in the book of Revelation (1:12-16), so some believe the man dressed in linen Daniel saw here was a pre-incarnate Jesus. The other primary view is that the linen-dressed man was an angel.

In chapter 12, Daniel described the man dressed in linen as “above the water of the river” (v.6). When one of the witnessing angels asked him how long these things would last, the man dressed in linen answered, “a time, times, and half a time” (v.7).

This exchange referred to the end times. This time period is recorded in Scripture using several different phrases:

- **“Time, times, and half a time”** (Daniel 7:25; 12:7; Revelation 12:14)
- **“Forty-two months”** (Revelation 11:2; 13:5)
- **“1,260 days”** (Revelation 11:3; 12:6)



These are all interpreted to mean three and a half years. At the end of this time, “the power of the holy people is shattered” (v.7), and Jesus will make His triumphant return to establish His eternal kingdom. The man in linen gave Daniel this information in the form of an oath, with proper witnesses according to the law. We can trust that this information is reliable and certain.

How might this information be a comfort to believers now and in the future?

What does the revelation of this truth tell us about God’s character?

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 12:8-13.

What was Daniel’s response to the man in linen?

What do you think the man in linen meant by “the words are secret and sealed until the time of the end” (v.9)?

What insight do we gain from verse 10?

Daniel understood that they were talking about the end times but didn’t understand how events would unfold, which prompted his question in verse 8.

Note the man in linen’s loving response: “Go on your way, Daniel” (v.9). Daniel wasn’t meant to fully understand this prophecy, and we weren’t either—and that’s okay. Though we don’t understand all, we can be sure that God does.

The troubling events in the end times will lead many to faith and purification (v.10), but the truly “wicked” will continue to “act wickedly,” not understanding what is happening or what is promised to come. The book of Daniel wraps up with the understanding that though Daniel wouldn’t understand the fullness of what was revealed to him in his lifetime, an inheritance for his faithfulness would be waiting for him at the end of days.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Daniel was the recipient of prophecy that God knew he wouldn’t fully understand. What does this tell us about how God works and uses us for His purposes?

What does Daniel’s life teach us about living faithfully for the Lord?

Our study today wraps up our time in Daniel. What are your big takeaways from our study of this book?



PRAYER

Close your time together by sharing prayer requests, praying for each other, and the group.

Thank God for the of Scripture. Thank Him for the comfort of knowing the truth, both for us today and for believers living in the future. Ask Him to give your group takeaways from your study of the book of Daniel and to give you faithfulness, like Daniel, in your everyday lives.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage your group to look ahead to next week's scripture passage as we continue our study of Daniel.

April 6, 2025 --- John 18:28-40

COMMENTARY

Daniel 12:5-13

The angel instructed Daniel to seal up the revelation until the end times. Daniel then saw two other angelic beings standing by the river, both of whom were clothed in linen. One asked how long it would be before the revelation was fulfilled. The other responded that "a time, times, and a half a time" (probably three and a half years) would pass between the breaking of Israel's power and the fulfillment of the vision. Verse 11 apparently gives amore exact measurement of this period (1,290 days). The significance of the figure given inverse 12 (1,335 days) is unclear. In conjunction with verse 11, it implies that there would be an additional forty-five-day period before the complete fulfillment of the vision.

