

Go your way

We have reached the end of Daniel. And as the prophet considered the promise of a resurrection and eternity of glory, he asked the obvious question: When?

No answer

Read Daniel 12 v 5-10

- ❓ *Who does Daniel see, and what does he ask them (v 5-6)?*

The “answer” comes in verse 7, but...

- ❓ *How much clearer is Daniel by the beginning of verse 8?!*
- ❓ *So what does he ask now (v 8)?*

But in verse 9, he is politely told to go away! He has been allowed to know what will happen in the future, but not when that future will come. In the meantime, those who read his book and are “wise”—those who trust God—will “be purified, made spotless, and refined” (v 10), while those who are wicked—who reject God—will continue to do so.

The real question

Read Daniel 12 v 11-13

Verse 11 returns us to the image of the abomination that causes desolation—pointing us towards Antiochus Epiphanes’ desecration of the temple in 165 BC, and to Titus’ destruction of the temple in AD 70. Daniel is being reminded that life between his day and the end of days will be very, very hard for God’s people.

- ❓ *So what should God’s people do (v 12)?*
- ❓ *And what should Daniel himself do, and what is promised to him (v 13)?*

Apply

So the real question that Daniel and we are left with is: *As you go your way, are you going to go on battling in faith to the end, through all the challenges and hardships?*

We all yearn to know “how long?” and “when?” but there is a more important question: What am I doing to prepare for the end? We have a glorious, blessed inheritance, but we are not there yet.

- ❓ *Will you keep going?*
- ❓ *Will you pray that God would help you keep going?*
- ❓ *What might stop you from keeping going?*

Take a moment to reflect on the second half of Daniel (and on the studies on the first half in the last issue of Explore).

- ❓ *What realities about God, and about this world and its future, have most excited and encouraged you?*

The truths of the second half of Daniel enabled him to live in the ways recounted in the first half—to take risks to remain pure and to speak truth, and to remain faithful even into the lions’ den.

- ❓ *How will those same truths affect the way you live in this world?*