

The book of Revelation shows the (first-century) fulfillment of Daniel's prophecies

© Evert van Voorthuizen, September 2023.

Email: preteristadvocate@gmail.com.

Bible Version

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(Note: All underlining of Scripture quotations for emphasis has been added by the author.)

Revelation 22:10:

And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near."

What John is directed to do here is the exact opposite to what Daniel was told some 600 years earlier:

Daniel 12:4:

"But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. ..."

Daniel had earlier been told to seal up one of his visions because it concerned the distant future:

Daniel 8:26:

"The vision ... that has been told is true, but seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now."

(Daniel's eighth chapter predicts the rise of the Medo-Persian Empire; its conquest by Alexander, whose own Empire would split into four lesser kingdoms; finally, the rise of Antiochus Epiphanes [who ruled 175-164 BC].

Thus, for the most part Daniel's vision concerned events a very long way off.)

The directive to Daniel is reiterated in **Daniel 12:9**:

He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end."

Daniel's visions would remain "shut up and sealed" — their meaning hidden — "until the time of the end."

As Kurt Simmons notes, concerning the sealing in Daniel 12:4:

*"[Daniel's] message was to remain unclear and obscure until the time neared for its fulfillment."*¹

Daniel's prophecies concerned (among other things):

- the "latter days" and "time of the end" (2:28; 8:17, 19; 10:14; 11:40; 12:4, 9) — what would transpire in the time of the third and fourth empires.
- the coming of the messianic kingdom in the time of the fourth empire (2:44-45; 7:13-27).
- the Tribulation (12:1).
- the resurrection and judgment of the dead (12:2).
- Israel's fate in the latter days (10:14): the nation's destruction (9:26b; 12:7).

¹ Kurt M. Simmons, *Adumbrations* (Carlsbad, NM: Biblical Publishing Company, 2009), p. 296.

John's visions concerned many of the same events that Daniel had foretold, but now the time for fulfillment was fast approaching. Accordingly, John's prophecies were NOT to be sealed up. All of John's visions were to be fulfilled very soon (Rev 1:1, 3; 22:6, 10).

The following are common to the prophecies of Daniel and John:

1. Both Daniel and John see "one like a son of man" (Dan 7:13; Rev 1:13; 14:14):
In Daniel, he ascends "with the clouds of heaven" into God's presence to be invested with divine authority (Dan 7:13-14). Daniel here is foretelling Jesus' ascension and heavenly coronation.
In Revelation, Jesus (having already ascended) now reigns from heaven and is about to return "with the clouds" as Judge (Rev 1:7; 22:7, 12, 20).
2. Both anticipate the coming of God's kingdom:
In Daniel, this comes during the time of the fourth empire — that of Rome (Dan 2:44-45; 7:13-27).
In Revelation, God's kingdom is about to come with irresistible power (Rev 11:15-18; cf. Mk 9:1).
3. Both show opposition to Christ's rule and persecution of his people.
Daniel's "little horn" (Dan 7:8), which arises during the time of the fourth kingdom,² is to be equated with the Beast of Revelation:
He blasphemes God; the "saints" are handed over to him for 3½ years (Dan 7:21, 25; Rev 13:5-7).³
4. Daniel anticipates the Tribulation; John depicts it as imminent (Dan 12:1; Rev 3:10; cf. Mt 24:21).
5. Both anticipate the 70 AD demise of Jerusalem and the Jewish nation (Dan 9:26b; 12:7; Rev 11:8; 18:9-10).
6. Both anticipate the resurrection and judgment of the dead (Dan 12:2; Rev 20:11-15).
7. Both anticipate the saints reigning with Christ in the messianic kingdom (Dan 7:18, 22, 27; Rev 5:10; 22:5).

Daniel was shown the distant future: his prophecies were to be sealed and their meaning kept hidden.

John saw what was about to be fulfilled: his prophecies were not to be sealed up, for their meaning would soon be evident.

² This fourth beast is the fourth kingdom (Dan 7:7, 17) — the Roman Empire.

³ The horn and beast refer to Nero, whose persecution began around November 64 AD and continued until his death in June 68.