

“GO REST FOR A WHILE”

Daniel 12:8-13

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INTRODUCTION

Rest! Ah, what a rare but wonderful thing! This is Labor Day weekend; we honor work and take an opportunity to rest from work.

How many of you feel overworked? How many could use some substantial rest?

Some have been involuntarily retired! Some refuse to retire. Some think that it is wrong to retire. Some retire very young.

It is wise to get sufficient rest so that we can be more productive when we do work! We need rest for our bodies, but also for our minds and nervous systems.

If you allow yourself to become too tense your system will break like the too taut strings on a violin or other instrument.

When does God tell us that it is OK to rest spiritually? Daniel certainly deserved a break!

- We must never let down or relax our spiritual vigilance nor become lazy in resisting sin or Satanic attacks.
- We must never grow weary in well-doing—for in due season we will reap if we don't faint.
- We must lift up the limp hands and strengthen the wobbly spiritual knees.
- Yet, in the Lord we must have continual spiritual rest—rest in the Lord!

This text tells us to continue on until **the end** and then we will enter into rest!

WHEN YOU ARE DEAD YOU CAN REST, UNTIL THEN KEEP BUSY FOR THE LORD!

I. GO (v. 13)

A. Don't Speculate (8-9; 11-12)

See I Pet. 1:10, 12—those at the end need these truths even more.

1. Daniel's question (8): “What will be the final end of these events?”

- Daniel had a general understanding (10:1)
- He inquired concerning the “latter end”—i.e. the character of events bringing the period to a close.
- What would be the degree of severity?
- How will God's people be delivered from the Antichrist?
- How do various participants fare?

2. The Angel's Answer (9, 11-12)

- Daniel's “going” is a mental going.
- God preserves and seals the words too.
- a. Those then alive can benefit from these words; they will have further information available—such as **the Book of Revelation!**

- b. This is a mild rebuke for Daniel—God did somewhat answer him, but he should not ask information merely to satisfy his curiosity.
 - c. Rest content in God’s revelation.
 - d. Contrast date-setters
 - e. Information (11-12)
 - 1290 days—period of judgments
 - 1335 days—period of restoration
- B. Don’t Worry (v. 10)
1. God’s People are purged, purified (made white) and refined (cf. 11:35)
 - There were parallel events in Antiochus’ days.
 - Compare 12:1, 3—same group; God purifies
 2. God’s People understand—they have insight (cf. 12:3)
 3. The wicked are true to their nature—they “act wickedly.”
 4. The wicked will not understand.
- C. Don’t be Lazy—keep on doing your work, as Daniel did all of his life.
- D. Don’t Quit until Death (“to the end”—i.e. of his life; or in some cases to the end of the age).

II. REST: “Then you will enter into rest”

This rest occurs at our death—cf. the “sleep” of v. 2.

III. RISE—i.e. at the resurrection (see v. 2)

IV. REIGN—at the end of the age (days)

A. Blessedness of those still living (12)

- He “keeps waiting.”
- He endures all of the suffering.
- He “attains”—as Jesus says, “endures until the end and “is saved.”

B. The Inheritance of those Sleeping (13)

- They have “an allotted portion”.
- They shine as the sun and stars (v. 3)

CONCLUSION

This is the end of the Book of Daniel.

What a **ringing note of victory!**

Don’t give up; don’t quit! You will have time to rest in the Lord’s presence!

PRAYER OF JOHN CALVIN [Young, p. 264]

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