

rivals—and drove them from Gaul and Spain.

The Catholic world was elated. The emperor Anastasius (Eastern Rome) conferred the title of Consul on Clovis. Clovis presented Pope Hormisdas with a crown - the first crown ever to be owned by a pope. In time the rest of Europe followed suit in acknowledging the pope as a king. He eventually became supreme monarch. Thus the paving of the way was begun for the period of papal supremacy.

(From C. Pfister, *The Cambridge Medieval History*, N.Y. 1913, III, page 160)

Should this be the development indicated by the prophecy, the 1290 years would have commenced in 508 and ended in 1798. This is precisely the closing date of the 1260 years when the French abolished the Papacy's political reign. It is noteworthy that it was the French who helped set up the papal rule and the French who took it away.

THE 1335 YEARS

As noted, the 1335 year period is 45 years longer than the 1290. No significant event relating to Daniel's prophecies can be found 45 years prior to 538 or 508, but 45 years after 1798 would bring us to 1843 - the "eve" of the close of the 2300 years when the cleansing of the sanctuary and its judgment would begin; when, through Christ, judgment would be given "in favour of the saints". (Daniel 7:22)

"Blessed is he," said the angel, "who waits and comes to the 1335 days." The next great event for God's people would be the allotting of their inheritance when "the kingdom shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High". (Daniel 7:27)

The angel said to Daniel, "Go your way till the end. For you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days." (Daniel 12:13)

DANIEL

16. TOWARDS A BRIGHT NEW WORLD



“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth .”

DISCOVERIES IN DANIEL'S LAST CHAPTER

- Great world changes soon to take place.
- Why you should not be surprised by the scientific wonders of our day.
- The new beginning beyond the end of time.
- When Daniel lives again.

THE GOLDEN MILE-POST

At the heart of ancient Rome there once stood a golden milepost – the spot where all roads from distant lands of the empire met and ended. This final chapter of Daniel is his golden milepost. Here, all his prophecies meet in the triumph of God's people at the end of time.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. THE CRISIS AT THE CLOSE

QUESTION 1 (Daniel 11:44, 45; 12:1, page 871)

At the height of the world's final crisis, what supreme ruler will intervene?

"At that time shall _____ stand up, the great Prince who stands watch over ... your people." (verse 1)

Here the identity of Michael is unmistakable. He is "the Great Prince" who has care of God's people – "Messiah the Prince". The strong deliverer.

What does it mean for Michael to stand up?

To "stand up" means to rise and rule. See Daniel 11:2,3,4,7,14,20,21 (page 869), where one king after another arises. Last of all Michael arises, and none ever stand up after Him. He is the rightful king. The

Exhibit 3

THE 1290 AND 1335 DAYS OF DANIEL 12

The 1290 and 1335 days (years) appear to be closely associated with the 1260 years (time, times, and half a time). All three periods are clustered within the last seven verses of the book of Daniel. They evidently relate to the same general era - the period of Papal Rome's supremacy and its close. (See Unit 8, pages 6 and 7.) Though open to further study, and by no means the last word on this prophetic trio, we offer the following facts and suggestions.

First, notice that the three periods vary in length from each other by only small amounts:

1260	}	a difference of 30 years	}	1290	}	a difference of 45 years
1290				1335		

THE 1260 YEARS

As shown in Unit 8, the 1260 commenced in 538, when Justinian's decree went into effect, giving the Pope at Rome supreme authority over all churches. It ended in 1798 with the abolition of the papacy's political power.

THE 1290 YEARS

Daniel 12:11 states that the 1290 would start with the taking away of the "daily" and the "setting up" of the "abomination of desolation" - evidently meaning the paving of the way for 1260 years of papal supremacy. If so, it would appear practically certain that the 1290 would start with some particular event **prior to** the 1260 years of supremacy - that is, prior to 538.

Did such an event take place at such a time? It did! In 508, precisely 30 years prior to 538, Clovis, the Catholic king of the Franks, in a "war of religion", defeated the Visigoths - the first of the Papacy's three Arian

Exhibit 2

THE UNSEALING OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Daniel was instructed by the angel three times to seal up his book or vision. Once in Chapter 12:4, "until the time of the end"; once in Chapter 12:9-"till the time of the end", and once, previously, in Chapter 8:26-"for many days in the future", no doubt meaning "until the time of the end".

In each instance, the sealing was to do with time prophecy: on the two occasions in Chapter 12, the 1260 years, and on the one occasion, in Chapter 8, the 2300 years.

It seems very clear from this that the fulfilment of these time periods provided the keys to the **unsealing** of the book.

How would the end of the 1260 years and the end of the 2300 years unseal the book?

By the occurrence in history - open for all to see - of the events predicted to take place during, and at the end of these periods.

The fall of the papacy in 1798 inspired a great upsurge in the study of Daniel's prophecies by people of practically all churches. Not only among Bible scholars and pastors, but among people of many professions and walks of life. (L.E. Froom, The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers, Vol. III)

Many ran "to and fro" in the pages of history and prophecy. Greatly increased knowledge led to a much fuller understanding of both the 1260 and 2300 years, and of the book of Daniel as a whole. Today Daniel is an open book with knowledge concerning it still on the increase.

This fuller understanding is an example of the principle expressed by Jesus: "I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe." (John 14:29)

world is His, and His kingdom is eternal. (Read again Daniel 7:14,27, page 865; and Daniel 2:44, page 857) As Gabriel said: "Of His kingdom there will be no end". (Luke 1:33, page 990)

Before He comes, Christ will have completed His final work as our advocate in the judgment (Daniel 7:10, 13). Through Him, judgment will have been made "in favour of the saints of the Most High". (Daniel 7:22) It is then that He "stands up" and the judgments of the heavenly court are put into effect.



QUESTION 2 (Daniel 12:1, page 871)

In a brief space of time when Michael stands up, what will occur on earth?

When Michael stands up, the work of intercession ceases and Jesus prepares to come and save His people

"And there shall be a time of _____ such as never was." (verse 1)

QUESTION 3 (Daniel 12:1)

What will then happen to God's people?

"At that time your people shall be _____" (verse 1)

What is it that determines who are His people?

"Everyone who is found _____ in the _____." (verse 1) (Link this verse with Daniel 7:10.)

"Is my name in God's book?" Could you ask yourself a more important question? Notice the reassuring promise of Jesus (Revelation 3:5,12, page 1176).

QUESTION 4 (Daniel 12:2, page 871)

What miraculous event will take place at the deliverance of God's people?

"And many of those who _____ in the dust of the earth shall _____, some to everlasting _____, some to shame and everlasting contempt." (verse 2)

QUESTION 5 (Daniel 12:3)

How is this thrilling reward of God's people described by the angel?

"Those who are wise shall shine like the _____ of the firmament (heavens), and those who turn many to righteousness like the _____ forever and ever." (verse 3)



All who have died trusting in Christ will be raised when He returns

READ EXHIBIT 1: Pages 13
FACTS ABOUT THE
RESURRECTION

B. THE SEALED BOOK AND THE AGE OF WONDERS

QUESTION 6 (Daniel 12:4)

After giving these inspiring revelations, what did the angel tell Daniel to do regarding his book of prophecies? Tick the right statement.

- send it out to the whole world
- shut it up and seal it until the time of the end

From Gabriel's instruction to "seal the book *until* the time of the end", would you conclude that the book would be opened and understood *at* the time of the end

The closing of the book does not mean that it would be impossible to un-

Exhibit 1

THE RESURRECTION

Gabriel said to Daniel: "And many of those that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life; some to shame, and everlasting contempt." (Daniel 12:2)

The Christian hope of resurrection is based upon the resurrection of Christ, and His promises that the dead will live again.

- Revelation 1:18 Christ has "the keys" of the grave
- John 11:25 He is the resurrection and the life
- John 5:25-29 He has the power to raise the dead
- John 14:19 His resurrection is the surety and pledge of the believers' resurrection
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17 the resurrection of the righteous takes place at Christ's second coming
- 1 Corinthians 15:51-54 He gives them immortality - they will never age or die
- Philippians 3:20,21 their bodies will be like Christ's glorious body
- Luke 24:30-43 Christ's resurrected body was real
- 1 Corinthians 15:42-49 the same person comes forth, but is changed to perfection; note the contrast between our present condition and when we are changed
- 1 Corinthians 15:51,52 the change is immediate
- 1 Corinthians 15:12-23 our resurrection is the fulfilment of the promise of immortality
- Philippians 3:8-11 the Apostle Paul saw the resurrection as his final reward in Christ

Some believers will not experience either death or resurrection. They are those faithful ones who will be living when Christ comes. But they, too, will be changed to immortality, and will be gathered together with the resurrected ones (1 Thessalonians 4:14-18). To have Christ means to have life - eternal life. (1 John 5:12)

CONCLUSION

The momentous themes of Daniel's prophecies do not end with the close of his book. They are re-echoed by later prophets, by Jesus Himself (Matthew 24) and by the New Testament apostles; especially by John, the writer of Revelation. In his inspired visions, which take up where Daniel left off, John saw symbols such as Daniel had seen, and foretold events of the time of the end, the glories of Christ's return, and the bright new world that is coming.

Whatever your lot – take courage! Have faith in Christ and His salvation. Obey His commandments. He holds your future in His hands. This is *HIS* world, and through Him, it is your inheritance.

IS YOUR HEART SET ON THAT BRIGHT NEW WORLD? _____

“In the annals of human history, the growth of nations and the rise and fall of empires appear as dependent on the will and prowess of man. The shaping of events seems to be determined by his power, ambition, or caprice. But in the Word of God the curtain is drawn aside, and we behold, behind, above, and through all the play and counter-play of human interest, power and passions, the agencies of the all-merciful One, silently, patiently working out the counsels of His own will.”

E G White, *Education*, page 173, Pacific Press Association

derstand any of Daniel's prophecies before the time of the end. Much of it has been well understood throughout the centuries as it has been progressively fulfilled. For instance, see Matthew 24:15 (page 960). Evidently, it simply means that Daniel was to finish writing and to stop asking questions, because his long – range predictions and time prophecies could not become fully clear until the end time.

QUESTION 7 (Daniel 12:4, page 871)

What developments were to occur at the time of the end?

"Many shall _____ to and fro and _____ shall increase." (verse 4)

Great Scientific discoveries began about the time Daniel's 1260 and 2300 day prophecies came to fulfilment (1798 and 1844). Since then knowledge has absolutely exploded - especially in the last few decades.

Sir Isaac Newton, the famous 18th century scientist, was an outstanding student of Daniel's prophecies. In commenting on Daniel 12:4 he claimed that rapid travel would be a mark of the future. He would not be surprised, Sir Isaac Newton said, if one day people could reach the incredible speed of 50 mph! The French philosopher, Voltaire, responded with the comment, "The study of prophecy has led the prince of philosophers to make a fool of himself!"



Sir Isaac Newton

What would Sir Isaac say today about his "50 mph", if he were to rise from the grave and take a ride in a 10,000 kph shuttle? And suppose Voltaire went along for the ride! Would he apologise to Sir Isaac, do you think?

However, this amazing increase of scientific knowledge and high volume transport to and fro across the globe appear to play only a secondary role in the fulfilment of this prophecy.

It is practically certain that the knowledge which was to be increased was knowledge concerning the book of Daniel, and the running to and fro meant searching out those mysteries in his book which neither Daniel nor anyone else could understand at that time. In other parts of the Bible, "running to and fro" means seeking. See Jeremiah 5:1 (page 731), Amos 8:12 (page 894), and Zechariah 4:10 (page 920). As we have seen, certain aspects of long-term prophecy can only be understood as they take place, or are about to take place.

C. A SOLEMN DECLARATION ABOUT TIME

After the prediction concerning this increase of knowledge, two other heavenly visitors appeared to Daniel (verse 5) and joined with Gabriel. Also present was "the man clothed in linen" – the glorious being Daniel had seen by the river Hiddekel – (Chapter 10).

QUESTION 8 (Daniel 12:5, 6, page 871)

What question did one of them ask the man clothed in linen?

"How ____ shall the _____ of these wonders be?" (verse 6)

QUESTION 9 (Daniel 12:7)

In reply, what did the man clothed in linen declare?

"It shall be for a ____, times and ____ a time." (verse 7)

This time-prophecy had already been given (Daniel 7:25). It was the 1260-year period of the little horn's supremacy, which ended in 1798. Now the great heavenly visitor is saying again that the close of this period would signal the last segment of time.



A man in white linen explains the 1260 years to Daniel

REVIEW QUIZ (multiple choice)

Indicate your answers. More than one in each set may be correct.

- 1) The main purpose of the prophecies of Daniel is:
 - a) to prove that God is able to foretell the future
 - b) to expose errors in the Christian world
 - c) to assure God's people that He is the one in control of the world and its eternal destiny

- 2) The book of Daniel shows that:
 - a) God is particular about our religious beliefs and actions
 - b) He has appointed a day of judgment
 - c) Christ will deliver to everlasting life those found to be right with Him in the judgment

- 3) The main character in the book of Daniel is:
 - a) King Nebuchadnezzar
 - b) the prophet Daniel
 - c) Christ

- 4) The supreme purpose of the coming of Christ is:
 - a) to take over the United Nations
 - b) restore His eternal kingdom
 - c) improve world conditions

- 5) According to Daniel, the task of God's people is to:
 - a) bring about a new world order
 - b) take over Christ's work of salvation
 - c) be faithful, loyal, and obedient to God, His word and mission, through times of trouble or of peace

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THINK THROUGH

- 1) What connections do you see between the prophecies of Daniel, the Gospel of Salvation, and the commandments of God?
- 2) Would you like to think about, and write down some of the benefits you have gained from participating in the Daniel Seminar?

QUESTION 10 (Daniel 12:7)

How did the man clothed in linen highlight the extreme importance of His declaration about the time of the end?

"He held up his _____ hand and his _____ hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time."

This was the most solemn form of oath possible – a pledge on the authority of heaven that the end of the 1260 years would bring in the winding up of affairs. Thus he assured Daniel that human strife, error, and suffering would not be allowed to continue forever. God has His times!



The man in white linen takes an oath concerning the certainty of the 1260 days

QUESTION 11

Would you like to state in a few words what it means to you to know that we are living in the time of the end?

QUESTION 12 (Daniel 12:8-10, page 871)

Still worried because he did not understand all he wanted to know, what did Daniel again ask?

"My Lord, what shall be the _____ (outcome) of these things?" (verse 8)

Would anyone ever understand these final prophecies? What was the response of the divine visitor?

"And he said, 'Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.'" "The _____ shall understand." (Daniel 12:9,10)

READ EXHIBIT 2: Pages 14
THE 1260 YEARS AND THE UNSEALING
OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL

D. PROMISES TO THOSE WHO STAND FIRM

QUESTION 13 (Daniel 12:10)

Beside the promise of understanding, what other promise was made by the heavenly being regarding God's people in the time of the end?

"Many shall be _____ and made white." (verse 10)

What does it mean here to be "purified and made white"?

E. TWO ADDITIONAL PERIODS

QUESTION 14 (Daniel 12:11, 12, page 871)

What other time periods did Daniel's instructor link with the 1260 years?

"There shall be one _____ two _____ and _____ days." (verse 11)

"Blessed is he who waits and comes to the one _____ three _____ and _____ days." (verse 12)



Napoleon ended the rule of the Papacy in 1798

SEE EXHIBIT 3: Pages 14, 15
FOR COMMENTS ON THE 1290 AND
THE 1335 DAYS

F. CHRIST'S PARTING ASSURANCE TO DANIEL

When the heavenly being said, "Blessed is he that waits for... the 1335 days", he seemed to mean it first of all for Daniel himself; that he might have rest in the hands of the great God who had revealed all these things to him. The end of the 1335 days (years) would doubtless bring him to the eve of the judgment when the books of heaven would be opened and his name would be "found" written there, with the names of the faithful of all ages.



Daniel's ministry comes to a close after many years of faithful service

QUESTION 15 (Daniel 12:13)

What was the divine instructor's parting promise to Daniel?

"But you, go your way till the _____, for you shall rest and will _____ to your inheritance at the end of the days." (verse 13, page 872)

This "goodbye" to the 90-year-old prophet was one of tender assurance. After more than 70 years of faithful service, Daniel was to "rest" from his labours, but he would never be forgotten. In the final review, the Son of God will present his name before the Father and the angel messengers who had so often talked with him (Revelation 3:5, page 1176). He will be accounted worthy through Christ of a place in the kingdom which he had so many times foretold. When the Son of God comes to gather His people from among the dead and the living, Daniel will be raised to his eternal reward. His will be a glorious resurrection. He will "rise to his inheritance at the end of days".

Are you planning to meet with Christ and His faithful Daniel on that glorious resurrection morning? If so, would you like to write YES?