



Daniel 12

The Wise Walk On



A Message for Troubled Times

Daniel 10 Heavenly Conflict

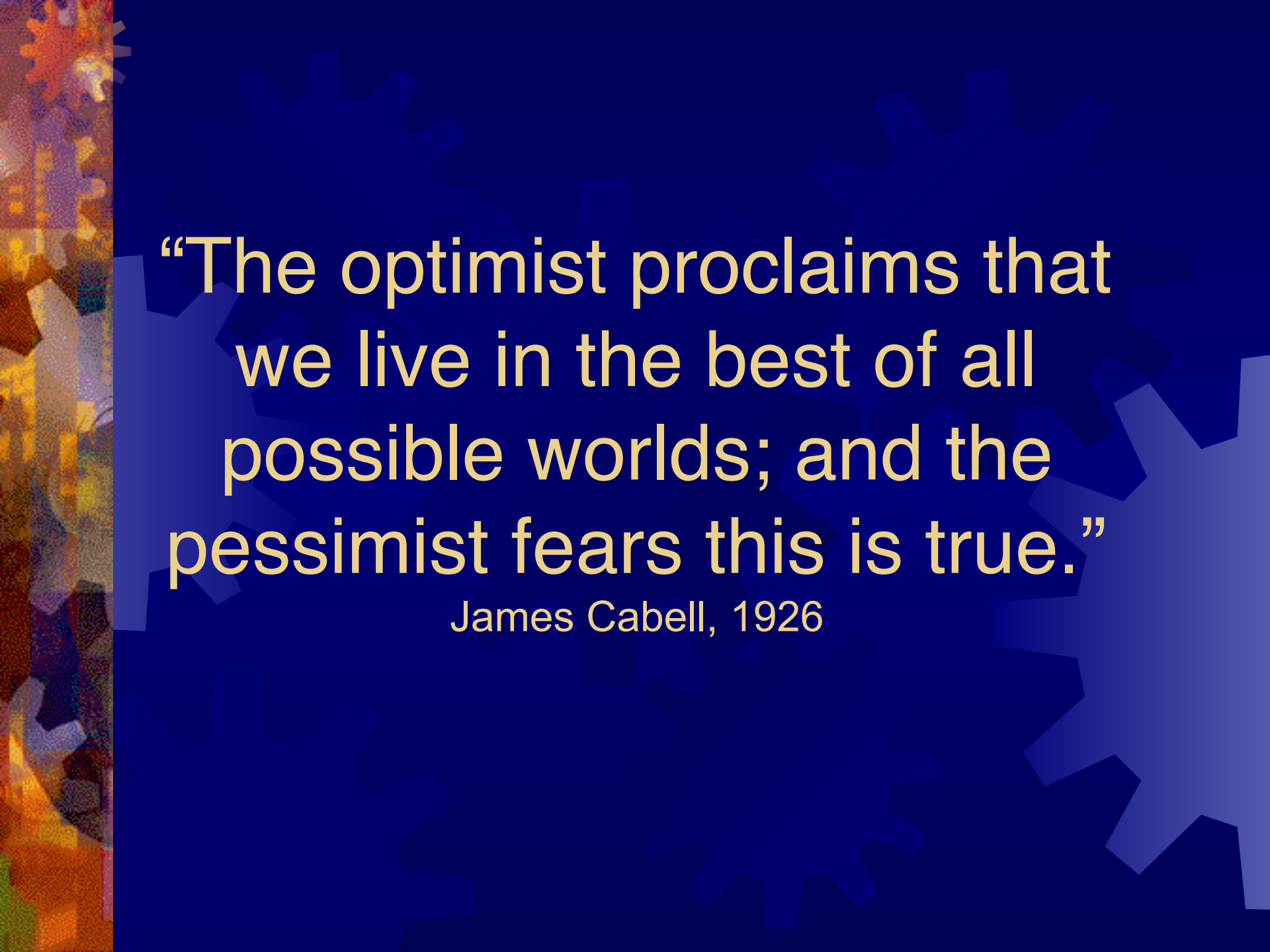
- Does God hear or care?

Daniel 11 Heavenly Control

- Has God lost control?

Daniel 12 Heavenly Conclusion

- How long must we endure?

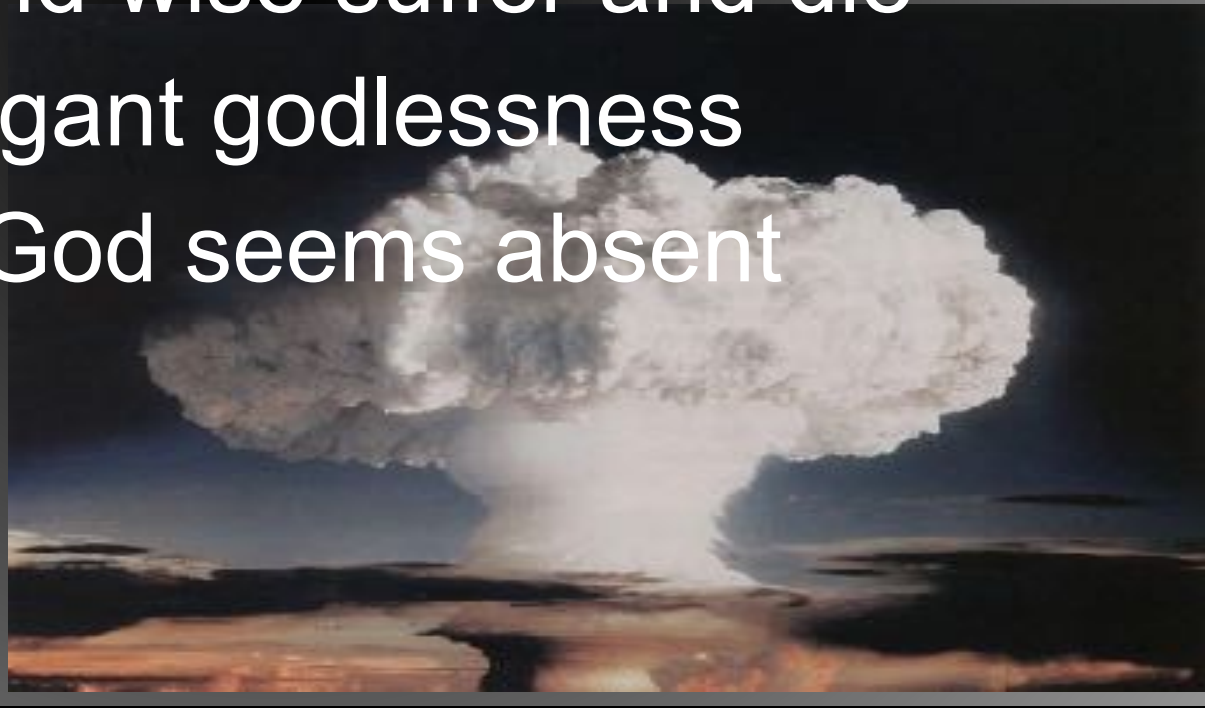


“The optimist proclaims that
we live in the best of all
possible worlds; and the
pessimist fears this is true.”

James Cabell, 1926

A World Out of Control?

- Kings, Women, Politics & War
- Never-ending Civil Wars
- A time of intrigue & hypocrisy
- The faithful and wise suffer and die
- A time of arrogant godlessness
- A time when God seems absent



No naïve optimism

The Tragedy of Daniel 11:33

“Those who are wise will instruct many,
though ... they will fall by the sword or be
burned or captured or plundered.”

The Reassurance of Daniel 12:3

“Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.”

A Reversal of Daniel 11:33

“Those who are wise will instruct many, though ... they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered.”

The book called Daniel

★ The “Wise” in Daniel

- ★ Daniel & 3 friends are people of wisdom (1:4,17,20; 2:21b; 4:18; 5:11,12,14 etc.)
- ★ Nebuchadnezzar must gain discernment (4:32,34; 5:21)
- ★ Daniel confesses the lack of discernment (9:13); he seeks understanding (8:15) and receives it (9:22,23,25; 10:1)
- ★ The wise suffer for their faithfulness (11:33,35)
- ★ The wise shine like stars (12:3)



Bible Quiz!

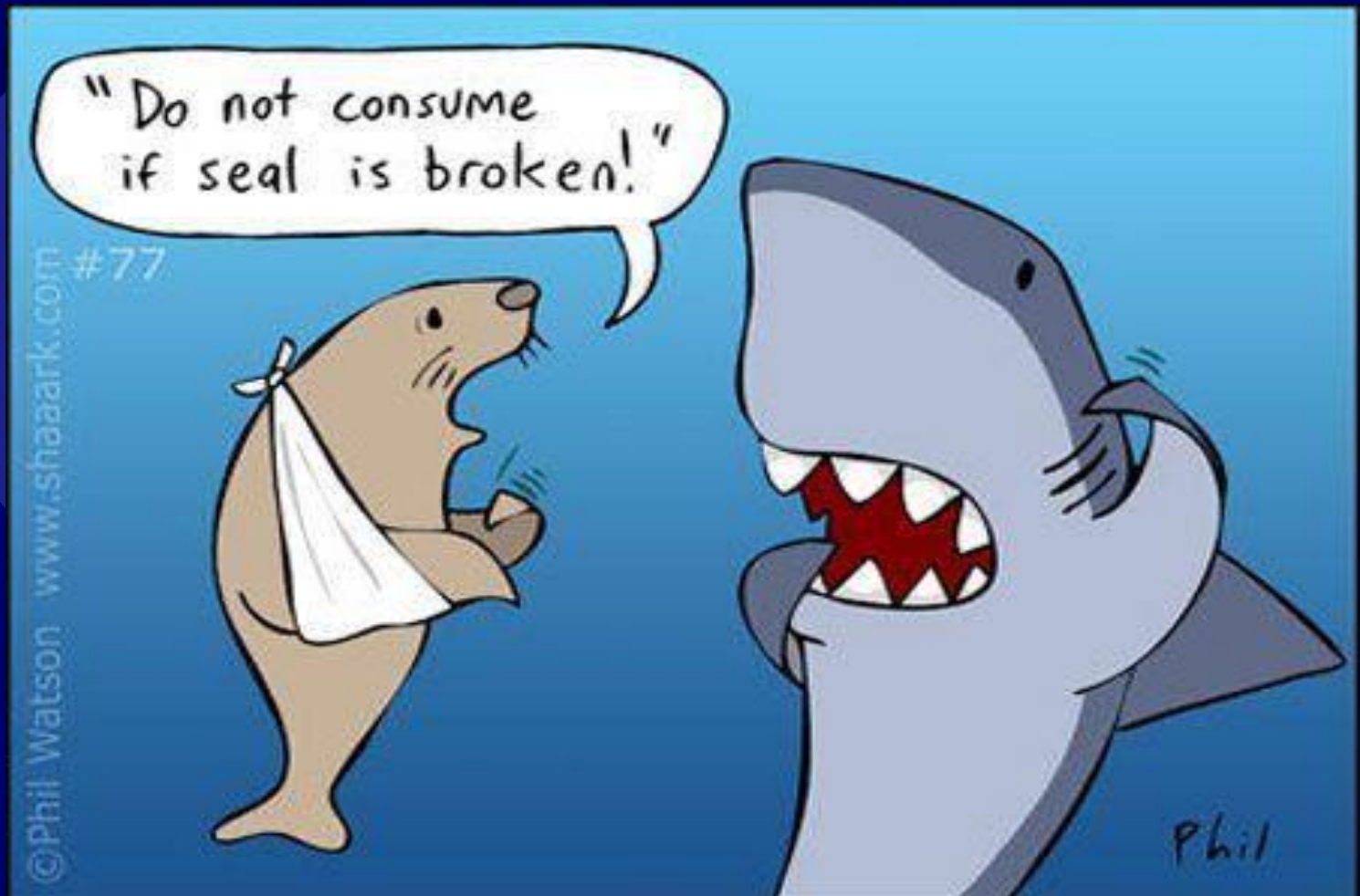
What words in verses 4 & 9 represent the same Hebrew word?

Daniel 12:4

But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end.

To seal something?

Seal meanings



The Wise are Watchful

Verse 4

But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end.

To seal something?

- **To keep it a secret** (Rev 22:10)

Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near.

The Wise are Watchful

Verse 4

But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end.

To seal something?

- **To validate it** (1 Kings 21:8)

So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, placed his seal on them, and sent them to the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth's city with him.

The Wise are Watchful

Verse 4

But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end.

To seal something?

- **To honour and guard it** (Isaiah 8:16)

Bind up this testimony of warning and seal up
God's instruction among my disciples.

“close and seal ... till the end-time” ??

☐ Keep it secret?

Teach it (only) during end-time(s)

☐ Keep it signed?

Affirm its validity for end-time(s)

☐ Keep it secure?

Guard it closely for end-time(s)



The Wise do not Understand everything

- ★ V6: One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?”
- ★ V7: “It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed.”
- ★ V8: “I heard, but I did not understand.”



What's the difference
between $29\frac{1}{2}$ and $13\frac{1}{4}$?

What's the Difference?!!

- ★ **Verse 11:** From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.
- ★ **Verse 12:** Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.



The promise of Resurrection Daniel 12:2-3

- ★ The Wise are Watchful (verse 4)
 - ★ They seal God's promise in their hearts
- ★ The Wise do not understand everything (verses 6-8)
 - ★ They do not know how long the suffering continues
- ★ The Wise Walk on faithfully to the End (verse 9,13)



Daniel 12

The Wise Watch and Walk on

“As for you, go your way till the end.
You will rest, and then at the end of
the days you will rise to receive your
allotted inheritance.”

Questions or Comments?



Group Discussion Questions

"Earth has no sorrow which heaven cannot heal." The hope of heaven helps people face up to their sufferings bravely. But it is a hope which has also been criticised as a theology which avoids the need to fight humanitarian problems whilst still here on earth.

- ✦ What do you think? Is the hope of heaven helpful or harmful?
- ✦ Do you know anyone who has been helped by the promise of heaven to endure bravely suffering, illness and death?

A Modern “Problem”

★ What’s the difference?

- ★ 1,290 days ? (Daniel 12:11)
- ★ 1,335 days ? (Daniel 12:12)
- ★ 2,300 evening-mornings ? (Daniel 8:14)
- ★ compare 1,260 days (Revelation 11:3; 12:6) !

A Modern “Problem”

★ What’s the difference?

Some “Guesses”

- Time needed to restore and purify the temple of Jerusalem properly after the tyrant’s removal?
- 1290 = temple rededication; 1335 = death of Antiochus ?
- $1290 = 1335 = 1260$ in different calendars ?
- Later revisions as the days went by?
- $1290 + 1335 = 2625$ years from 167 BC to the End?!!
- The need to persevere a little bit longer?

The Emphasis of Daniel 12

★ However long it will be, **WALK ON (12:9,13) faithfully TO THE END.**

- ★ Be Wise
- ★ Be Watchful
- ★ and Walk on to the end

Questions or Comments?





Additional Slides

“close and seal ... till the end-time”?

- ★ Keep it secret? **Teach it (only) during end-time(s)**
 - Daniel 12:4,9; Rev 22:10
 - But how would “hide it” make sense in history?
- ★ Keep it signed? **Affirm its validity for end-time(s)**
 - 1 Kings 21:8; Daniel 8:26
 - How would “confirm it” make sense in Dan 12:4,9?
 - Note: This meaning cannot make sense in Rev 22:10.
- ★ Keep it secure? **Guard it closely for end-time(s)**
 - Isaiah 8:16; Daniel 8:26
 - How would “preserve it” make sense in Dan 12:4,9?
 - Note: This meaning cannot make sense in Rev 22:10.

The Challenge of Daniel 12

- ✦ A call to be Wise
- ✦ A call to be Watchful



- **Verse 4:** Keep this message from God secure till those final days of the tyrant's reign of terror.
- **Verse 9:** Press on faithfully, for God's message remains secure till those final days of terror.

Questions or Comments?



End