

HOW LONG UNTIL WE SING THE GLAD SONG Daniel 12:5-13

Intro: The question of verse 6 is: “How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?” The very question “How long?” begs for an answer. “How long?” cries out for a cessation of famine, nakedness, and sword spoken of in Daniel chapters ten-twelve. “How long?” cries with longing for the second advent of Jesus Christ, the second coming of Christ to the earth where He establishes His Millennial Kingdom. “How long” until the Prince of peace rules and reigns for one thousand years.

In the third verse of the millennial hymn “Joy to the World,” George Friedrich Bach speaks, as does the entire hymn, of the time after the tribulation that Daniel saw in the chapters prior to chapter twelve:

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground:
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse was found,
Far as the curse was found,
Far as, Far as the curse was found.

I. Vss. 5-7, HOW LONG, HOW LONG, HOW LONG

A. VS. 5, Take notice of the words: “Then I Daniel looked and, behold, there stood other two...” In chapter ten, there were angels at the river with Daniel; now, two more angels join them at the river. From Daniel chapter ten through Daniel chapter twelve, the prophet Daniel is standing by the river receiving the vision of the end times.

1. The river here is the Hiddekel, known more commonly today as the Tigris. This is the river by which Daniel stood. The word used for river here, *yeh-ore* is of Egyptian origin and is usually used referring to the Nile river. Could this have been a reminder to Daniel, that the God who had sent Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt where they toiled at the hands of the wicked Pharaoh who sought to wipe them out, would in the end times spread His wings of protection over the children of Israel and save them from the hands of the wicked Anti-Christ’s plan to exterminate them in the tribulation? Could this also picture Joshua as he led Israel into the promised and point to the Lord Jesus who lead His people to heaven on

earth when He triumphantly returns at the end of the tribulation?

2. We do not know what we are going to face in the days ahead, but we have this statement and promise: "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have; for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Heb. 13:5).
 3. One angel is on one bank of the river, and the other on the opposite bank.
- B. VS. 6, One of the angels talks "to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river..." I believe that the man upon the waters of the Tigris River is Jesus Christ in an Old Testament appearance to Daniel. We show that Lord Jesus early in Daniel 10:5-6.
1. One of the angels from the bank of the rivers calls out to ask: "How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?"
 2. The wonders that are spoken of here are terrible things that will cause many heartaches and much blood shed.
- C. VS. 7, Here we find the Precious Lord Jesus speaking under oath as He raises both hands to heaven. He could swear by no higher than Jehovah God.
1. To the question as to how long to the end of the awful events of the Great Tribulation, the Lord says: "It shall be for a time, times and an half." This translates into the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation. This is the:
 - a. Time of Israel's loss of power and scattering (Rev. 12:7).
 - b. It is the time of Israel's trouble and great sorrow (Jeremiah 30:7).
 - c. Time of the Anti-Christ's world wide authority changing times and laws and wearing out the saints (Dan. 7:25; Rev. 13:5).
 2. Why must the Jews go through such sorrow during the end times? It is because Israel must be drawn to Christ, and they will not do this until they have lost all but Him (Amos 9:9-10; Zechariah 12:10).
 3. When Israel is scattered and shattered; "When the persecution has run its course in God's time, and "all these things shall be finished," the time of the end will be concluded" (Walvoord 293).

II. Vss. 8-13, HOW SHALL IT END?

- A. VS.8, "What shall be the end of these things?" How will it end?
- B. VS 9, Do you ever hear but you don't understand? Do you hear the Doctors diagnosis and ask God for an answer and He let's you know that it is in His plan and you will understand it better bye and bye.
1. There are some things that we are not to understand; those are what Dr. W.A. Criswell used to call "the imponderables of God." Deuteronomy 29:29 tells us that: "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but the things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of the law."
 2. God knew how much Daniel needed to know and how much he could handle. This is true of you and I (John 16:12 "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now."). One day on heaven's bright shore, we will see all things clearly.
- C. VS. 10, Men, women, boys and girls are made white by the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. True believers will become purer and stronger during the last days, especially during the last days of the tribulation spoken of here. "True believers will become more dedicated and separated. They will live pure, and separated lives..." (Greene 483)
1. Unbelievers will go on in their wickedness and become even more vile. 2 Timothy 2:13 says: "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." There will be those who are: "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Timothy 3:7).
 2. As the end draws near, the eyes of God's elect get clearer and the scales fall off and prophecy comes alive (2 Peter 1:19).
- D. Vss. 11-12, In Deuteronomy 29:29, we read that: "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God," and we are to trust Him even when we do not understand.
1. VS. 11, The daily sacrifice is taken away in the very middle of the seven year tribulation period. The abomination of desolation is set up beginning the second half, 3 ½ years of the tribulation. The last half of the tribulation lasts for 1,260 days or 3 ½ years. The 1,290

days takes us 30 days past the time of our Lord's second advent. The significance of this we are not sure of. But we do know this, when we get to this place in time, the Anti-Christ, who lifted himself up and declared himself to be God, will have been cast into the pit forever (Revelation 19:20).

2. VS.12, A blessing comes to those who are faithful and wait for the fulfillment of the Lord's sovereign plan to unfold. As we have seen, the last half of the tribulation is 1,260 days or 3 ½ years. The time span given here is 1,335 days or 75 days past the return of the Lord to earth. It could be that this time will be needed for the clearing away of debris and the clearing of the air that will be filled with smoke after the Battle of Armageddon.

C. VS. 13, Twelve chapters of inspired Holy scripture were given to Daniel to pen.

1. In the twelve chapters of the book of Daniel, we have visions, revelation, and symbols. We have God's plan for His people Israel. Also seen in this great book are the scenes of the wickedness and depravity of the Gentiles, the deportation and persecution of the Jews, and the rise and fall of the Anti-Christ. We are brought right up to the glorious appearing of Christ and the millennial kingdom. God blessed us through His faithful servant Daniel.
2. Daniel understood some of what he wrote; other things he did not understand and this distressed him. Here in the closing verse of the last chapter, God says to His aging prophet: "Go thy way, for the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end."
3. Daniel is given the promise of the resurrection from the dead and assurance that he will have his place in the millennial reign. He will get his "lot" in the future. You will not get rewards here, dear Christian; yours will come in eternity future.

Conclusion: Many of the things that Daniel could not understand are being fulfilled in our day. We see the coming of a dark hour and the need for faithful and separated living.

Dr. Cecil A. Fayard, Jr.

Aug 7, 2010