

Daniel 8:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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?

Analysis

Daniel hears angelic dialogue—"one saint" (holy one) asking "another saint" how long these desecrations will last. The Hebrew qadosh (שָׁדֶךָ, "saint" or "holy one") refers to angels, revealing celestial interest in earthly persecution of God's people. Angels don't know all things; they learn through observation and inquiry. Their question demonstrates that even heavenly beings wonder at God's timing in allowing evil to prosper temporarily.

The question concerns "the vision...the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot." This comprehensive query encompasses: the vision's duration, cessation of worship, the abomination ("transgression of desolation"), temple desecration, and persecution of God's people. The phrase "trodden under foot" emphasizes humiliation and contempt—not merely conquering but degrading what is sacred to God.

Theologically, this verse reveals that persecution puzzles even angels. Why does God allow His name to be profaned, His sanctuary polluted, His people oppressed? The answer (verse 14) shows divine sovereignty setting limits on evil's duration. God permits temporary testing to purify His people, but He doesn't allow indefinite oppression. This foreshadows Christ's teaching that tribulation has divinely

appointed limits (Mark 13:20), and points to His return when all oppression finally ends.

Historical Context

Angelic involvement in Israel's affairs appears throughout Daniel (9:21, 10:13, 10:21, 12:1). Michael the archangel particularly defends Israel. This dialogue reveals the unseen spiritual dimension behind earthly events—angels observe, inquire, and engage in cosmic conflict affecting God's people. The question's specificity about worship cessation and sanctuary defilement shows that angels care deeply about God's glory and His people's welfare. Their inquiry teaches that heaven mourns earth's injustice, even when divine purposes temporarily permit evil to prosper.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What does angelic puzzlement about persecution's duration teach us about trusting God's timing even when His purposes seem unclear?
2. How should knowing that angels observe our faithfulness during trials encourage perseverance when God's deliverance seems delayed?
3. In what ways does God's setting specific limits on evil's duration (verse 14) demonstrate His sovereignty even when He permits temporary persecution?

Interlinear Text

אַךְ דָּוִי אַשְׁמָעַ ה
Then I heard and another
H8085 H259

קָדָשׁ וְשָׁמַן רְמִידָבָר
saint saint which spake
H6918 H1696

אַךְ דָּוִי וַיֹּאמֶר
said and another
H559 H259

קָדָשׁ וְשָׁמַן רְמִידָבָר
saint unto that certain saint which spake
H6918 H6422 H1696

מַתִּים יְמִינָה
H5704 H4970

וְשָׁעָה בְּתִימִיד
How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice and the transgression
H2377 H8548 H6588

מְרַמֵּס
מְרַמֵּס: שְׁמַמְמָה
of desolation to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot
H8074 H5414 H6944 H6635 H4823

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 11:2 (Holy): But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

Revelation 6:10 (Holy): And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

Daniel 9:27 (Sacrifice): And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Luke 21:24 (Parallel theme): And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

Daniel 11:31 (Sacrifice): And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.

Daniel 4:13 (Holy): I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven;

Hebrews 10:29 (Holy): Of how much sorcer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

Isaiah 6:11 (Parallel theme): Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate,

Isaiah 63:18 (Holy): The people of thy holiness have possessed it but a little while: our adversaries have trodden down thy sanctuary.

Psalms 79:5 (Parallel theme): How long, LORD? wilt thou be angry for ever? shall thy jealousy burn like fire?