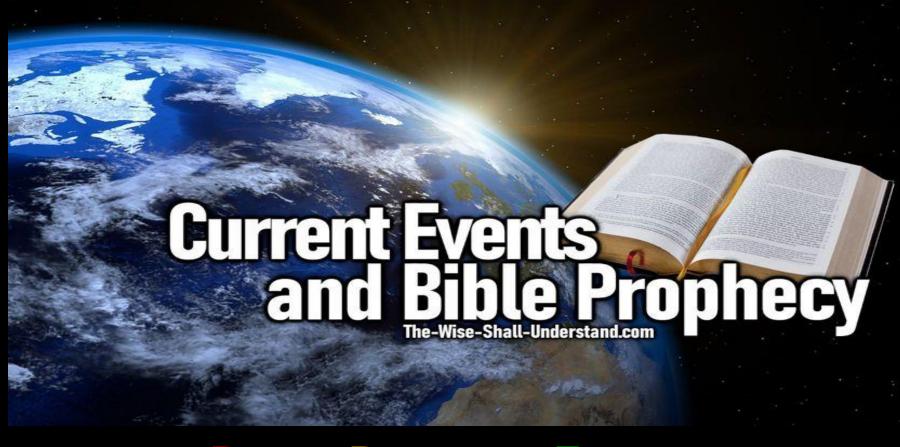
Daniel Chapter 12 – Part 13 The Wise Shall Understand





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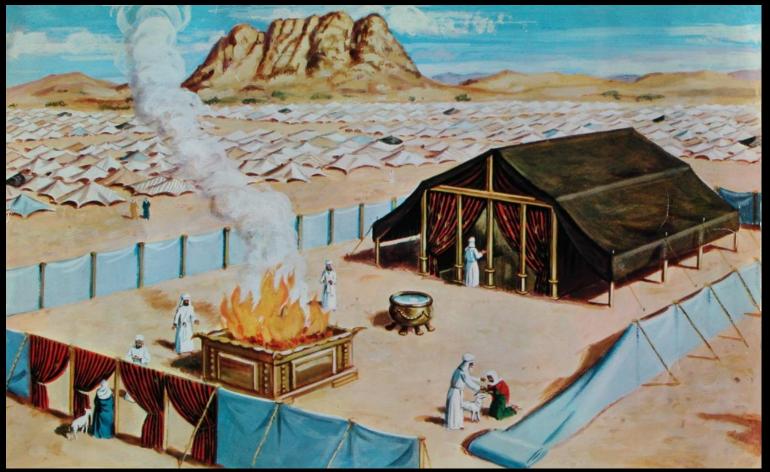
"WORSHIP"

Who will you Choose?



Get into the Ark Sanctuary





And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

Exodus 25:8

Psalms 77:13



Health Snippet - Ginger

Health Benefits of Ginger (Seek Medical Advise)

Dysmenorrhea refers to pain felt during the menstrual cycle.

One of the traditional uses of ginger is for pain relief, including menstrual pain.

7. Ginger significantly reduce menstrual pain:

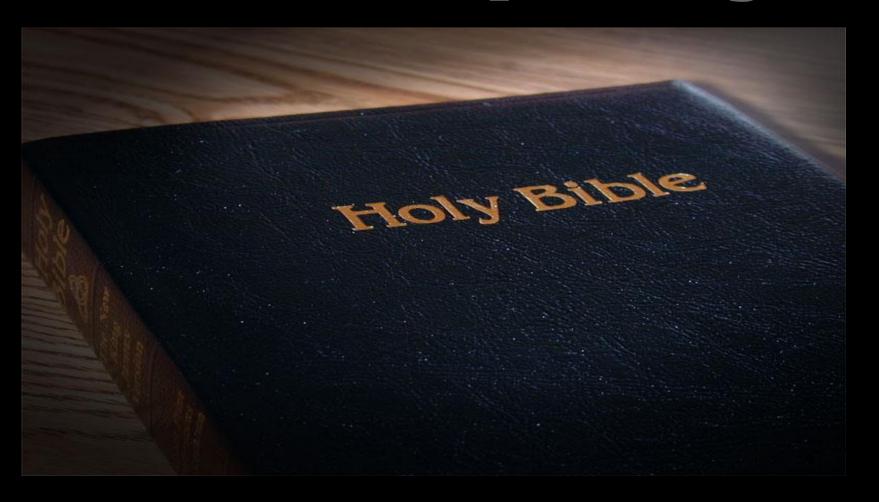
In a 2009 study, 150 women were instructed to take either ginger or a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) for the first 3 days of their menstrual period.

The three groups received four daily doses of either ginger powder (250 mg), mefenamic acid (250 mg), or ibuprofen (400 mg). Ginger reduced pain as effectively as the two NSAIDs. More recent studies have also concluded that ginger is more effective than a placebo and equally as effective as drugs such as mefenamic acid and acetaminophen/ibuprofen (Novafen). While these findings are promising, higher quality studies with larger numbers of study participants are still needed.

A quarter-teaspoon of ground ginger, three times a day, not only dropped the severity of pain from about seven down to five, but decreased the duration, from a total of 19 hours in pain, down to about 15 hours—indicating that three-quarters of a teaspoon of ginger powder a day, for three days, is "a safe and effective way.



Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?





Yes we Can!

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

Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.





Daniel Chapter 12 – Part 13 The Wise Shall Understand





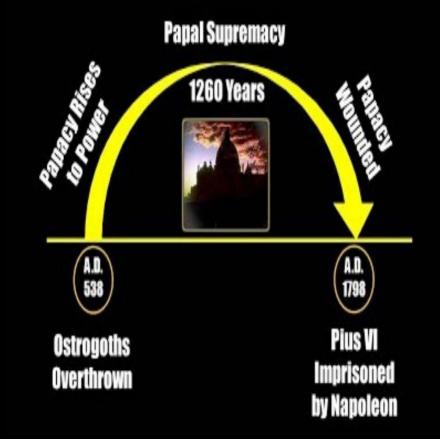
Introduction

Interestingly, this final scene takes place at the "river", or the Tigris, the place of Daniel's last major vision (Daniel 10:4). However, the word used here is not the common Hebrew word for "river", but the term ye'or, which usually designates "the Nile River".

This reminds us of the Exodus and shows that just as the Lord redeems Israel from Egypt, He will redeem His end-time people.

Three prophetic timetables are given. The first one—
"a time, times, and half a time"— answers the
question— "How long shall the fulfilment of these
wonders be?" (Daniel 12:6). The "wonders" refers to
the things depicted in the vision of Daniel 11, which
are an elaboration of Daniel 7 and 8. More specifically,
this time period was mentioned in Daniel 7:25 and
later in Revelation 11:3, Revelation 12:6, Daniel 12:14,
and Revelation 13:5. It also corresponds to the 1,260
years of papal supremacy, which extended from A.D.
538 to 1798 B.C. And Daniel 11:32-35 refers to the
same persecution without mentioning its duration.

The 1260 Years of Papal Supremacy



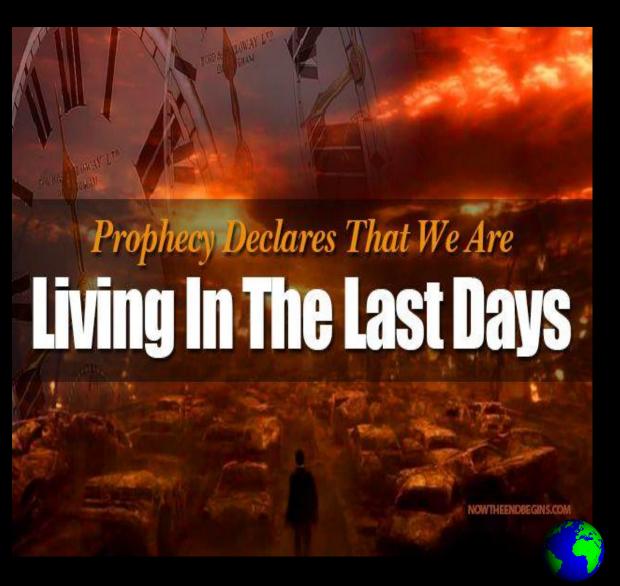


Daniel 12:8 - And I heard, but I understood not:

Daniel 12:8 And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?

<u>Understood not</u> - Daniel did not understand all that was told to him. Still unclear as to the specifics, Daniel desired a more definite knowledge concerning the unsealing of his book. In frustration he cried...

What shall be the end of these things - This leads Daniel to inquire for further understanding of the matter. This has been done by other prophets throughout history, for if they did not understand the message given to them, they would search the prophecy themselves for an understanding. (1 Peter 1:10-12) Let us examine it...



What shall be the end of these things?

"The end of the world" is often expressed in humour as well as in fear, yet its reality is readily speculated but little understood.

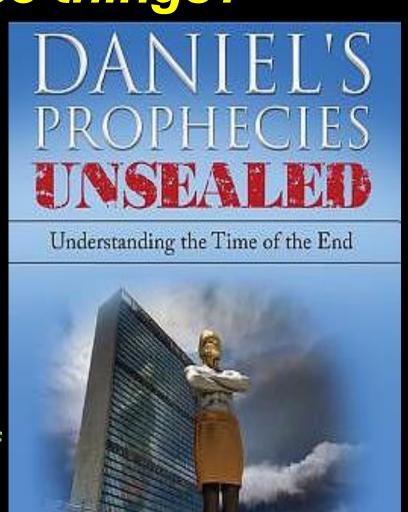
World conditions point to uncertainty. Scientists foresee problems occurring for many reasons because of human living patterns. Society rebels at the lack of control we have over the deterioration of our planet. Yet so many fool themselves or blindly accept the inevitable as part of modern living.

Will the world end by a holocaust of nuclear reaction, or planets careering out of control, a failure of the ozone layer, scorching and wasting of the land, or freezing the land into another "ice age"? Will we eventually destroy ourselves by over population and abuse of our natural environment?

Or, are we on the verge of great reforms and discoveries to heal social disharmony and bring prosperity, restoration and protection of our natural environment, or restoration of the rights and principles of life, to herald in the thousand years of peace?

If left to themselves, which way will humanity go? How will the scales balance? What will trigger the switch?

The answer is clear if we wholly trust in God's Word. It explains when, how and why the end of the world will come.



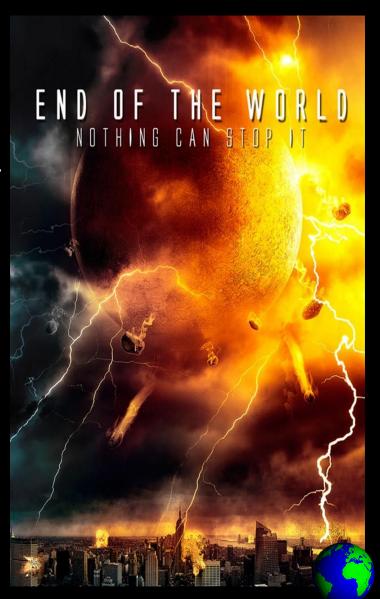
Prophecies About the End of the World

The prophet Ezekiel saw the world's end coming, not with peace, but much trouble! "Also, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord God unto the land of Israel; An end, the end is come upon the four corners of the land. . . . Thus saith the Lord God; An evil, an only evil, behold, is come. An end is come, the end is come: it watcheth for thee; behold, it is come. The morning is come unto thee, O thou that dwellest in the land: the time is come, the day of trouble is near, and not the sounding again of the mountains." Ezekiel 7:2, 5-7.

Bible prophecies of the end of the world are always connected with the second coming of Christ. The disciples understood that the end of the world was coming and that it was connected with the Saviour's return: "... Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Matthew 24:3.

When Jesus explained the parable of the wheat and tares (i.e., the children of God and the children of the evil one), He said that: "... the harvest is the end of the world ..." Matthew 13:39.

Considerable instruction and many prophecies have been given that we may know what is to take place. Signs may be seen today. Therefore nobody should he ignorant.



Signs of the "Time of the End" 1. Signs in the Political World

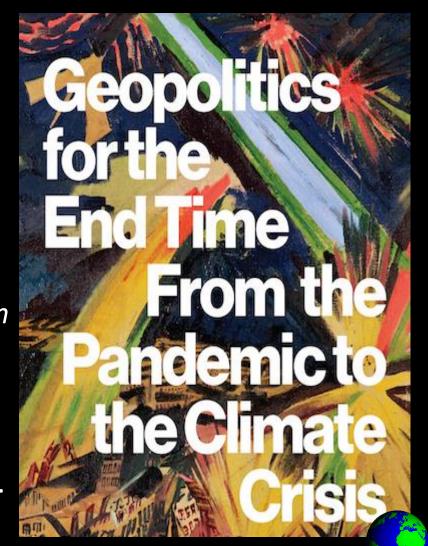
Many nations in the world are expending efforts to place themselves in a prominent position. Violence and wars, armament and military might are a sad fact of life.

"But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by. Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom." Luke 21:9, 10.

Prophecy foretells that the most insignificant countries would take part in demonstrating their power to maintain their so-called, major position: "Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong." Joel 3:9, 10.

While prominent representatives discuss the existing problems among the nations to establish treaties, their own countries stockpile their arsenals and drill their armies for war.

"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them." 1 Thessalonians 5:3.



2. Signs in the Social World

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." - 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

People during the last days will think mainly of eating and drinking, parties, sports, the cares of this life, and forget God and salvation: "And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." Luke 17:26-30.





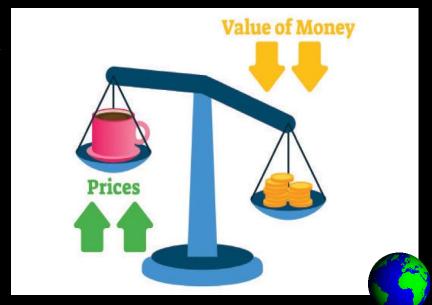
2. Signs in the Social World (cont'd)

Enmity among individuals will increase, with a total lack of natural affection, even among family members: "Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death." Mark 13:12.

Strikes, unemployment and extortion will exist. On one hand, there will be large fortunes and on the other hand, great poverty: "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and, howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped aré enteréd into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just and he doth not resist you." James 5:1-6.

Love toward God and fellow beings is almost extinguished.



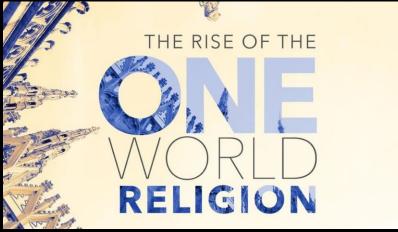


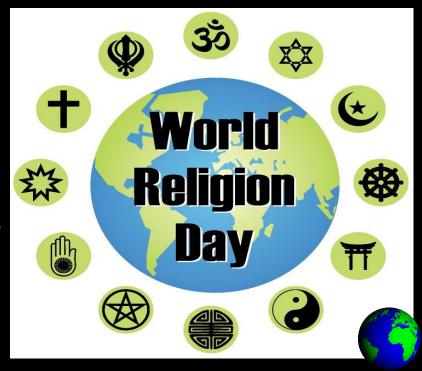
3. Signs in the Religious World

"And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them." Luke 21:8.

The truth of God's word would be appreciated by only a faithful few. Most of the inhabitants of the earth would take heed of fantasies and imaginations rather than true godliness: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." 2 Timothy 4:3, 4.

Before the end of the world the compromise of pure truth will prepare the religious world for accepting false worship: "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4.





3. Signs in the Religious World (cont'd)

Scoffers would come and laugh at the Bible teaching about the end of the world: "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." 2 Peter 3:3, 4.

Although most people are not interested in religion, there are a few who still keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus. Despite opposition they preach the Gospel to the world: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14.

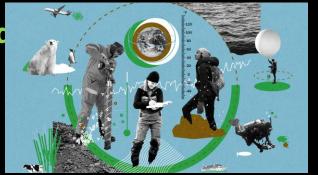


4. Signs in the Scientific World

Scientific knowledge was suppressed for centuries. The Dark Ages of 538 to 1798 have left their sad record. Since 1798 great inventions and knowledge have increased rapidly: Daniel the prophet was told by an angel that this would happen: "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Daniel 12:4.

The following select list of inventions illustrates the reality:

gaslight, 1798; vaccine, 1798; steam printing press, 1803; steamer (ship), 1807; loom, 1808; railway engine, 1814; phosphorus, 1820; photograph, 1822; harvester, 1834; electrotype, 1837; telegraph, 1837; bicycle, 1840; sewing machine, 1846; submarine, 1854; typewriter, 1867; DDT, 1874; telephone, 1876; electric light, 1878; motorcycle, 1885; linotype 1886; tram, 1889; automobile, 1895; aspirin, 1893; x-ray, 1895; cinematograph, 1895; wiréless telegraph, 1896; aeroplane, 1906; wireless telephone, 1915; radio, 1921; radar, 1922; television, 1928; penicillin, 1928; nylon, 1930; hélicoptér, 1936; atomic bomb, 1939; computer, 1940; jet propulsion, 1941; atomic energy, 1942; transistor, 1944; supersonic aeroplane, 1944; solar battery, 1954; spacecraft, 1957; laser, 1958; video tape recorder, 1958; 1st man in space, 1961; electronic watch space station, 1962; electronic calculator, 1963; man on the moon, 1969; floppy disk recorder, 1970; x-ray scanner, RAM chip, micro computer, 1972; pocket TV, 1977; personal computer, 1981, etc...







5. Signs in Nature

"For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine." Isaiah 13:10.

This prophecy was repeated by Jesus: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken." Matthew 24:29.

These signs of the sun, moon, and stars have been exactly fulfilled. On May 19, 1780, about 10 a.m. the sun started getting dark and at noon it was as dark as night. People and animals retreated for home with great foreboding. Objects could not be distinguished except by candle light and then but dimly. Scientists could not explain the phenomenon, but those who read the Bible were able to understand that this was the fulfilment of the Word of God.

That same night the moon became as red as blood, exactly as written in the words of the prophets.







5. Signs in Nature (cont'd)

Fifty-three years after the dark day, the next sign was fulfilled in the falling of the stars. Although we understand it as falling meteors, the continuous stream of falling stars persisted from 9 p.m. on November 13 1833, and daylight obscured the spectacle. The people at that time thought the end had come. The phenomenon could be seen from the Gulf of Mexico to Halifax (Canada). The Lord said these were signs which would herald the "time of the end."

Besides these things there would occur frightful calamities that would make the hearts of men fail for fear.

"And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven." Luke 21:11.

The greatest earthquake that has ever happened was the Lisbon earthquake, which occurred in 1755. Since then earthquakes have occurred with increasing frequency.

As we come closer to the end, we see droughts of fearful magnitude, floodings with frightening consequences, cyclones bringing devastation. All these are signs telling us how close we are to the end. These are God's judgments which at present are still mixed with mercy.





How Will This World End?

Only the sure word of prophecy can tell us how our world will come to its end. It will not come according to the suppositions of scientists but according to the word of God. "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. . . . But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." 2 Peter 3:7, 10.

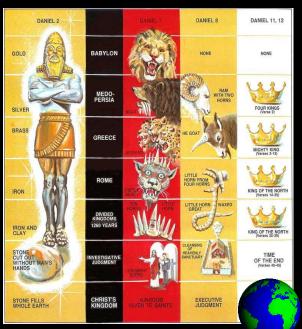
It is not possible in our world for justice and righteousness to abide together. Therefore the Lord will bring this world to an end in justice. Then He will make a new world in righteousness where the redeemed can dwell: "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Peter 3:13.

It is the purpose of God to warn people and to give them opportunity for repentance, that they may be prepared for the end of the world.

This very planet, after being purified and freed from sin and all evil, will be the earth made new.

Whether we are prepared, or unprepared, the end of the world will come. Will you be ready?





Daniel 12:9 - Sealed till the time of the end

Daniel 12:9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

Michael/Christ completely declined to answer Daniel's question. Daniel wasn't living in the time of the end/1798; so he didn't need to understand all the details of end of time developments. Michael's/Christ's answer teaches us that prophecy is provided for practical purposes. It is not given to arouse speculation or to satisfy needless curiosity, no matter how spiritual and Christ-centered our curiosity may be. We can see the emphasis that the book is sealed until 1798.



Understanding Daniel 12:9...

In this epilogue (Daniel 12:5-13) a new scene is introduced. Two other beings appear and converse with the man clothed in linen whom Daniel had seen at the beginning of the vision (Daniel 10:4-5). He hears what they say but does not understand it and so he asks, in verse 8, "My Lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?"

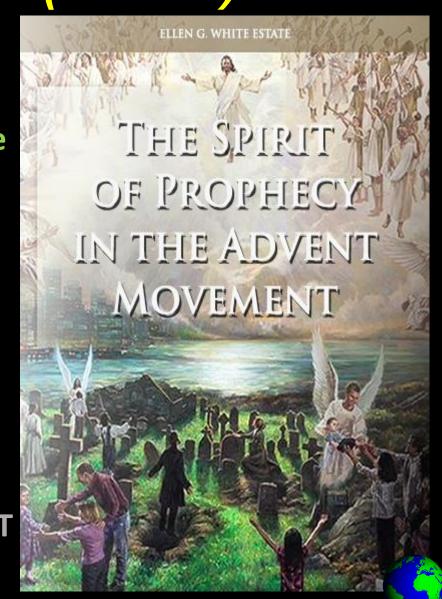
The response refers to "the time of the end" (vs. 9b), which is the time when these things will be understood (vs. 10). It is the same time referred to in vs. 4 when knowledge about the Danielic visions would increase. The unsealing of the vision and the increase of knowledge will come when the power of the wilful king is broken (Daniel 11:45). And this will happen just prior to the resurrection of the dead (Daniel 12:1-2).



Understanding Daniel 12:9... (cont'd)

Some of the knowledge known among us is History. Especially for us Christians of the Laodicean Church of this time of the end, the knowledge of the history of the Bible along with the origin of humans and their religion has almost not at all been owned. Most people even think that the Bible is perfectly complete, able to interpret itself, so that no more other biblical parts or books of the Bible should have been added to it, although maybe newer and wider in content than the existing Bible, which was the last completed by John the Revelator with his very mysterious book of Revelation in the year 96 AD.

Even though only a few people want to understand, that the Bible cannot be fully understood, it needs to be supplemented with the next inspiration books, which during the Old Testament history are called "Testimonies" (Isaiah 8: 20), and in the history of the New Testament called "Testimony of Jesus or the SPIRIT OF PROPHECY (Revelation 19: 10), which has come to fulfill the prophecy in the writings of Amos 3:7.



Sealed till the Time of the End

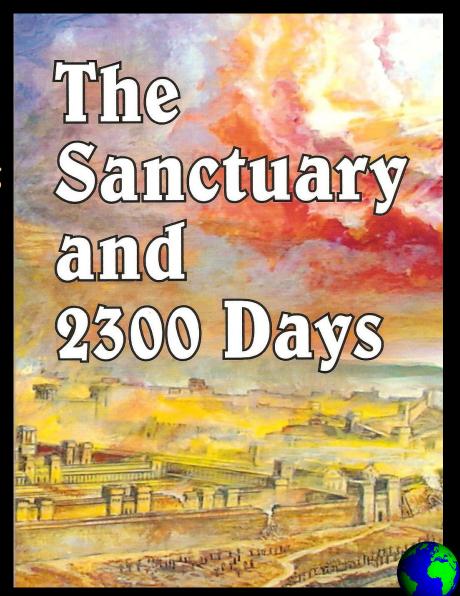
When the seal is removed from the book at the time of the end, people will run to and fro seeking an increased knowledge of the contents of the book. This is the way that Ellen White invariably understood the expression, 'knowledge shall be increased'.

Amos 8:11, 12: The identical Hebrew idiom of 'moving to and fro' in Daniel 12:4 is used in Amos 8:11, 12:

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.

This book which was sealed until the time of the end (Daniel 12:4, 9) is not the ENTIRE book of Daniel but rather the PORTION OR PART whose central theme is the 2300 days and the beginning date for the judgment hour.

We know this for at least five reasons:



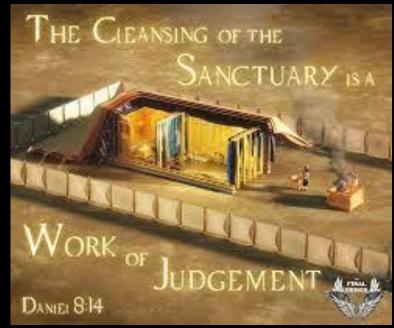
Reason #1:

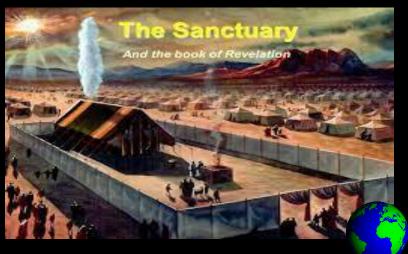
The book of Daniel was written in two different languages. Daniel 1, which is the introduction to the entire book, was written in Hebrew. Chapters 2-7 were written in Aramaic and chapters 8-12 were written in Hebrew. The difference in language between Daniel 2-7 and Daniel 8-12 strongly hints that the book is composed of two units.

Reason #2:

There is clear evidence that most of Daniel 1-7 (with the exception of the judgment scene in Daniel 7), was understood long before the "time of the end". Notice the words of the church leader Hippolytus who wrote in the third century A. D.

The evidence from these quotations indicates that Hippolytus understood everything about Daniel 7 except a vitally important detail, the investigative pre-Advent judgment before the second coming. For Hippolytus, the judgment would take place when Jesus comes from heaven to earth to judge the world and establish His everlasting kingdom on earth! But as we have already noted, the investigative judgment and the verdict take place in heaven before Jesus returns to the earth.





It should be noted that even some portions of Daniel 8-12 that were fulfilled before the time of the end could be understood before that time. The historical sections of chapters 1-7 could certainly be understood. The meaning of the Ram and the he-goat of chapter 8 were understood long before the time of the end as was the prophecy of the seventy weeks.

Much of the earlier portions of Daniel 11 could be understood before the time of the end as can be seen by the fact that the pagan philosopher, Porphyry, argued to the church father Tertullian that the first half of Daniel 11 described so precisely Greek and early Roman history that it had to have been written in the second century rather than in the sixth.

But there is one specific element of Daniel 8-12 that could not be understood by anyone until the time of the end. The message concerning the 2300 days and the judgment were sealed until the time of the end because only then could it be true that the judgment had begun.



Reason #3:

Ellen White explicitly states more than once in her writings that the book which was sealed until the time of the end was not the totality of the book of Daniel but rather the PORTION or PART of the book that has to do with the date for the beginning of the judgment as depicted in the 2300-day prophecy:

"In the Revelation all the books of the Bible meet and end. Here is the complement of the book of Daniel. One is a prophecy; the other a revelation. The book that was sealed is not the Revelation, but that portion of the prophecy of Daniel relating to the last days. The angel commanded, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end." Daniel 12:4."- Acts of the Apostles, p. 585

"The unsealing of the little book was the message in relation to time [the 2300 days]." - Manuscript Releases, volume 1, p. 99



DANIEL UNLOCKS REVELATION



Reason #4:

The internal evidence that is found in Daniel 8-12 proves beyond any doubt that this is the little book that was sealed until the time of the end. These chapters have a central theme that bonds the together—the 2300 days and the beginning date for the judgment. Have to examine these chapters, one by one to see how their content is related to the 2300 days and the judgment.

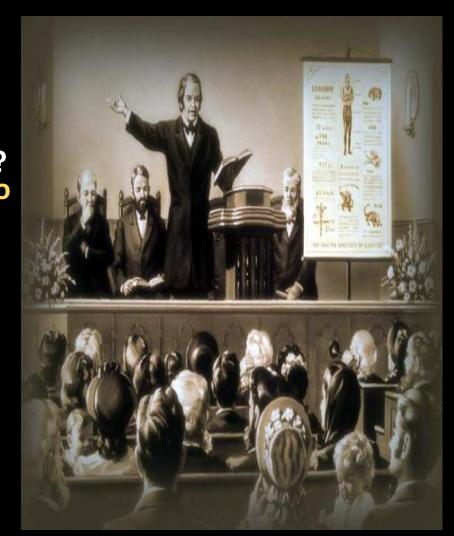
The vision of Daniel 8 lasts from the time of the ram till the end of the 2300 days. When the ending point is reached, the process of cleansing the sanctuary begins. The problem is that Daniel 8 does not provide us with a starting point for the 2300-year prophecy so we have no way to know when they end!



Reason #5:

We are told in Daniel 12:4 that the prophet sealed the little book about the 2300 days and the judgment until the time of the end. At the time of the end, therefore, we would expect the book to be opened. Is there any reference in Scripture to the opening of the book in the time of the end? There most certainly is!! Revelation 10 is a clear reference to the unsealing and opening of the book that was sealed in Daniel 12:4. There is only one book in the entire Bible that was sealed to be opened at the time of the end. Notably, the little book of Revelation 10 is opened in the period of the sixth trumpet at the very end of history immediately before Jesus takes over the kingdom at the time of the seventh trumpet (Revelation 11:15-18).

We shall find in our next study that no chapter in the Bible explains more clearly the origin, message, mission and destiny of God's end-time remnant people than Revelation 10. It is no coincidence that the central message of the Millerites and others who preached after 1798 was drawn from Daniel 8:14 and Revelation 14:6, 7 where the hour of God's judgment is described.





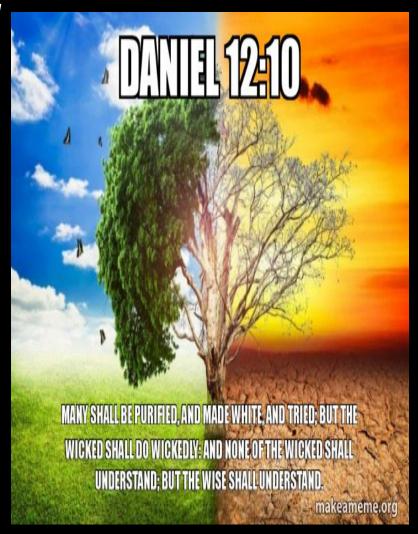
Daniel 12:10 - Many shall be purified

Daniel 12:10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

Many shall be purified and made white - Through trial and tribulation down through the ages, many would accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour and become part of the everlasting kingdom. At that time, many would begin to turn back to God's Word and would begin to understand the truths in it that had been hidden throughout the Dark Ages (the 1260 years). "...at that time, knowledge will increase" (v.4).

Wicked shall do wickedly and not understand - This is a very realistic picture of the attitude of the wicked. They do not understand because spiritual things are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14)

<u>Wise shall understand</u> - Those in the last days who are wise will understand the things that Daniel here is struggling to grasp. Daniel was told that only those who sincerely sought the truth would understand.

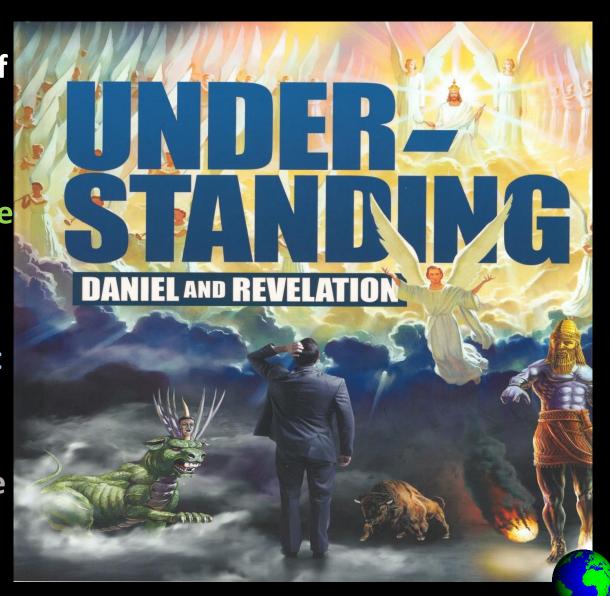




Understanding Daniel 12:10...

There is a growing chorus of voices who claim to be wise and have understanding of the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. The idea is gaining ground that the close of probation is about to take place. We know that that coming of Christ is very soon but Satan would unsettle the faith of His people through false understandings of prophecy. The Lord gave to the Adventist pioneers a solid prophetic platform to build upon. Ellen White recommended the book Daniel and Uriah Smith many times as a book that is important to read and understand. Here is one example:

"Especially should the book Daniel and the Revelation be brought before people as the very book for this time. This book contains the message which all need to read and understand." 1MR 61 (1899)



Daniel 12:10 - Many shall be purified...

We read in Daniel 12:8–10 that in the time of the end, "many shall be purified, and made white, and tried." In Exodus 16:4 we learn that the Lord "proves" us, testing us to see whether or not we are truly obedient to His law. In these last days, He "shall purify the sons of Levi." Malachi 3:3. God's plan is to "redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people." Titus 2:14. "He will thoroughly purge his floor," "that those things which cannot be shaken may remain." Matthew 3:12; Hebrews 12:27.

Remember in Daniel 1 how we saw that Daniel and his companions purposed in their hearts to remain pure and true to God and His Word. After a time of testing and purification, Daniel and his companions were blessed with knowledge and wisdom. Daniel had prophetic understanding as well.

We see in the prophecy that the same sort of thing happens at "the time of the end". Thus, we see that at the time of the end, the prophecies of Daniel would be unsealed and that God's people would go through a time of testing and trial, after which they would be given wisdom and understanding --- "the wise shall understand."



How is iniquity PURGED?

"By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil." Proverbs 16:6. In John 15:1-3, Jesus explains that we are made "clean through the word." The apostle Paul reiterates this point with the phrase "washing of water by the word" in Ephesians 5:26. And Peter refers to the believers as having "purified your souls in obeying the truth." 1 Peter 1:22. These "have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Revelation 7:14.

"As faith . . . receives and assimilates the principles of truth, they become a part of the being and the motive power of the life. The word of God, received into the soul, moulds the thoughts, and enters into the development of character.



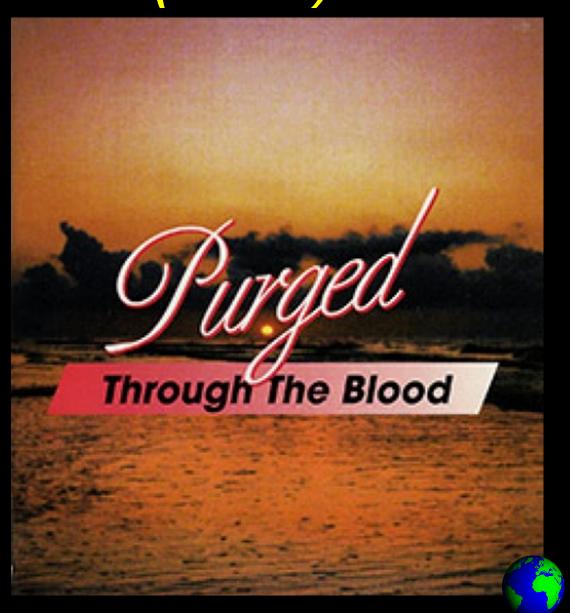
THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

How is iniquity PURGED? (cont'd)

"By looking constantly to Jesus with the eye of faith, we shall be strengthened. God will make the most precious revelations to His hungering, thirsting people. They will find that Christ is a personal Saviour. As they feed upon His word, they find that it is spirit and life. The word destroys the natural, earthly nature, and imparts a new life in Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit comes to the soul as a Comforter. By the transforming agency of His grace, the image of God is reproduced in the disciple; he becomes a new creature." - The Desire of Ages, p. 391.

"The law is an expression of the thought of God; when received in Christ, it becomes our thought. It lifts us above the power of natural desires and tendencies, above temptations that lead to sin." - The Desire of Ages, p. 308.

"The gospel is to be presented, not as a lifeless theory, but as a living force to change the life." - The Desire of Ages, p. 826.



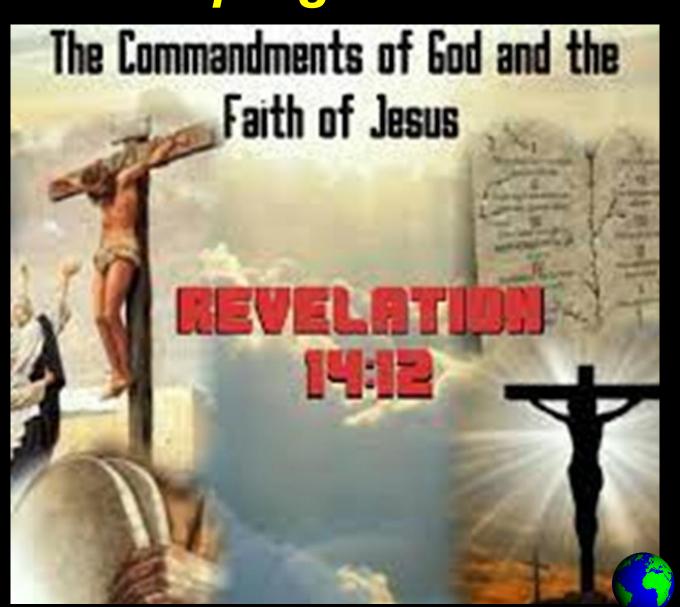
The church is to be purged

"He will thoroughly purge his floor." Matthew 3:12. "The church must be purged, and it will be." - Testimonies, vol. 1, p. 100.

"The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out—the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place." - The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 7, p. 911.

"A glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Ephesians 5:27.

Revelation 19:7, 8 refers to the fact that His church makes herself ready by preparing to meet Him in peace.



What is the church?

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus said, "upon this rock I will build my church," identified by the apostle as "the pillar and ground of the truth." 1 Timothy 3:15. "Ye shall know them by their fruits." Matthew 7:16. (See also Revelation 14:1-5.) "Not by its name, but by its fruit, is the value of a tree determined. If the fruit is worthless, the name cannot save the tree from destruction. John declared to the Jews that their standing before God was to be decided by their character and life. Profession was worthless. If their life and character were not in harmony with God's law, they were not His people." - The Desire of Ages, p. 107.

"Descent from Abraham was proved, not by name and lineage, but by likeness of character. So the apostolic succession rests not upon the transmission of ecclesiastical authority, but upon spiritual relationship. A life actuated by the apostles' spirit, the belief and teaching of the truth they taught, this is the true evidence of apostolic succession." - The Desire of Ages, p. 467.



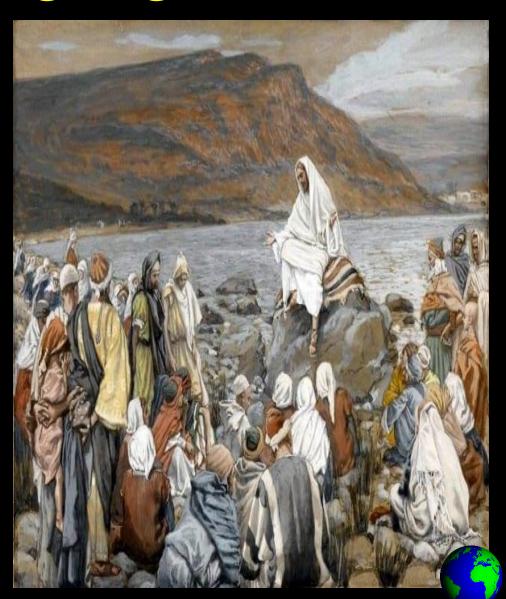
We will never change the world by going to church.

We will only change the world by being the church.

When did this purging begin?

Please read John 6:53-57, 66.

In reference to the widespread reaction to this controversial statement of Jesus, the Spirit of Prophecy writes: "This was one of the times of purging. By the words of truth, the chaff was being separated from the wheat. Because they were too vain and self-righteous to receive reproof, too world-loving to accept a life of humility, many turned away from Jesus. Many are still doing the same thing. Souls are tested today as were those disciples in the synagogue at Capernaum. When truth is brought home to the heart, they see that their lives are not in accordance with the will of God. They see the need of an entire change in themselves; but they are not willing to take up the self-denying work. Therefore they are angry when their sins are discovered. They go away offended, even as the disciples left Jesus, murmuring, 'This is an hard saying; who can hear it?' " - The Desire of Ages, p. 392.



Why did Jesus separate them?

"When Jesus presented the testing truth that caused so many of His disciples to turn back, He knew what would be the result of His words; but He had a purpose of mercy to fulfill. He foresaw that in the hour of temptation every one of His beloved disciples would be severely tested. His agony in Gethsemane, His betrayal and crucifixion, would be to them a most trying ordéal. Had no previous test been given, many who were actuated by merely selfish motives would have been connected with them. . . . In that hour of darkness, the example of those who turned from Him might have carried others with them. But Jesus brought about this crisis while by His personal presence He could still strengthen the faith of His true followers." - The Desire of Ages, p. 394.



Daniel 12:10 ...wicked shall do wickedly and do not understand...

The reapers are bidden, "Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles."
Matthew 13:30. These bundles are confederacies, against which we are warned: "Say ye not, A confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid." Isaiah 8:12.

"These [trades] unions are one of the signs of the last days. Men are binding up in bundles ready to be burned." "I saw a number of companies that seemed to be bound together by cords." - Early Writings, p. 240.

"Then I heard a voice saying to those who had been pushed and derided, 'Come out from among them, and touch not the unclean.' In obedience to this voice, a large number broke the cords which bound them." - Early Writings, p. 242.

30 BIBLE VERSES WICKEDNESS

Ephesians 5:11

Proverbs 6:12-16

Psalm 7:9

Genesis 13:13

Psalm 55:15

Psalm 121:7-8

Revelation 21:8

Isaiah 3:11

Genesis 18:23

Romans 12:21

Ephesians 6:12

Ecclesiastes 12:14

Micah 2:1

Genesis 18:25

Ephesians 6:11

Romans 12:19

James 1:13

Proverbs 4:14

Genesis 38:7

Romans 16:17

1 John 1:9

Psalm 64:2

Exodus 9:27

Mark 7:20-23

Psalm 55:15

Psalm 5:4

Proverbs 4:17

Exodus 23:1

Romans 13:4

Psalm 34:21



Wicked shall do wickedly and do not understand! (cont'd)

Thus we see that a separation is needed from those who are thus bound—the synagogue of Satan. Addressing His beloved ones in the Philadelphia church, Jesus says, "Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, Í will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee." Revelation 3:9. When the 144,000 are all sealed and perfectly united, the Spirit of Prophecy writes, "Then it was that the synagogue of Satan knew that God had loved us who could wash one another's feet and salute the brethren with a holy kiss, and they worshiped at our feet." - Early Writings, p. 15.



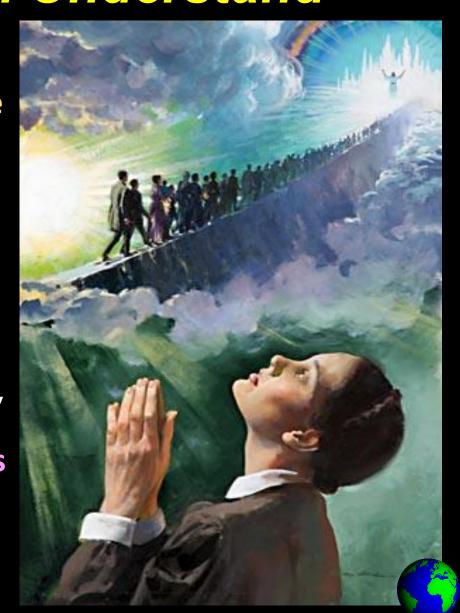
Daniel 12:10 - ...the Wise Shall Understand

Who are the wise in the last days? Lets find out!

"I saw a little company traveling a narrow pathway. All seemed to be firmly united, bound together by the truth." - Early Writings, p. 88.

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." Ephesians 4:14–16. "
'The third angel is binding, or sealing, them in bundles for the heavenly garner.'" - Early Writings, p. 89.

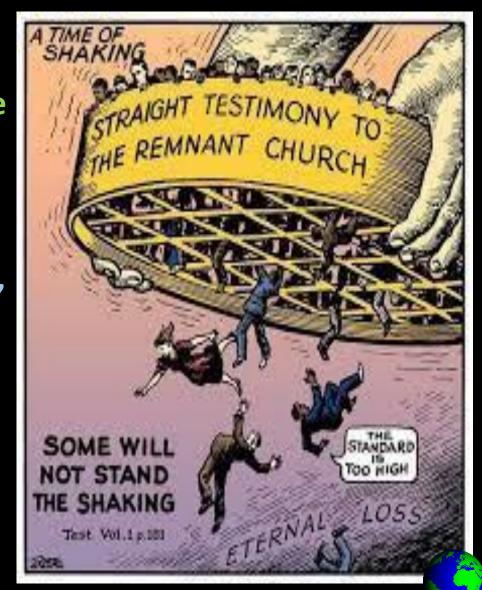
"Those who have been obedient to God's commandments will unite with the company of the saints in light." - Testimonies to Ministers, p. 234.



The sieve is moving—what is the sieve?

"God is sifting His people. He will have a clean and holy church. We cannot read the heart of man. But the Lord has provided means to keep the church pure. A corrupt people has arisen who could not live with the people of God. They despised reproof, and would not be corrected. They had an opportunity to know that theirs was an unrighteous warfare. They had time to repent of their wrongs; but self was too dear to die. They nourished it, and it grew strong, and they separated from the trusting people of God, whom He is purifying unto Himself. We all have reason to thank God that a way has been opened to save the church; for the wrath of God must have come upon us if these corrupt pretenders had remained with us." - Testimonies, vol. 1, p. 99.

Truth: "Every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved." John 3:20. "By the words of truth, the chaff was being separated from the wheat." - The Desire of Ages, p. 392.



What does God use to test and sift His people?

1. Tested by messages:

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." John 17:17. "God has revealed sacred and holy truths to separate His people from the ungodly and purify them unto Himself." - Testimonies, vol. 1, p. 404.

2. Tested by the third angel's message:

"I saw that the holy Sabbath is, and will be, the separating wall between the true Israel of God and unbelievers; and that the Sabbath is the great question to unite the hearts of God's dear, waiting saints." - Early Writings, p. 33.

3. Tested by the health message:

"The work of health reform is the Lord's means for lessening suffering in our world and for purifying His church." - Testimonies, vol. 9, pp. 112, 113.



What does God use to test and sift His people? (cont'd)

4. Tested by the dress reform message:

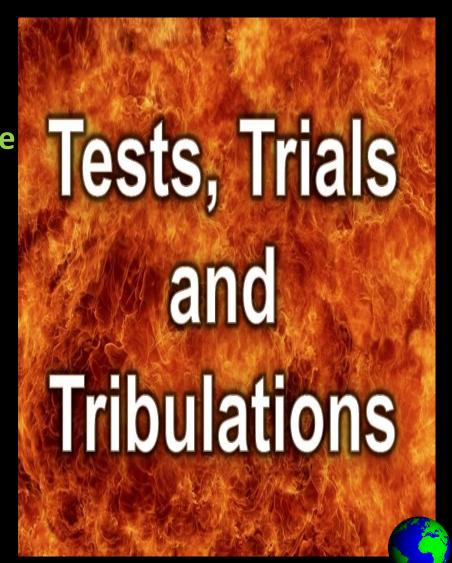
"The dress reform is treated by some with great indifference and by others with contempt, because there is a cross attached to it. For this cross I thank God. It is just what we need to distinguish and separate God's commandment-keeping people from the world. The dress reform answers to us as did the ribbon of blue to ancient Israel." - Testimonies, vol. 9, pp. 171.

5. **Tested by trials**:

"God has shown me that He gave His people a bitter cup to drink, to purify and cleanse them." - Early Writings, p. 47.

God is calling us to heed the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans in Revelation 3:14–22 and 18:1–4.

"Where the message of divine truth is spurned or slighted, there the church will be enshrouded in darkness." - The Great Controversy, p. 378.

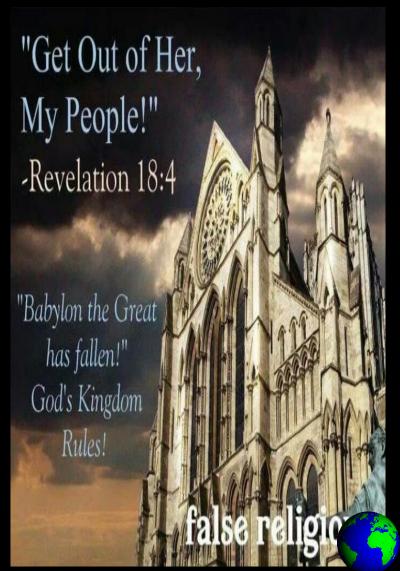


What does God use to test and sift His people? (cont'd)

"God leads His people on, step by step. He brings them up to different points calculated to manifest what is in the heart. Some endure at one point, but fall off at the next. At every advanced point the heart is tested and tried a little closer. . . . Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation." - Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 186, 187.

"The mighty shaking has commenced and will go on." - Early Writings, p. 50.

"I saw that God has honest children among the nominal Adventists and the fallen churches, and before the plagues shall be poured out, ministers and people will be called out from these churches and will gladly receive the truth.... But the light will shine, and all who are honest will leave the fallen churches, and take their stand with the remnant." - Early Writings, p. 261.



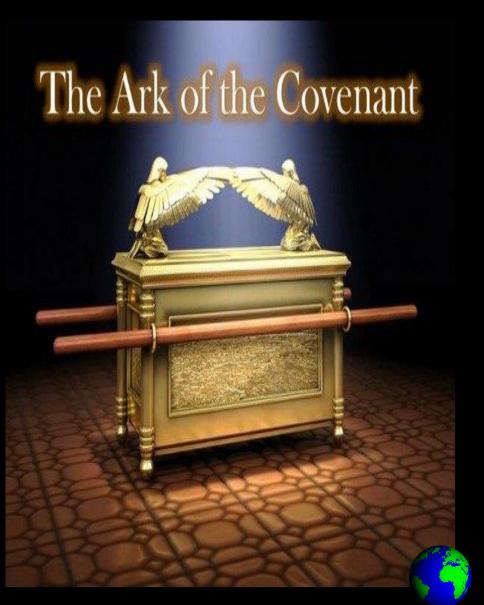
A people who will bear the ark

"You are exhorted to touch not the unclean thing; for in touching this, you will yourself become unclean. It is impossible for you to unite with those who are corrupt, and still remain pure." - The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 6, p. 1102.

"There is a people who will bear the ark of God." - Testimonies to Ministers, p. 411.

"The present is a time of great peril to the people of God. God is leading out a people, not an individual here and there. He has a church on the earth, that abide in the truth." - Selected Messages, b2, p. 79.

"There was a coming out, a decided separation from the wicked, an escape for life. So it was in the days of Noah; so with Lot; so with the disciples prior to the destruction of Jerusalem; and so it will be in the last days. Again the voice of God is heard in a message of warning, bidding His people separate themselves from the prevailing iniquity. -Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 166.



What does it mean to us today?

God's refining and testing involved drastic action. There are perhaps three reasons why refining and testing may feel like a crucible.

First, we experience pain as God allows circumstances to bring our sin to our attention. A little earlier, Jeremiah unhappily writes, "The bellows blow fiercely to burn away the lead with fire, but the refining goe's on in vain; the wicked are not purged out" (Jeremiah 6:29).
Thus, sometimes drastic action is needed in

order to get our attention.

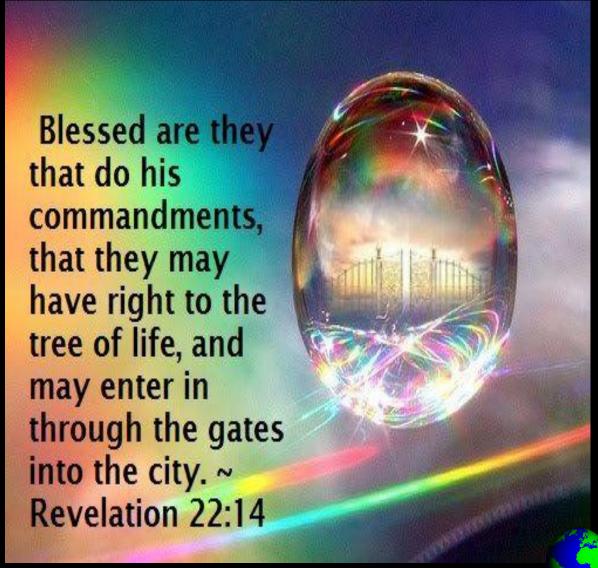
Second, we experience anguish as we feel sorrow for the sin we now see clearly.

Third, we experience frustration as we try to live differently. It can be quite uncomfortable and difficult to keep choosing to give up the things that have been so much a part of us.

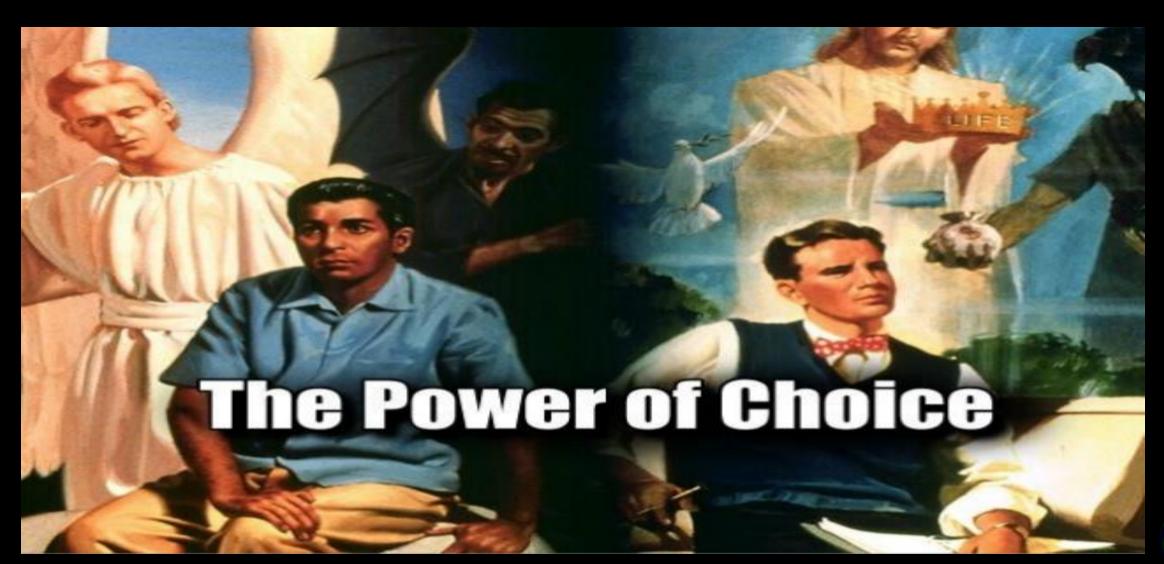


Conclusion

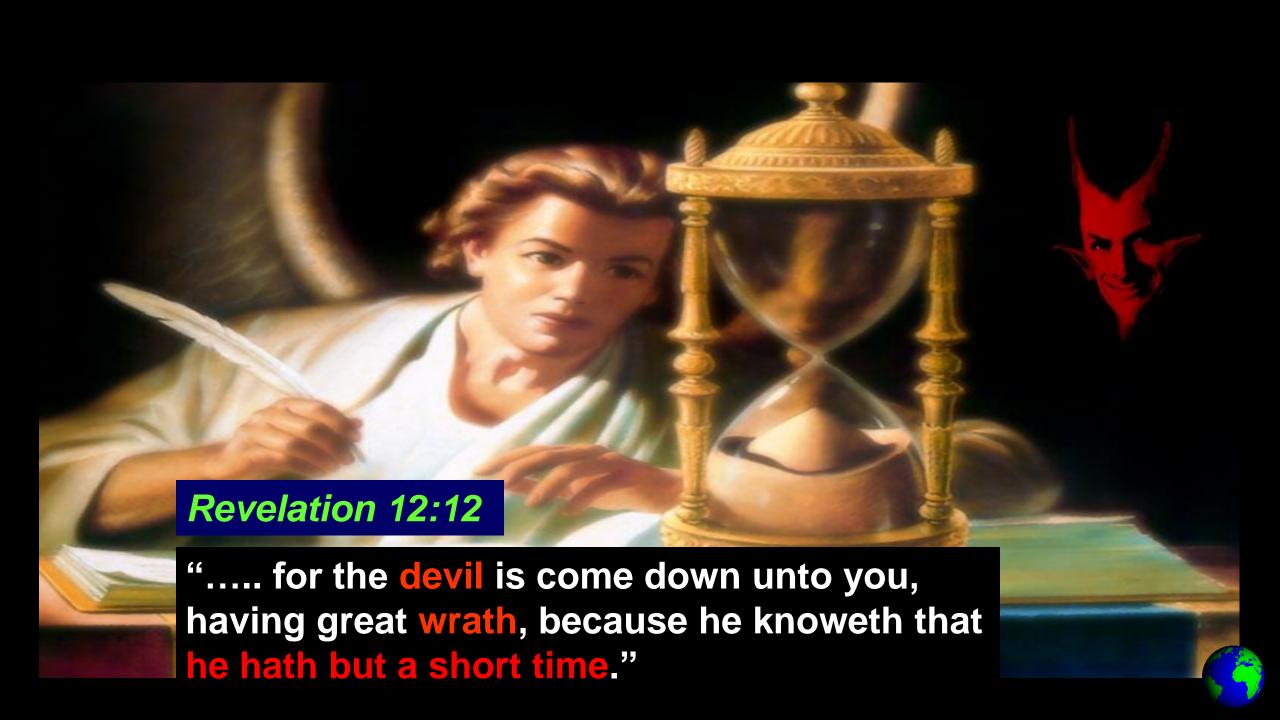
It is in mercy that the Lord reveals to men their hidden defects. He would have them critically examine the complicated emotions and motives of their own hearts, and detect that which is wrong, and modify their dispositions and refine their manners. God would have His servants become acquainted with their own hearts. In order to bring to them a true knowledge of their condition, He permits the fire of affliction to assail them, so that they may be purified. The trials of life are God's workmen to remove the impurities, infirmities, and roughness from our characters, and fit them for the society of pure, heavenly angels in glory. . . . The fire will not consume us, but only remove the dross, and we shall come forth seven times purified, bearing the impress of the Divine. - My Life Today - Page 97



God has given all:







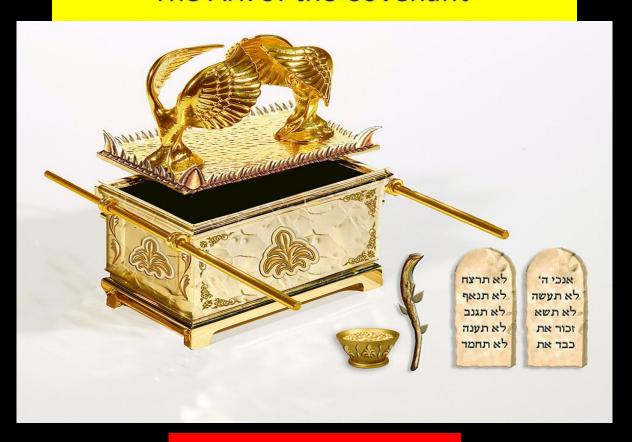
Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

- John 10:16



The Ark of the Covenant



Psalms 77:13

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. -Revelation 3:20





