

# Daniel 12:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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This verse captures Daniel's honest response to apocalyptic revelation. The Hebrew shamati ("I heard") indicates he clearly received the message, but lo avin ("I understood not") reveals his inability to comprehend its full meaning. Daniel models intellectual humility—even after receiving direct divine revelation, he acknowledges the limits of his understanding. His question "what shall be the end of these things?" seeks clarification about the final outcome.

This verse teaches several crucial truths about divine revelation:

1. hearing God's word doesn't guarantee immediate understanding
2. godly response to confusion is humble inquiry rather than presumptuous interpretation
3. some mysteries remain partially veiled even to the most faithful,
4. the appropriate posture before incomprehensible revelation is reverent persistence in seeking understanding.

The response Daniel receives (verses 9-13) indicates that full understanding must await "the time of the end." Some truths are sealed until their appointed time of fulfillment.

This teaches that God reveals what we need when we need it.

## Historical Context

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Daniel 12 concludes the final vision (chapters 10-12), received during Cyrus's third year (10:1), around 536 BC. Daniel was approximately 85 years old. This vision concerned the future suffering and ultimate triumph of God's people, spanning from Daniel's day through the intertestamental period, Greek rule, Roman occupation, and beyond to final resurrection.

The detailed prophecies about future kingdoms would have staggered Daniel. He foresaw persecution under Antiochus IV Epiphanes, the abomination of desolation, and patterns extending to the end of the age. Daniel's confusion mirrors our own when faced with prophecy's complexity.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

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

## Study Questions

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1. How can you maintain humble submission to God's word while honestly acknowledging aspects you don't fully understand?
2. How does Daniel's example of persistent inquiry balanced with patient trust guide your approach to difficult theological questions?

## Interlinear Text

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וְהִנֵּה אָדָם אֶל אָמֵן שָׁמְעָתִי וְאֶנְגַּדְתִּי

H589

And I heard

H8085

but I understood

H3808

not then said

H995

I O my Lord

H559

H4100

H113

אַתָּה אֵת אָמֵן

what shall be the end

H319

H428

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 1:7** (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

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