

Daniel 12:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

The command "Go thy way, Daniel" redirects the prophet from seeking further explanation to practical faithfulness. Despite Daniel's curiosity about prophetic details (v. 8), he receives instruction to live faithfully rather than exhaustive understanding. The phrase "the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end" explains why fuller comprehension remains elusive—these prophecies await future fulfillment for complete understanding. Progressive revelation means some truths remain partially obscure until God's appointed time.

This "sealing" doesn't mean total incomprehension but indicates that fuller meaning emerges as prophecy unfolds historically. Daniel received genuine revelation providing hope and direction, but complete interpretation required future events to clarify details. This contrasts with Revelation where John is told "seal not the sayings" (Revelation 22:10) because fulfillment's time approached. Daniel's prophecies awaited centuries or millennia; John's addressed imminent events.

The emphasis on "the time of the end" points to eschatological fulfillment when all mysteries will be revealed. Christ's first coming partially "unsealed" Daniel's prophecies, His second coming will complete their fulfillment. This teaches humility about prophetic certainty—believers possess genuine revelation yet acknowledge limitations in understanding until God's purposes fully unfold. The proper response isn't speculative calendar-making but faithful living trusting divine timing (Acts 1:7).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern sealed documents remained closed until authorized opening at an appointed time. Legal documents, wills, and prophecies were sealed with wax or clay impressions preserving contents until proper revelation. Daniel's sealing indicates the prophecies' preservation for future generations who would witness fulfillment and understand more fully.

Jewish and Christian interpreters throughout history have debated when "the time of the end" begins. Some see it inaugurated by Christ's first coming, others reserve it for future tribulation, still others view it as the entire church age between Christ's comings. This variety reflects the prophecy's intended partial obscurity until divine purposes unfold completely.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's command to "go thy way" emphasize faithful living over speculative prophetic interpretation when full understanding remains future?
2. What does the "sealing till the time of the end" teach about humility regarding prophetic details versus confidence in God's sovereign control?
3. How does progressive revelation—partial understanding growing toward complete fulfillment—demonstrate God's wisdom in disclosing truth gradually?

Interlinear Text

וְאָמַרְתָּ	לְךָ	דָּנִיָּאֵל	סְתִּים	וְסְתִּים	פִּזְבְּרִים	עַד
And he said	H1980	Daniel	H3588	are closed up	and sealed	for the words
H559		H1840		H5640		H5704
תִּלְכְּדָה	עַד	תְּמִימָה	וְתִּלְכְּדָה	וְתִּלְכְּדָה	וְתִּלְכְּדָה	
till the time		of the end				
H6256		H7093				

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 12:4 (Word): 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 8:26 (Parallel theme): And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days.

Revelation 10:4 (Parallel theme): And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.

Isaiah 29:11 (Word): And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed:

Isaiah 8:16 (Word): Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.