

Daniel 7:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart.

Analysis

Daniel concludes: "Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart." The phrase "end of the matter" marks the vision's conclusion, yet Daniel's response reveals ongoing internal struggle. His "cogitations much troubled" him—the Hebrew emphasizes frightening thoughts, deep distress over revealed future. Even after angelic interpretation, the vision's content disturbs him.

"My countenance changed" indicates visible physical manifestation of spiritual distress—pallor, drawn features, or aged appearance reflecting the weight of prophetic burden. Yet "I kept the matter in my heart" demonstrates faithful stewardship of revelation. Daniel didn't broadcast every detail publicly but pondered these things privately, modeling wisdom about sharing potentially disturbing prophecy. This echoes Mary keeping and pondering Jesus-related revelations (Luke 2:19, 51).

Daniel's troubled response validates genuine concern over prophetic content. Speculation about end times that produces curiosity rather than burden misses prophecy's purpose. True prophetic understanding should produce:

1. awe at God's sovereignty
2. grief over human rebellion

3. concern for suffering believers,
4. longing for Christ's return.

Daniel models appropriate prophetic posture—sober engagement rather than sensationalized speculation.

Historical Context

Daniel received this vision in Belshazzar's first year (553 BC), decades before Babylon's fall and centuries before the empires and persecution described. The temporal distance between receiving revelation and witnessing fulfillment characterizes biblical prophecy. Daniel died without seeing most fulfillment, yet faithfully recorded revelation for future generations. His example encourages trusting God's timing even when promises aren't immediately fulfilled.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Daniel's troubled response to prophecy challenge modern sensationalized or entertainment-oriented approach to end times?
2. What does "keeping the matter in his heart" teach about wisdom in sharing potentially disturbing prophetic content?
3. How should prophetic study produce godly concern and longing for Christ's return rather than mere intellectual curiosity?

Interlinear Text

שָׁגַג יָאָן	דָּנִיָּאָל	אָנָּה	וּמְלָמָתָא	סְוִףָא	כָּה	עַד	שָׁגַג יָאָן	דָּנִיָּאָל	אָנָּה	וּמְלָמָתָא	סְוִףָא	כָּה	עַד
Hitherto	H3542	is the end	H1768	of the matter	סְוִףָא	כָּה	Until	Daniel	H1841	much	H7690		
H5705		H5491		H4406			H576		H1841		H7690		
my cogitations	H7476	troubled	H927	me and my countenance	H2122	changed	H8133	in me	H5922				
מְלָמָתָא	בְּלֵבִי	בְּלֵבִי	נִצְחָתָה										
of the matter	H4406	in my heart	H3821	but I kept	H5202								

Additional Cross-References

Luke 2:19 (Parallel theme): But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

Luke 2:51 (Parallel theme): And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

Daniel 7:15 (Parallel theme): I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.

Daniel 10:8 (Parallel theme): Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.

Daniel 4:19 (Parallel theme): Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Belteshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies.

Daniel 8:27 (Parallel theme): And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it.

