

Resurrection

God's people must stand firm and remain holy, and then... what?

The sleeping awake

Read Daniel 12 v 1-3

- ❓ *What will happen to the “multitudes who sleep in the dust” (v 2)?*
- ❓ *What two experiences are possible for those “multitudes” (v 2)?*

This is the clearest expression in all of the Old Testament of a literal, bodily resurrection from the dead. And notice this is a double resurrection—all humanity rises to be assigned a final destination.

So the question we must ask is: *Who will awake to everlasting glory, instead of everlasting shame?*

- ❓ *How does verse 1 give an answer to that question?*

“The book” the angel refers to is the book referred to elsewhere as “the book of life”.

Read Revelation 20 v 13-15; 21 v 26-27.

- ❓ *How does Daniel 12 v 3 also answer that question?*
- ❓ *How does verse 3 excite us as God's people about our future?*

This passage reminds us that everyone exists eternally. The question is the quality of that existence. C.S Lewis put this image of a double resurrection in startling terms:

“Remember that the dullest most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or

else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare ... it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendours.”
(The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses)

Pray

Thank God that, as a believer in Jesus, your name is written in his book of life. Thank him that therefore your future is more glorious than you can imagine. Pray that this reminder of your future would strengthen you to stand firm and remain holy today.

The vision is sealed

Read Daniel 12 v 4

- ❓ *What is Daniel to do with “the words of the scroll”—that is, the explanation of the vision?*
- ❓ *Why is this a strange thing to be told?*

Why would God want these words shut up, kept quiet about?! Verse 4 hints that it is because it is relevant to, and only really understandable in, the “time of the end”. Clarity on how everything turns out will only come in the future, in the gospel age—our age.

Pray

Thank God that you live in a day when you can look at Daniel's vision with Christ-centred understanding.