

## Daniel 12:8-13-Have knowledge, Have faith

TSK, HebrewLexicon, Gill, Leupold, Young, Trapp, Poole, JFB, Geneva, Henry, Calvin? Delitzsch,  
Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: You shouldn't believe everything you hear. If it is on TV it doesn't make it true. But it must not be the same when it comes to God's Word. You must treat God's Word differently. Some **people want personal proofs and assurances before they believe it, and they resist the idea of trusting the promises in the Lord's Word.** And this underscores (emphasizes) a significant problem in their lives. So today you will see how God addressed his covenant people as they challenged him to provide proof of his work for them in the future. You will hear how God called his people to exercise faith in Christ – **based on who Christ is,** and a **faith based on knowledge** of Christ's work.

Our headings are: **Daniel's Request for Secret Details, Christ's Recap of what he had said already, and Christ's Reminder to Daniel of his home in Heaven.**

Our goals are: **That you will learn to use the strengthening message and the assurance God has given you through Jesus Christ so that you trust him in times when things are uncertain.**

### **Daniel's Request for Secret Details**

8 Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, "My lord, what shall be the end of these things?"

1. While Daniel understood most of what the Lord said to him, **he wanted to know what signs would mark the end** of Antiochus' persecution of the people – what conditions would be like in the end. So he asked the Lord.

2. **The Lord's response was abrupt** 突兀地 **“Go away Daniel.** Go back to your day job. Serve the king and the people. Take care of your health. Eat well. Exercise. And don't forget to do the other work I have sent you to do. Make copies of the prophecies I have given to you by myself or through the angels. Give them to the Jews so that they might memorize them, meditate on them, and then pass them on to their children. But Daniel, my son, don't expect me to tell you what signs would mark the end of the persecution. I have given you everything I am going to give you. I have given you more than enough. You know that the troubles the Jews will face will only be a small part of my grand scheme 宏伟计划 of redemption... which is coming... Let that be enough.” Some things God's will not say!

**Acts 1:7** And He said to them, "It is **not for you to know** times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

1 Peter 1, teaches that you are to search for truth in the Scriptures, but there are some things that man will not know...not even the angels.

3. **But why wouldn't God tell Daniel all the details for which he asked?**

a. **Exercising faith honors God.** How would men show their trust in God other than trusting God? Consider how the Apostle taught in Hebrew 11 & 12...based on knowledge...that believers must keep their trust in God.

**Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the substance 实质 of things hoped for, **the evidence of things not seen.** 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. 13 **These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them,** embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

**Hebrews 12:1** Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by **so great a cloud of witnesses,** let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares 诱捕 us, **and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,** 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was **set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame...**

Notice the phrase “great cloud of witnesses.” Believers have some knowledge, some promises, and always, God's Holy Spirit. So believers can keep their faith in God. So you do not need to know everything. Trapp: We may not be in God's council, but we are in his courts. Be thankful.

b. **Exercising faith will cause you to grow.** All men need exercise to grow.

c. **Exercising faith is the basis on which God will reward you in this life** and certainly in heaven.

9 And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

4. **Daniel was not to hide the words God revealed to him from the Jews.** He was simply to seal up a copy so that the records could be referred to later when the Jews would face their troubles and they would be reminded of God's faithfulness. Look at how this phrase is used in the Bible.

**Isaiah 8:16** Bind up the testimony, **Seal the law among my disciples.**

So there was not some deep secret...After all, why would God give a message and then hide it? Also, remember that

“Revelation” is not a “hiding” of the text. The phrase “closed and sealed” could better be understood as “preserved and authenticated” 认证. And yet, in a way you can say that the Gospel was hidden from the wicked nations who might not have taken kindly to predictions 预言 of their destruction.

### Christ’s Recap of what he had said already

10 "Many shall be purified, **made white**, and refined, but the **wicked shall do wickedly**; and **none of the wicked shall understand**, but the wise shall understand.

1. While Jesus did not give the details for which Daniel was asking, **he instead recapped his encouragement to the Jews to remain faithful during their persecution**. (He had given the Jews enough ground for trusting in him.) Let me paraphrase 意译 Daniel said: “Lord, give me details...what signs will mark the end of our suffering?” The Lord responded: “Don’t worry about all the details. I have given you enough. I will take care of my people. **Tell them to trust me**. Be patient. Be cheerful. Let the persecution purify you. Warn those who would compromise with Antiochus Epiphanes. Shine as lights in a dark world. I will reward you.” John Gill said that God was urging them to be an “ornament 点缀 of religion.” In other words, the Jews should let their lives be so well lived that people would admire them and praise God. Remember, how you suffer says a lot about who you are and whose you are!

2. **The end product of the persecution is that God would make his people white...purified...like the perfectly white cloth just off of the loom.** The Jews would be tried – and purified- as silver and gold are tried and their dross removed. They would then shine even more in the future.

1Peter 1:7 that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

3. **While the godly would be purified, the wicked would continue in their sins.** Who are these “wicked?” The covenant breakers are the primary target here. These are the Jews who compromised and worshipped the idols that Antiochus set up...the god of fortresses. But the “wicked” included Antiochus as well. And they would act according to their nature. They would pursue the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life. They would be this way because they would not care about the Words of God that were sealed up. They would not make God’s law their study all the day. So they would never be made wise. They wouldn’t be saved. They think they know...but they don’t.

Psalm 82:5 They do not know, **nor do they understand**; They walk about in darkness; All the foundations of the earth are unstable.

Ecclesiastes 5:8 If you see the oppression of the poor, and the violent perversion 变态 of justice and righteousness in a province, **do not marvel at the matter**; for high official watches over high official, and higher officials are over them.

11 "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and **the abomination of desolation** is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days. 12 "Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the **one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days**.

4. **God does not totally ignore Daniel’s request for information...he does give some hints** 提示 Such is your patient God. God gave him some general dates because of his weakness. **Earlier in Daniel God said that the Jews would suffer for 1290 days - 3 ½ years – a broken 7**. This meant that the **number of days of suffering would not be fulfilled according to the desires of the Devil**, but would be stopped -broken. But now there are 45 more days-a total of 1335. I agree with scholars who say that these numbers are based on the 430 years of oppression in Egypt. (430years X 3-is 1290) The 3X was for 3X intensity! But from where does the additional 45 years come. The 45 years were the years from bondage in Egypt to official conquest of Canaan.

Exodus 12:40 Now the sojourn 寄居 of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was **four hundred and thirty years**.

Joshua 14:6 9 "So Moses swore on that day, saying, ‘Surely the land where your foot has trodden 践踏 shall be your inheritance and your children’s forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.’ 10 "And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as He said, **these forty-five years**, ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old.

So the point the Lord was making to Daniel was this: Israel suffered for 1335 years before they

had rest (1290 in Egypt + 45 years going to and conquering Canaan). So this was to make the Jews concerned for 1335 days – but with 3X intensity! And yet, it was a short endurable persecution!

**5. So did this come true?** While there were 1290 years before Antiochus fell, yet it took another 45, according to history, after the death of Antiochus, for Syria's terror to stop. **Then joy came.**

**6. There is another fulfillment of this prophecy as well.** The siege 围城 and destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans was approximately 1335 days, from AD66 to AD70 when Jerusalem was destroyed. **Then joy came.** When Jesus was speaking of the destruction of Jerusalem he referenced this exact passage in Daniel...as he knew the Roman's would set up Caesar's image in the temple. Matthew 24:15 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

7. Those who patiently endure the severe oppression during those days would be saved.

### **Christ's Reminder of Daniel of his home in heaven**

13 "But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days."

1. God knew that Daniel might worry about Judah's future and the terrible Greeks. That was not good for his old saint – who was probably about 100 years old now. So God pointed Daniel to his own glorious and rewarding resurrection... a resurrection in which he would be at perfect rest in Jesus Christ. Daniel hand finished the race and had kept the faith.

Job 3:17 There the wicked cease from troubling, And there the weary are at rest.

This would have made perfect sense to any old saint of God.

2. By pointing Daniel to heaven, God was clearing the way for others to take on the role of passing on his truth. The Word of God must continue. Faith must continue. Worship must continue. And because worship is not everywhere, evangelism must continue. You evangelize with the revealed truth. You evangelize by your life and testimony till you die. And each succeeding generation must continue to pass on God's truth so believers can trust God and stop doubting his promises.

### **Conclusion:**

Daniel wanted more details about the future troubles, not just for himself but also for the people. But God had given him enough. God wanted him to secure the revelation he had given to him and urge the people to keep their trust in him throughout their troubles. And in order to encourage Daniel and the Jews to endure, God spoke of their heavenly inheritance.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Learn that there are some things that you won't know and **you must be contented with what is revealed** in God's Word.

2. Learn to read, believe, and apply the truth of God's Word. Without reading and meditating on God's Word **your faith will become weak** – not "might" but "will." God's Holy Spirit will work through the Word to strengthen your faith...and believe the words that you read.

3. The **most important thing you learn in God's Word is God's plan for man's salvation**-salvation through Jesus Christ alone-something you have in your grasp. Praise the Lord for that.

Finally, do you know this Jesus who can secure your soul in heaven forever? I am not asking if you have a head knowledge of Jesus. Most people do. I am asking if you know him personally...in an intimate way? If you don't know him, read his Word and ask him to reveal himself and his work to you!