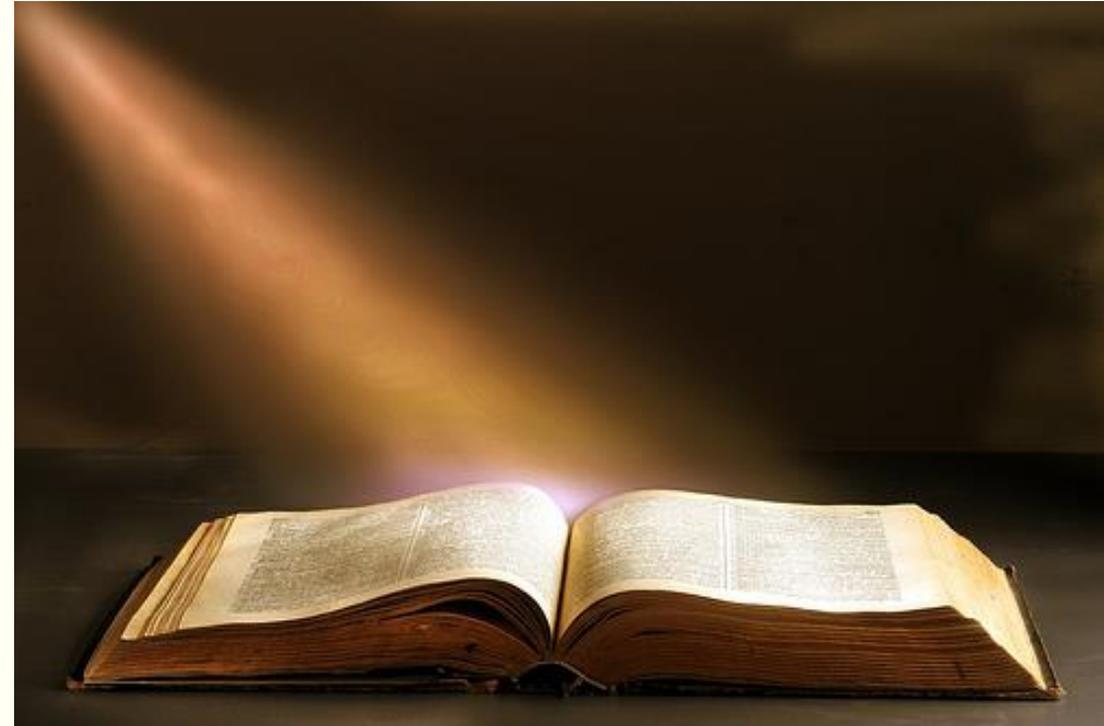
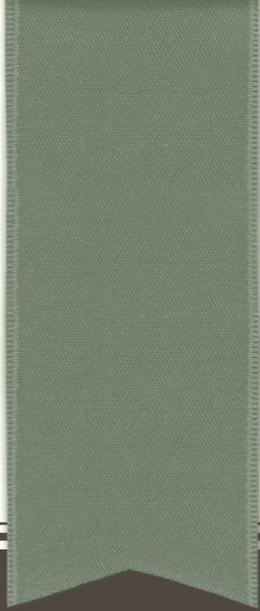


Exploring the Book of Revelation: Verse by Verse

Chapter 10





CHAPTER 10

The Open Little Scroll

Chapter 10



Primary purpose of our Bible study is to understand each message as it applied to the church to which it was given AND its personal application for us today

The mighty angel

The open little scroll

Time of the End

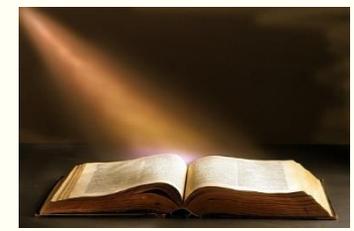
The mystery of God

Eating of the scroll

The Great Disappointment

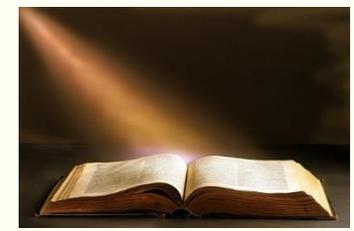
2300-day time prophecy

Revelation 10:1-4



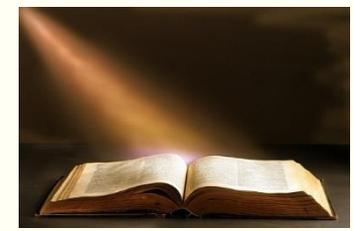
1 I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. 2 He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, 3 and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. 4 Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them.”

Revelation 10:5-7



5 The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven 6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, 7 but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

Revelation 10:8-11



8 Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, “Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth.”

9 So I went to the angel and said to him, “Give me the little book.” And he said to me, “Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth.”

10 Then I took the little book out of the angel’s hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.

11 And he said to me, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.”

The mighty angel

Revelation 10 is an interlude chapter between the 6th and 7th trumpets

Follows the same pattern as the vision of the seven seals

The “mighty” (Greek – Ischuros) angel, is similar to “strong” angel in Rev 5:2

Both proclaim with a loud voice

Both angels are involved with heavenly scrolls

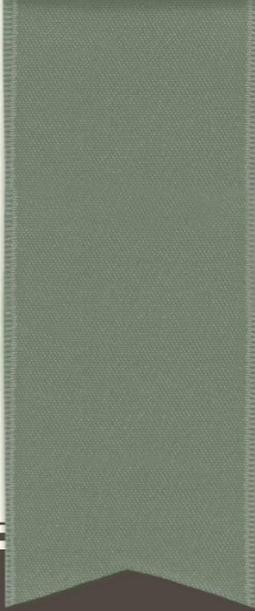
This mighty angel of exalted rank bears similar appearance to Christ. He functions as the **full representation and authority of Christ**

- Comes from the very presence of God
- Clothed in a cloud, like the appearance of Jesus (Rev 1:7)
- Has the sign of God’s covenant - a rainbow over his head (Ezekiel 1:28)
- Face is like the sun (Rev 1:16)
- Feet like pillars of fire (Rev 1:15)
- Voice of God that roars like a lion (Hos 11:9-10)

Evidence points to this being a representation of Jesus Himself

The little book (scroll) is already opened when the mighty angel descends from heaven, implying it was previously sealed before opened by Christ





“The mighty angel who instructed John was no less a personage than Jesus Christ. Setting His right foot on the sea, and His left upon the dry land, shows the part which He is acting in the closing scenes of the great controversy with Satan. This position denotes His supreme power and authority over the whole earth. The controversy had waxed stronger and more determined from age to age, and will continue to do so, to the concluding scenes when the masterly working of the powers of darkness shall reach their height. Satan, united with evil men, will deceive the whole world and the churches who receive not the love of the truth. But the mighty angel demands attention. He cries with a loud voice. He is to show the power and authority of His voice to those who have united with Satan to oppose the truth.”

Bible Commentary, Volume 7, page 971

The open little scroll

The Greek word for book or scroll (biblos, biblion, or bibliaridion) is used interchangeably in the book of Revelation

The Greek word for **little book** in Rev 10:2, 8 is similar to the book of life in Rev 3:5, 13:8

Placing his right foot on the sea and left foot on the land suggests the universality and the wide extent of the message proclaimed by the angel similar to the angels in Rev 14 and Rev 18

The angel's roaring cry is immediately followed by the sound of the seven thunders, which are not merely thunderings, but with a message

The sound of thunder is symbolic of the voice of God giving a divine global warning with fullness and totality

John was prohibited from writing down the message for they were to be sealed. This contrasts with previous instructions for John to write down what he sees and hears (Rev 1:11)

Some revelations are relevant and disclosed for God's people to understand, and others must remain a mystery for a time, for the knowledge only belongs to God

“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.” – Deut 29:29

Paul had a similar experience when he was caught up to the third heaven and heard inexpressible words which he was not allowed to utter (2 Cor 12:4)



The mystery of God

The **mystery of God** is His hidden purpose, secret counsel or will concerning His people and their future some of which He has revealed through His prophets

It refers to the gospel of the kingdom which will be preached to all nations, specifically regarding God's plan of redemption and His dealings with the sin problem and His coming kingdom of glory

Part of this mystery has already been revealed through the gospel because of Jesus and what He has done on the cross

“Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the **revelation of the mystery** kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations.” – Rom 16:25-26

“The **mystery** which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the **glory of this mystery** among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”
Col 1:26-27



The mystery concerning the future is now being revealed to God's people in the open little scroll, not to satisfy their curiosity, but to help them prepare for the last day events

The mystery will reach its full completion at the Second coming of Jesus Christ

Time of the end vs. the End of time

Revelation 10:1-7 also answers the question in Daniel 12:4-7

“But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and **seal the book until the time of the end**; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.” – Dan 12:4

“And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the **time of the end.**”
Dan 12:9

“How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?” – Dan 12:6

Persecution of the saints during the Dark Ages for 1260 years is over (time, times and half a time)

The little book that is open in Rev 10 is the one that was sealed in Daniel 12

The time period from 1798 AD until Jesus coming is referred to as “the time of the end”

The prophecies of Daniel can now be understood as Daniel’s sealed book is now open

The angel swears that there should no longer be delay (Greek – chronos) meaning “time”

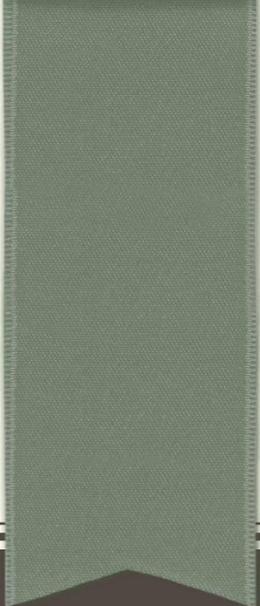
Eschatological (end-time) events will now begin to unfold and there will be no more time prophecies

His oath is also by the Creator of the heaven, earth and sea

The mystery of God would only be finished at the sounding of the seventh angel trumpet – **end of time**

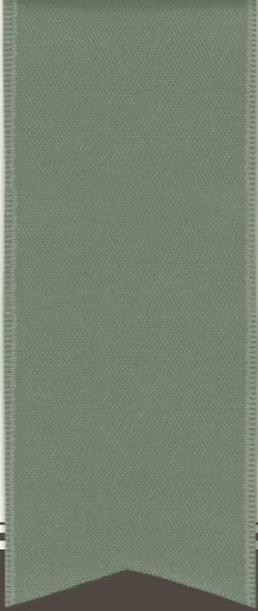
“But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the **end of the days.**” – Dan 12:13





“After these seven thunders uttered their voices, the injunction comes to John as to Daniel in regard to the little book: “Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered.” These relate to future events which will be disclosed in their order. Daniel shall stand in his lot at the end of the days. John sees the little book unsealed. Then Daniel's prophecies have their proper place in the first, second, and third angels' messages to be given to the world. The unsealing of the little book was the message in relation to time. The books of Daniel and the Revelation are one. One is a prophecy, the other a revelation; one a book sealed, the other a book opened. John heard the mysteries which the thunders uttered, but he was commanded not to write them. ”

“This time, which the angel declares with a solemn oath, is not the end of this world's history, neither of probationary time, but of prophetic time, which should precede the advent of our Lord. That is, the people will not have another message upon definite time. After this period of time, reaching...to 1844, there can be no definite tracing of the prophetic time. The longest reckoning reaches to the autumn of 1844.”



“As the 1260 years were coming to a close in 1798, there was a definite fulfillment of the prophecy. The books of Daniel and Revelation had become known as closed books, but at the beginning of the 19th century, men from different places in the world began to write and preach about the prophecies of Daniel: Joseph Wolff in Palestine, Edward Irving in England, Manuel De Lacunza in South America, and William Miller in the United States. They all preached that the prophecy in Daniel 8 and 9 showed that Jesus was coming back in 1844.”

Revelation - Pure and Simple, page 137-138

Eating of the scroll

Following the angel's solemn announcement, John is again instructed from heaven to take the little book from the hand of the angel

No longer a passive spectator, he obeys immediately and asks for the little book

“But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Do not be rebellious like that rebellious house; **open your mouth and eat what I give you.** Now when I looked, there was a hand stretched out to me; and behold, a **scroll of a book** was in it.” – Ezekiel 2:8-9

“Moreover, He said to me, “Son of man, eat what you find; **eat this scroll,** and go, speak to the house of Israel.” So, I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll. And He said to me, “Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you.” So, I ate, and it was in my mouth **like honey in sweetness.**” – Ezekiel 3:1-3

Like Prophet Ezekiel, John is instructed to eat the book, and experiences sweetness in his mouth and bitterness in his stomach (Ezekiel 3:14)

The Bible speaks often about the sweetness of God's Word, which is sweeter than honey (Ps 119:103, Jer 15:16)

Eating the little book means to mentally internalize, comprehend and digest the truth

The gospel is good news to the hearer; for it is about a God who loves, cares and is in control. Proclaiming the gospel can become a bittersweet experience for God's messenger who often faces disappointment, rejection, resistance, persecution, and sometimes death from those hostile to it



The Great Disappointment

Check out the YouTube video on <https://youtu.be/nH2r0J5VbL4>

William Miller was a prosperous farmer and Baptist lay preacher from New York. He felt called by God to share the message of the Second Advent (coming) of Jesus in 1831

Following two years of verse-by-verse Bible study, William discovered the 2300-day prophecy of Dan 8:14 and believed that the cleansing of the sanctuary represented the cleansing of the earth by destruction at Christ's second coming

Over 75 scholars and Bible writers in three continents also believed as Miller did that the prophecy was going to be fulfilled in the 1840's. He was joined by thousands of clergy and lay people to proclaim the message.

A revival began as the message began to spread rapidly, resulting in Second Advent movement with believers from every denomination in the US, Canada, UK, Norway, India, Asia, Chile and as far as Australia

By 1843, one in every 17 American joined the Second Advent movement. The message enveloped the globe.

Miller narrowed the date to somewhere between March 21, 1843 and March 21, 1844

When the date passed with no incident, more study led the Millerites to preach that October 22, 1844 was the date Jesus was expected to return. The message was sweet as honey to those who believed.

However, the tremendous revival ended in a great disappointment. Leaders and followers were bitter and disillusioned, and many left the faith. Many scoffed, ridiculed and misrepresented the Millerites.

Post the Great Disappointment, three main Millerite groups formed. One of the groups (smallest) still believed the October 22 date was correct, but that a significantly different event took place on that day.

They turned back to the Bible and **finally understood that the sanctuary to be cleansed was not earth**, but the sanctuary in heaven. Jesus, our High Priest on that day had moved from the Holy Place to commence His work of judgment in the Most Holy Place. Out of this group, the Seventh-day Adventist church arose.

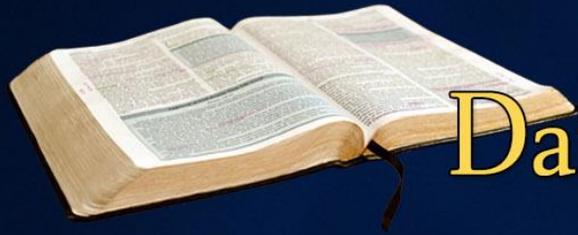




Tell the World - The Great Disappointment

“Seventh-day Adventist Christians have seen in Revelation 10 a special prophetic significance for their life and mission. In John’s bittersweet experience, they have seen what is known as the Great Disappointment experienced by the Millerite movement in 1844. Under the leadership of William Miller, a Baptist lay preacher and revivalist, a large group gathered from different Protestant denominations, concluded mistakenly that the Second Coming would occur in the fall of 1844. The expectation grew as the believers shared the message they believed and made thorough preparation for the end. When the coming of Christ did not take place, the disappointed Millerites experienced in different ways the bitter taste of the message they believed and shared. Although disappointed, some of them found in John’s visionary experience the explanation of their disappointment. In John’s eating of the scroll they saw the symbol, and even the prophecy, of their own experience. Since then, in Christ’s commission to John to “prophesy again” to many people, nations, tongues, and kings, Adventists have seen the commissioning of God’s end-time church to proclaim the message of the Second coming to those who dwell on the earth and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people (Rev 14:6). When the proclaimed gospel message is heard by the whole world, then the end will come, and earth’s history will reach its conclusion.”

REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST,
COMMENTARY ON THE BOOK OF REVELATION, PAGE 340



Daniel 8:14

“For two thousand three hundred days;
then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.”



2300 Days



The Longest Time Prophecy – 2300 years

The book of Daniel can be broken into two sections:

Chapter 1- 7

Chapter 8 – 12

Chapter 1 – 7 span the historical account from when Daniel and his friends were taken into captive in Babylon from Judah to the end of the 1260 years time prophecy in Daniel 7 in **1798 AD**

3rd year of Jehoiakim – the second son of King Josiah (I Chron 3:15) Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon went to war with Pharaoh-nechoh of Egypt and besieged Jerusalem in 605 BC (Dan 1:11, Jer 25:1)

Daniel 2 and 7 predicts the rise and fall of world empires

Head of Gold/Lion (Babylon) 605-539 BC

Chest of Silver/Bear (Medes and Persians) 539-331 BC

Thighs of Bronze/Leopard (Greece) 331-168 BC

Leg of Iron/Dreadful beast (Pagan Roman Empire) 168 BC-476 AD

Ten toes of Iron mixed with clay/Ten horns (Roman Empire divided) 476 AD - 538 AD

Little horn (Papal Rome rule & persecution of God's people for 1260 years) 538 AD - 1798 AD



The Longest Time Prophecy – 2300 years

A vision of the judgment scene in heaven is shown in Daniel 7:9-28

“I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.
Daniel 7:21-22

The judgment (investigation, verdict and execution) begins after 1798 AD

The records of all who have professed the name of Jesus are examined

The investigation ends when God pronounces a sentence in favor of the saints. Jesus receives the kingdom and comes to deliver His saints and give them their reward

“Every case had been decided for life or death. While Jesus had been ministering in the sanctuary, the [investigative] judgment had been going on for the righteous dead, and then for the righteous living. Christ had received His kingdom, having made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins. The subjects of the kingdom were made up. The marriage of the Lamb was consummated. And the kingdom, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, was given to Jesus and the heirs of salvation, and Jesus was to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.”

Early Writings, page 280



The Longest Time Prophecy – 2300 years

The Book of Daniel was written in two languages:

Chapter 1 (Hebrew)	}	1 st section
Chapter 2-7 (Aramaic)		
Chapter 8-12 (Hebrew)		2 nd section

It was not the entire book of Daniel that was sealed. Chapter 1-7 was not sealed as most of it was well understood even by Hippolytus, church father, 3rd century AD

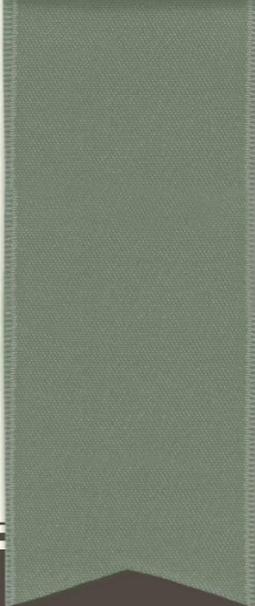
The Seventy-weeks time prophecy in 2nd section (Chapter 8-12) was also understood

It was the 2300-days time prophecy which referred to the time of the end (beyond 1798 AD) in the second section which was sealed

God commanded John to seal the message concerning the 2300-days and the heavenly pre-advent judgment until the time of the end as this is when the message that the hour of God's judgment can be proclaimed (Rev 14:6-7)

“...but he said to me, “Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end...and the vision of the evenings and mornings which was told is true; Therefore, seal up the vision, for it refers to many days in the future.” – Dan 8:17,26





“In speaking of a ‘lioness from the sea’, he [Daniel] meant the rising of the kingdom of Babylon and that this was the ‘golden head of the image’ . . . Then after the lioness he sees a second beast, ‘like a bear’, which signified the Persians. For after the Babylonians the Persians obtain the power. And in saying that ‘it had three ribs in its mouth’, he pointed to the three nations, Persians, Medes, and Babylonians, which were expressed in the image by the silver after the gold. Then comes the third beast, ‘a leopard’, which means the Greeks; for after the Persians, Alexander of Macedon had the power, when Darius was overthrown, which was also indicated by the brass in the image. And in saying that the beast ‘had four wings of a fowl, and four heads’, he showed most clearly how the kingdom of Alexander was parted into four divisions. For in speaking of four heads, he meant the four kings that arose out of it. For Alexander, when dying, divided his kingdom into four parts. Then he says, ‘the fourth beast (was) dreadful and terrible: it had iron teeth, and claws of brass’. Who, then, are meant by this but the Romans, whose kingdom, the kingdom that still stands, is expressed by the iron? ‘For’, says he, ‘its legs are of iron.’”

Hippolytus, Church father (3rd century AD)
The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers, Vol 1, page 272

The Longest Time Prophecy – 2300 years

“And he said to me, “For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.”
Daniel 8:14

The vision of Daniel 8 spans the time from the ram (Medo-Persia) to the end of the 2300 prophetic days when the cleansing of the sanctuary begins

The vision begin in the time of the Persian kingdom when Babylon would still reign for 12 more years

Dan 8 vision uses domestic sanctuary animals instead of beasts of prey in Dan 7

The ram was used in the daily sanctuary service, and the goat was used in the yearly sanctuary service

The central theme of Daniel 8 is the daily (Greek – Tamiyd) and the yearly services of the sanctuary

The starting point of the 2300-days time prophecy is given in Dan 9 because Daniel was overwhelmed and got sick before Gabriel was able to finish explaining the entire vision (Dan 8:27).

The 2300-day prophecy begin in the year 457 BC during the kingdom of Persia (Artaxerxes decree)

The first 490 years = Seventy-week time prophecy predicting the coming of the Messiah

Gabriel completes the explanation of the vision in Dan 11 beginning again with Persia in 457 BC through to the Second Coming when Christ sets up His everlasting kingdom

When Gabriel finishes explaining the vision, he instructs Daniel to close the book and seal it until the time of the end (Dan 12:4, 9). This sealed book is open in Revelation 10.



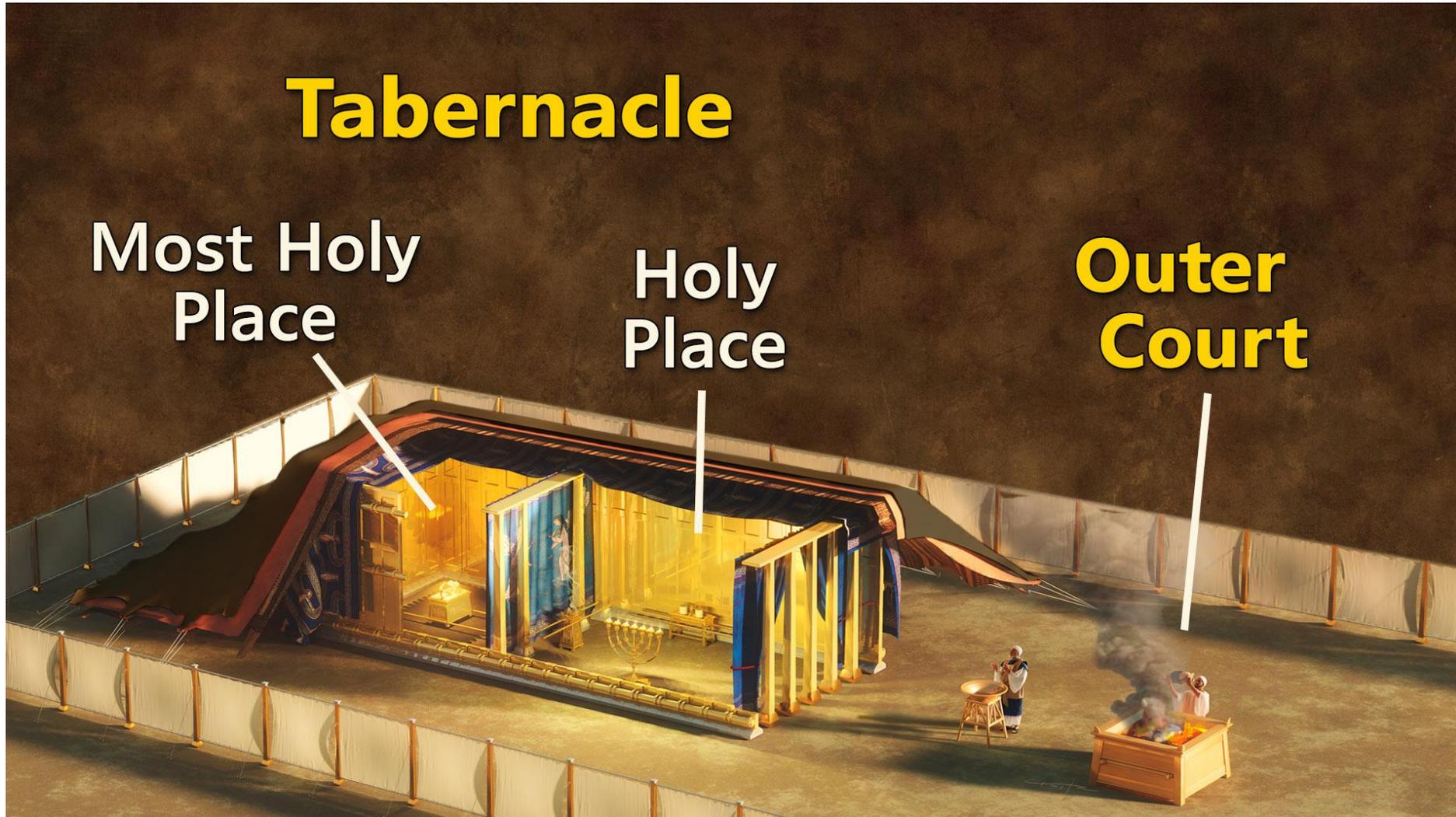
1 prophetic
day
=
1 literal
year

Tabernacle

Most Holy Place

Holy Place

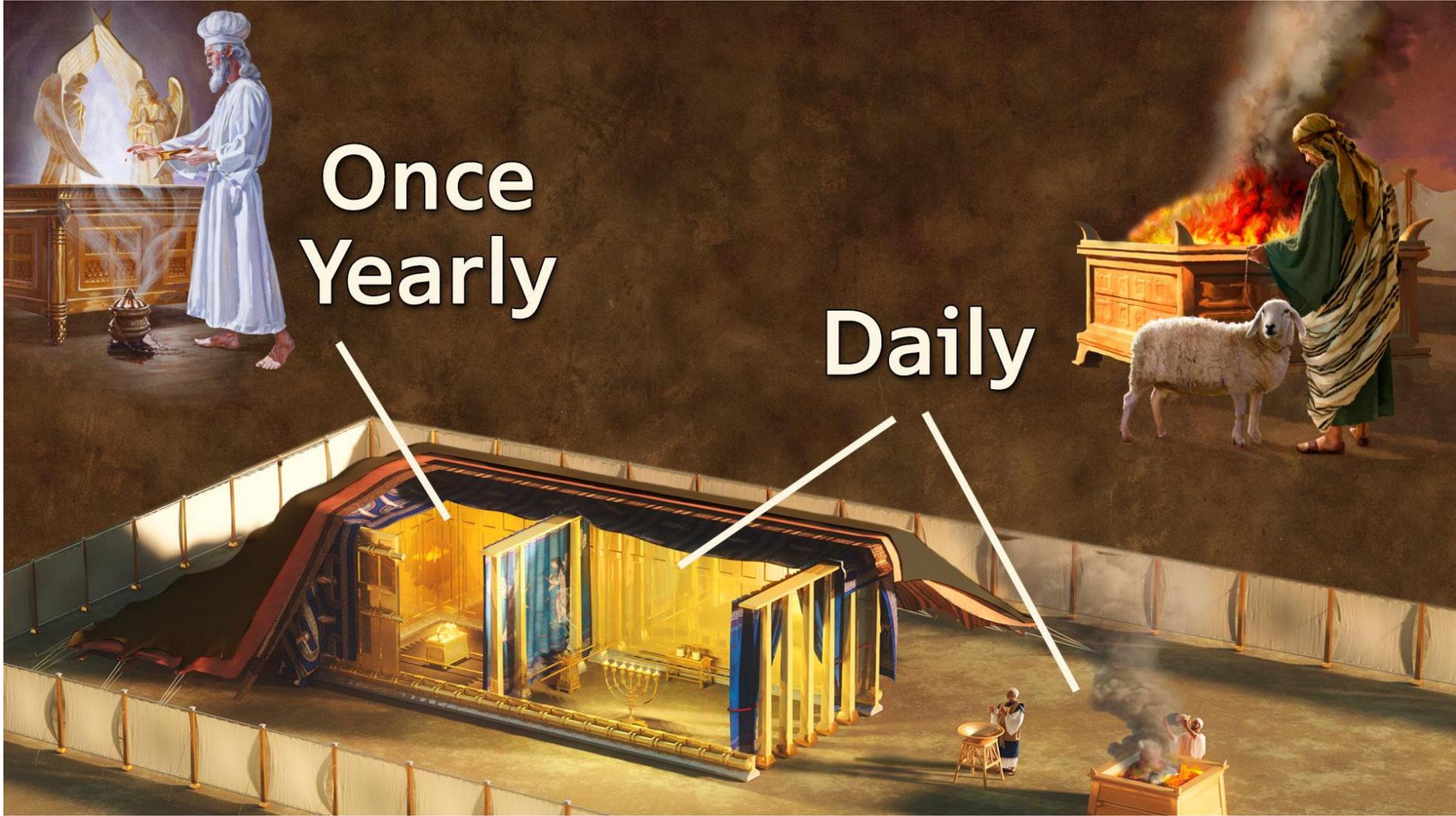
Outer Court







**Day of
Atonement**
(Day of Judgment)
**(The Cleansing of
the Sanctuary)**



Once
Yearly

Daily

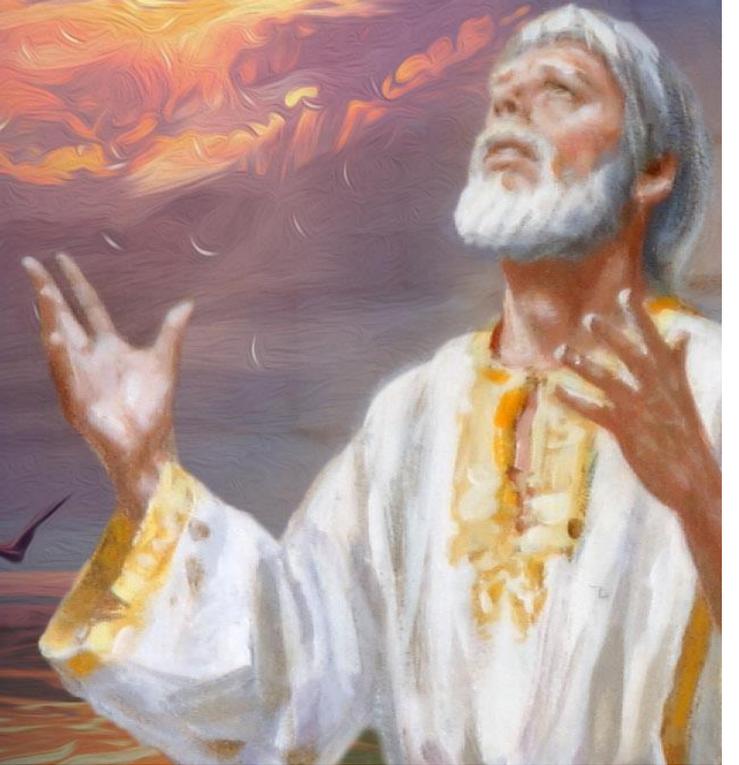


The Day of Atonement was an illustration of God's judgment in the heavenly sanctuary that will occur just before Jesus comes again.



Daniel 7:9, 10

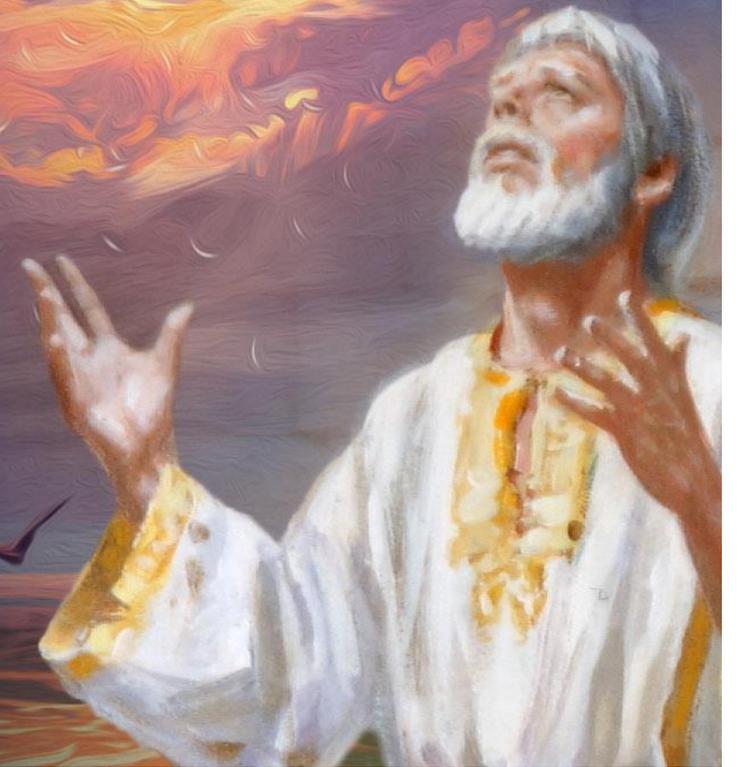
“I watched till thrones
were put in place, and
the Ancient of Days was
seated; His garment was
white as snow,





Daniel 7:9, 10

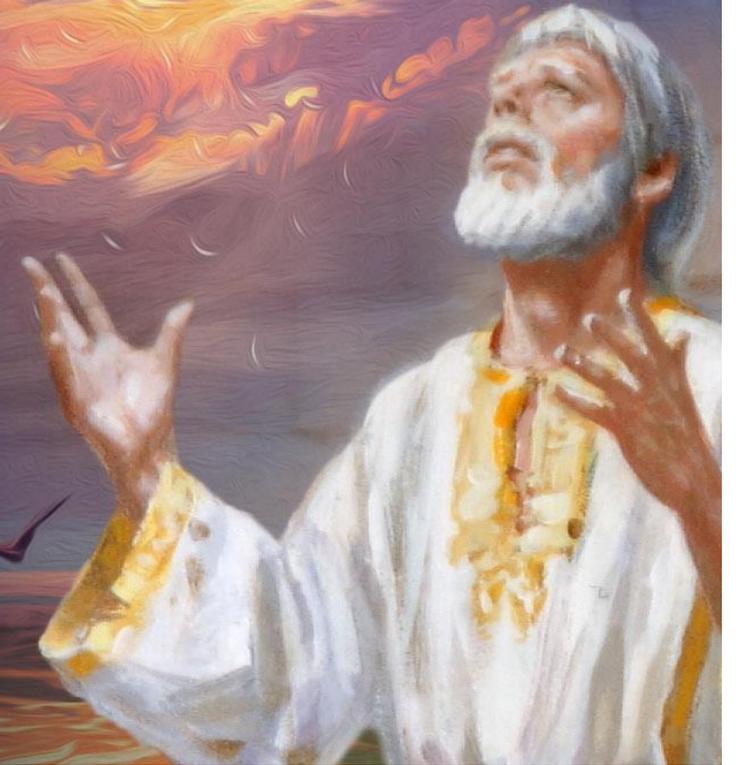
and the hair of His head
was like pure wool. His
throne was a fiery flame,
its wheels a burning fire;

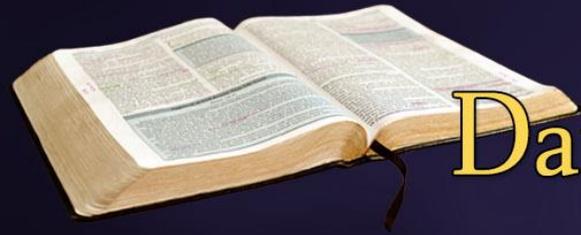




Daniel 7:9, 10

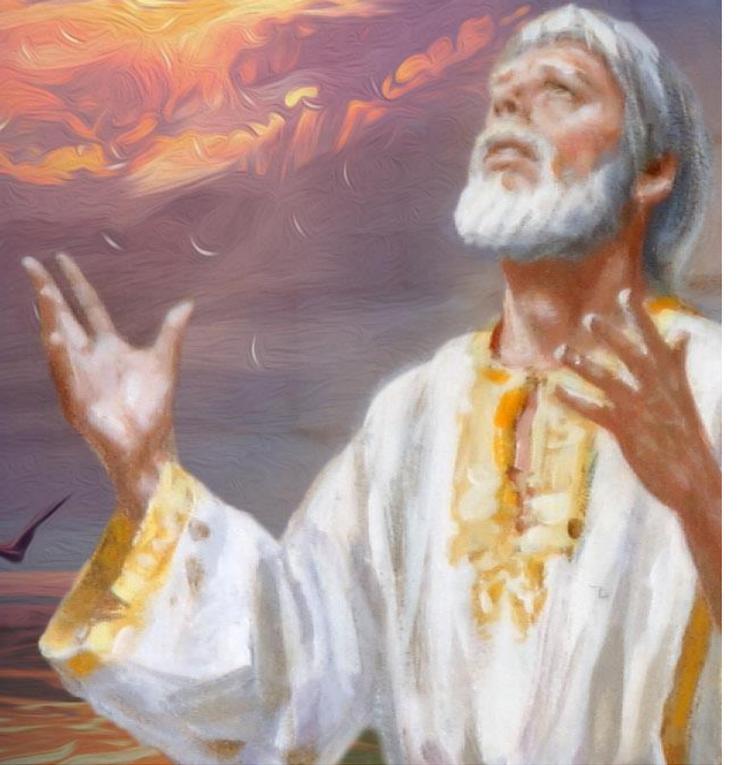
A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.





Daniel 7:9, 10

The court was seated,
And the books were
opened.”





Daniel 8:16, 17

“Gabriel, make this man understand the vision.’”

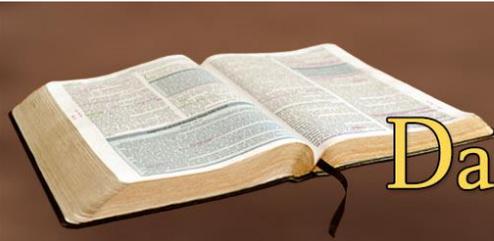




Daniel 8:16, 17

So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me,





Daniel 8:16, 17

‘Understand, son of man,
that the vision refers to
the time of the end.’”





Ezekiel 4:6

“I have laid on you a day
for each year.”

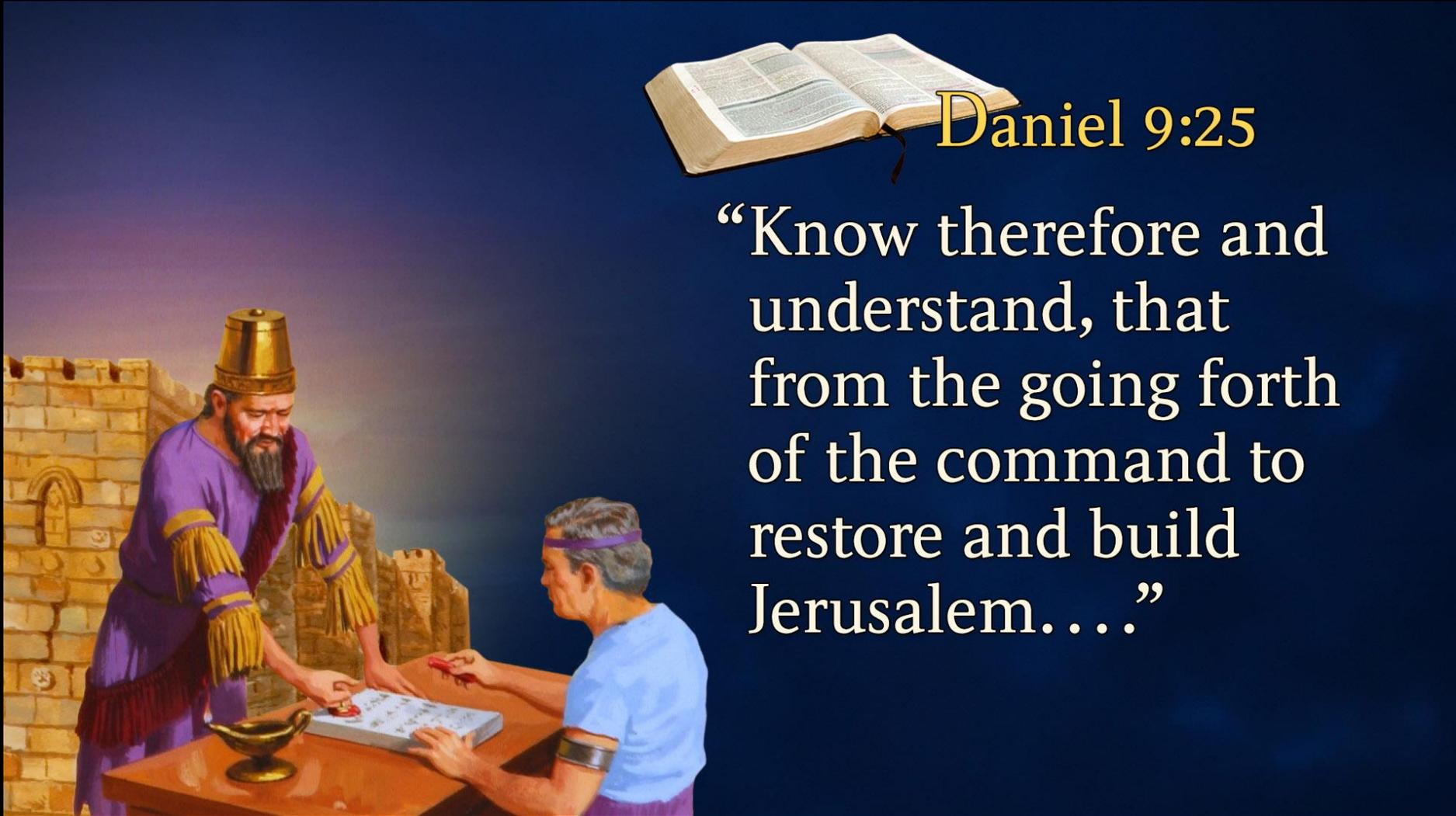
**2300 prophetic days equals
2300 literal years.**





Daniel 9:25

“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem....”





Daniel 9:25

“until **Messiah** the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks.”

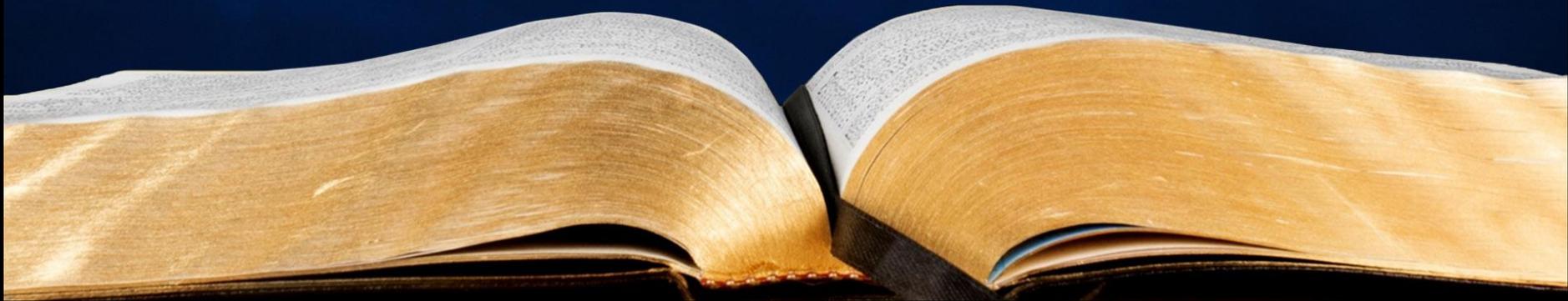
“**Messiah**” means
“**The Anointed One.**”





Daniel 9:27

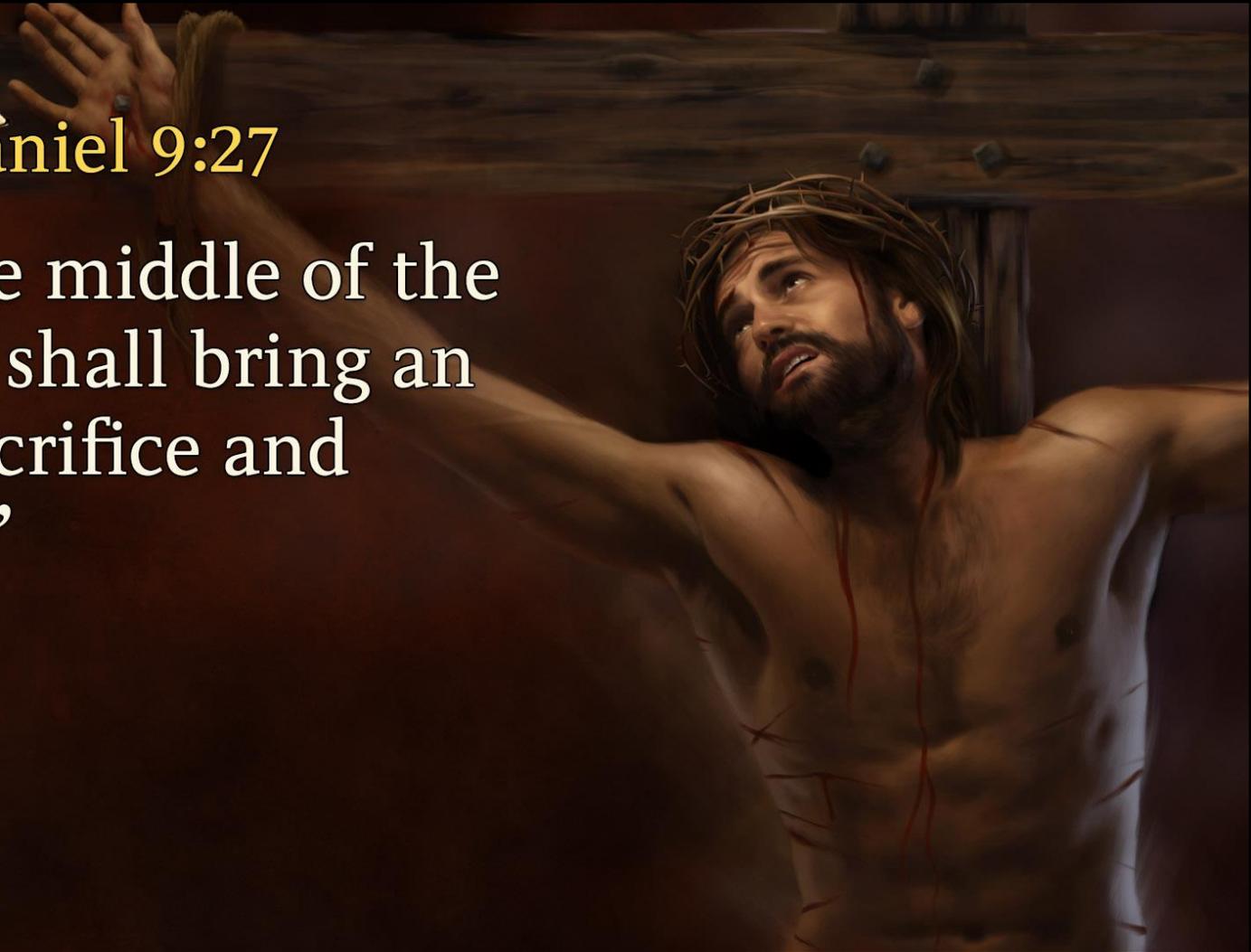
“Then he shall confirm a covenant
with many for one week ...”





Daniel 9:27

but in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.”



2300 Prophetic Days/Literal Years

457 B.C.

A.D. 27

A.D. 31

A.D. 34

A.D. 1844

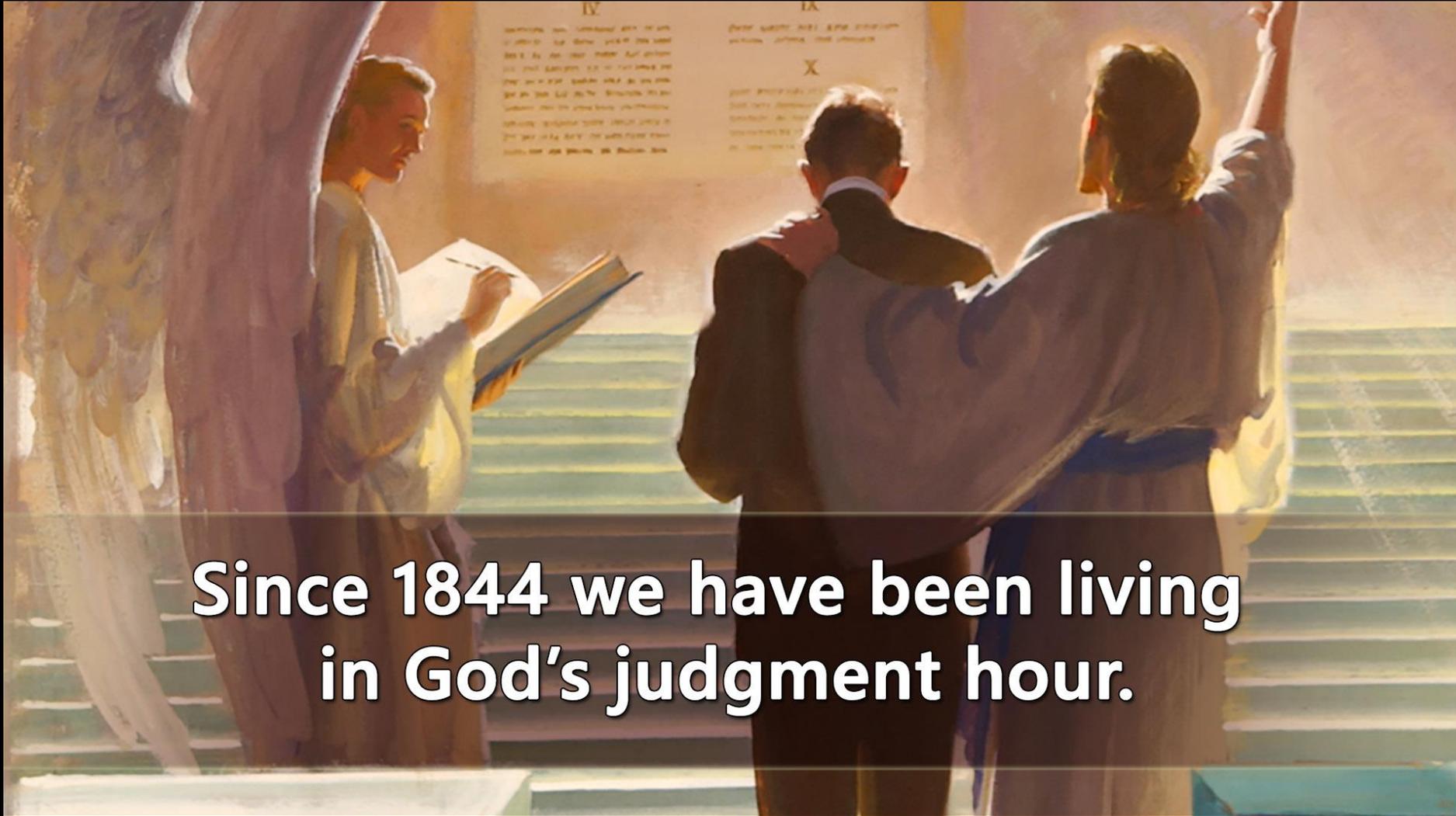




Revelation 14:7

“Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come ...”





**Since 1844 we have been living
in God's judgment hour.**

Reflections

The instruction to “prophecy again” meant the end of world had not yet come. The sealed book is open. We are now to proclaim the message to the world of the judgment hour

“Time no more” means there will be no more time prophecies beyond 1844

How should we live God’s judgment hour?

When we experience disappointment, we must always turn to God and to the Word of God

Why didn’t God reveal the truth about what would occur in 1844? Was it connected to the messages of the seven thunders? Why did God permit His people to be so bitterly disappointed?

Perhaps, to test His people, just as Jesus’ crucifixion was a test of faith for His disciples. The purpose could also be to warn the world of His second coming. If the believers had known the real meaning, they probably would never have proclaimed it as they did. More light now shone on the truth of the heavenly sanctuary and pre-advent judgment which the Protestant Reformation did not restore.

Before we can proclaim the message with conviction before peoples, nations, tongues and kings in the last days, they must first assimilate it completely

Why Rev 10 interlude between the 6th and 7th trumpet? Before the Second coming of Jesus, there will be a final universal proclamation of the everlasting gospel and judgment (Rev 14: 6-12)

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.” – Matt 24:14

John was told to prophecy again to many nations. Prophecy again about what? (Rev 10:11 – 11:1)



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