

THE CONCLUSION OF THE BOOK Daniel 12:5-13

The Book of Daniel, when taken as a whole, is a tremendous book. Some people only interested in prophecy dilute its true message by restricting their study to those passages that relate to the future. By having such a limited remit they choose to set to the one side the great passages of Scripture that related to this man's ongoing day-to-day walk with God in a godless society. The experiences of Daniel in the ancient Babylon ought to be a wonderful encouragement and support to the Church today in the midst of the 'modern Babylon'.

Throughout the book Daniel has enjoyed a continuous relationship with God. God was with Him from the start and now approaching the finish. He has proved God in the court of the king as a young boy; he has proved God in the den of lions; he has proved God surrounded by the pagan idolatrous rulers within Babylon. He altogether *knows the reality of God*.

THE REALITY OF GOD

- * David (II Sam. 22:7) knew **the reality of God** as he cried on to the Lord when his enemies had been defeated, *In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry did enter into his ears.*
- * Again he wrote, *Ps. 40:1 I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.*
- * As he also cried on to the Lord Daniel was seeing and hearing things that were away beyond his comprehension, - he just could not understand what they were all about.
- * He was standing there on the banks of the River Tigris and he saw two others in addition to the One Who had already been giving him the revelation.
- * The One with whom Daniel has already been standing, - and Who has been speaking the words of prophecy since 10:5ff. - is clothed in fine linen.
 - * You will, of course remember that fine linen is the clothing of Heaven, e.g. *Rev. 19: 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.* (also Rev. 19:14)

- * He is standing upon the waters of the river (v.6) in the same way the Lord Jesus stood upon the waters of Galilee waiting for Peter (Mt. 14:29).
- * We see how the two angels are subservient to the One standing on the water; they ask Him (since they recognise He has the knowledge), How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?
- * The angels are not saying, “Tell us when these things will take place”; instead they are calling out, “when shall they *end*?”
- * ... They know He is in control. There is a word in the Hebrew that is translated in most of our English versions as ‘river’, but it is particularly significant, I believe. (I say I believe it because I can’t really prove it, but every word of God’s Word we hold to be significant).
- * In verses five, six and seven this very particular Hebrew word is translated ‘river’, רִיָּב. It actually means a stream or a canal, but it has always previously particularly related to the River Nile in Egypt.
- * Now, why should the word for the river Nile in Egypt be applied to the river in Babylon? Perhaps it is because just as God delivered His people in former days so He holds out to them the promise that He will once again deliver His people in the latter days. I believe that is the significance and it shows **the ongoing reality of God** in the midst of His people.
- * ... *Daniel was being accompanied by God here, - the Second Person of the Trinity, - He was with Daniel, Daniel is in His company.*
- * Ordinarily when an oath was taken only one hand was raised, e.g. Gen. 14:22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD ... but here the solemnity of the oath is emphasised as *both* hands are raised.
- * In Dan. 12:7 we see the Man clothed in garments of fine linen doing as He did in Dt. 32:40, For I lift up my hand to heaven, and say, I live for ever. This is God swearing by Himself.
- * This is **the reality of God** being demonstrated again in the life of this faithful servant Daniel towards the remnant of God at the end of the persecution they must suffer.

THE RELEVANCE OF GOD

- * Here is the previous question being followed up by another, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?

- * He has already asked, ... **How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?** now he asks, **what shall be the end of these things?**
- * There is only a certain amount we can understand, - many people come to the Books of Daniel and Revelation and they can tell you exactly what it means ... down to the minute detail.
- * Yes, I agree, prophecy has been and is being fulfilled since Daniel's day but there are still many things about the end times that continue to escape us.
- * I have heard some bold statements, e.g. if the world began in 4004 BC (as Archbishop Ussher calculated, - and I wouldn't disagree with the primary basis of his calculations), - and since we are in 2003 ... and if one day is as a thousand years well, then, we have *almost* passed through six millennia and the seventh millennium of rest will very soon be upon us ... ***the*** Millennium, as some would teach. ... There have always been those who read into the Bible what it does not say.
- * Daniel is told in verse seven **that it shall be for a time, times, and an half**; then these people reinterpret God's Word and tell you it means "a week, weeks, and a half of a week". But that is not what the Bible says.
- * What does **a time, times, and an half** mean then? I don't know. ... Do I need to know every angle on prophecy to believe **the relevance of God** in all matters pertaining to my future? Do I need to know every angle on prophecy to believe that God cares for me and that no-one will ever pluck me out of His hand?
- * Yes, I can look into the history books that Daniel was not privy to and I can see how prophecy has been fulfilled since his time, and I can carefully assess much of what is happening today and I can see it as a fulfilment of prophecy ... but I must confess I haven't been able to work it all out!
- * Do I need to understand it all ... and clip someone's ear when they don't see it as I see it? No, I believe that is the sign of immaturity and uncertainty and ignorance ... and I notice here that in relation to what Daniel was being shown this tremendous old man of God confessed freely, **I heard, but I understood not.**
- * You think you know all about the end times? ... I don't believe you, because not even someone of the calibre of Daniel could understand it all.

- * To Daniel, **the relevance of God** promised to take care of the future, ... even those parts of it he wasn't able to understand.
- * Daniel was truly convinced of **the reality of God** and **the relevance of God**. ... Daniel was gripped also by ...

THE REASSURANCE OF GOD

- * Daniel was told all he needed to be told. The Holy Spirit had enable Daniel to understand all he needed to understand.
 - * As he would have been led to the entrance of the lion's den did you hear of him saying, "God, why do you see fit to have me thrown as meat to these lions?"
 - * The next morning, - after having survived the lions, - did you hear of him asking the question as he came up out of the den, "God, why did you waste my time with those lions last night when I could have been doing something more worthwhile in Your service?"
- * No, Daniel didn't 'take that turning in the road'. He trusted and he was assured that God knew what He was doing even when he - Daniel - didn't.
- * Daniel was only given partial understanding, - he was only told what God wanted him to be told at that time ... and he understood only what God had enabled him to understand.
- * Simply put, God reveals to us only what we need to know,
 - * I know there is coming the end of this present world, - not because scientists have said that it cannot continue on its present course, but because the Word of God says this present world will end.
 - * I know there is coming an Antichrist who will rule this earth and have his own way in its governance, - I know that not because all the political acrobatics seem to be leading that way, but I know it because the Word of God says it.
 - * I know that the Church will be released from this earth, - I believe following a time of terrible tribulation, - but I know that Jesus is coming back for His Church to bring His Church unto Himself ... and how do I know that? Simple, His Word tells me!
- * Just as with Daniel, all I need to know regarding the future the Holy Spirit through the Word of God has made known to those of us whose ears are open, whose eyes are open and whose mouths are shut ... while He is speaking!

- * We do not need to understand all the ramifications or the intricate little details, but Daniel was assured, v.10 **Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried** (i.e. as through a fire of persecution); **but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.**
- * Imagine, ... here was a man who was given so much detail in his visions and it all came down to something as simple as v.10.
- * Many nowadays wouldn't have been content as Daniel; they would have pressed the Lord, - "what does this/that mean? Tell us more ... feed our curiosity".
- * In verse eleven there are many of those eschatological acrobatists who try to tell you what the 1290 really mean. They are convinced as to their own point of view and they look down on the rest of us who don't see it as they do.
 - * I could go into it just now and give you their views but I don't see any point or need.
- * The way I would prefer to see it is to emphasise the full stops at the end of verses eleven and twelve.
 - * In v.11, we read, **And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.**
 - * In v.12, we read, **Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.**
 - * There most certainly is a definite conclusion at the end of which God's people will be victorious in Christ.
- * Do you need to know more than that? That is **the reassurance of God**. Paul put it like this, **Rom. 8: 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ...37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.**
- * When the full number of days will be completed God will be satisfied and He will bring His people home.

CONCLUSION.

- * What a beautiful conclusion to all that has gone before, v.13 **But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.**

There's a great day coming, a great day coming,

There's a great day coming by and by;

When the saints and the sinners shall be parted right and left,

Are you ready for that day to come?

There's a bright day coming, a bright day coming,

There's a bright day coming by and by;

But its brightness shall only come to them that love the Lord,

Are you ready for that day to come?

- * Old Daniel is told the grave will not be his final resting-place but that he shall stand triumphantly before the God he so faithfully served in Babylon.
- * ... That is how the prophecy of Daniel ends, ... on the great note of victory from the lips of the Almighty God Who accompanied this ordinary man the whole long journey through his time in the Godless, idolatrous city of ancient Babylon.