

Daniel 8:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be.

Analysis

Gabriel's announcement "I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation" interprets the vision's time frame. "Indignation" (Hebrew: za'am, זָעַם) means divine wrath or anger—God's justified response to covenant breaking. The phrase "last end" (Hebrew: acharit, אַחֲרִית) means "latter time" or "final outcome." Gabriel reveals that the vision concerns not merely future political events but the completion of God's judgment on His people's disobedience.

"For at the time appointed the end shall be" emphasizes divine sovereignty over history. The Hebrew mo'ed (מָעֵד, "appointed time") refers to fixed, predetermined periods. God hasn't left history to chance; He has appointed specific times for judgment and deliverance. This comforts suffering believers—persecution isn't random but operates within divinely set boundaries. Evil prospers only as long as God permits, and He has predetermined its end.

Theologically, this reveals God's covenant faithfulness. Israel's exile wasn't divine abandonment but covenant discipline with a predetermined end. Similarly, the church's tribulation has appointed limits. Christ's first coming inaugurated the "last days" (Hebrews 1:2), beginning the end of indignation. His return will complete it, ending all persecution forever. Living in this "already but not yet" tension, believers trust God's appointed times, knowing all suffering is temporary and purposeful.

Historical Context

Daniel's audience faced questions: How long will judgment last? Has God forgotten His promises? Gabriel's answer—judgment has a fixed end—encouraged covenant hope. For Babylonian exiles, the seventy-year period was nearly complete (9:2). For later Jews under Antiochus, this vision promised that persecution would end precisely on schedule (2,300 evenings and mornings). Church history confirms the pattern—every persecution has ended, often exactly when God predetermined. This builds confidence in divine sovereignty and covenant faithfulness.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does knowing that indignation has an appointed end encourage faithfulness during suffering?
2. What does God's predetermined timing for judgment's end teach us about His sovereignty over seemingly chaotic historical events?
3. In what ways does Christ's first and second coming bracket the 'appointed time' of the church age, defining our present experience?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים	מַדְעָה	וְיַדְעָה	אֲתָּה אֲשֶׁר	וְיַדְעָה
And he said	H2005	Behold I will make thee know	H853	H1961
	H559		H834	
בְּאַחֲרֵי יְמִינָה	בְּעַמְּדָה	בְּעַמְּדָה	לִמְזֹעַ תְּמִימָה	
what shall be in the last end	of the indignation	H3588	for at the time appointed	
	H319	H2195		H4150
וְיַדְעָה				
the end				
	H7093			

Additional Cross-References

Habakkuk 2:3 (Parallel theme): For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Revelation 17:17 (Parallel theme): For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

Daniel 11:27 (Parallel theme): And both these kings' hearts shall be to do mischief, and they shall speak lies at one table; but it shall not prosper: for yet the end shall be at the time appointed.