

# Daniel 12:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?

## Analysis

One angel's question to "the man clothed in linen"—"How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?"—expresses both angelic curiosity and human longing. The phrase "these wonders" refers to the prophetic events described in chapters 10-12, particularly the persecution of God's people and the eventual triumph described in verses 1-4. Even angels desire to understand redemptive history's timeline (1 Peter 1:12), demonstrating that prophetic revelation transcends human interest.

The question "How long?" echoes throughout Scripture as the cry of suffering saints: martyrs under the altar (Revelation 6:10), the psalmist in distress (Psalm 13:1-2), and persecuted believers throughout history. This question expresses faith that trials have a divinely appointed end, not endless meaningless suffering. The angel's inquiry on behalf of suffering humanity demonstrates heaven's concern for persecuted saints and assurance that God has determined exact timeframes for tribulation's duration.

Addressing the question to "the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters" emphasizes Christ's unique authority to reveal divine timing. Neither Daniel nor angels know the appointed times—only the Father and the Son possess this knowledge (Matthew 24:36, Acts 1:7). This scene prefigures Christ's revelation of end-times events to John (Revelation 1:1), demonstrating that Jesus alone holds the keys to prophetic understanding and historical timing.

## Historical Context

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The question reflects ancient Israel's exile experience and longing for deliverance. Daniel lived through Babylonian captivity and witnessed partial return under Cyrus, yet fuller restoration remained future. The question "How long?" captures exile's pain and hope—suffering people crying out for deliverance while trusting divine timing.

This angelic question parallels other biblical instances where heavenly beings inquire about human redemption's timing and nature. Angels don't possess exhaustive knowledge of divine purposes but learn alongside humans as redemptive history unfolds. Their curiosity demonstrates that salvation's mysteries transcend created intelligence, revealing God's wisdom to all creation through Christ's work (Ephesians 3:10).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does the angelic question "How long?" validate believers' own cries for deliverance during suffering and persecution?
2. What comfort comes from knowing that trials have divinely appointed durations and definite ends, not endless meaningless suffering?
3. How does Christ's unique authority to reveal prophetic timing demonstrate His mediatorial role as the key to understanding God's purposes?

## Interlinear Text

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מִמֶּנּוּ עַל אֲשֶׁר בְּבְדִים לְבָבָו שְׁלֹא יְאֹישׁ וְאָמַר  
And one said to the man clothed in linen which was upon  
H559 H376 H3847 H906 H834 H4605

מִתְּמִימָן לְמִימָן רִיאָה עַד מִתְּמִימָן  
the waters of the river How long shall it be to the end  
H4325 H2975 H5704 H4970 H7093

בְּפָלָאֹת:  
of these wonders  
H6382

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 9:2** (Parallel theme): And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brasen altar.

**Daniel 8:13** (Parallel theme): Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?

**Daniel 8:16** (Parallel theme): And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision.