

Daniel 12:4-13 -- Conclusion to the Book

The conclusion to the section of the book of Daniel that runs through chapters 10-12 -- the only section of the book that goes beyond the limits of a single chapter -- is also a conclusion to the book as a whole. Its first verse is still part of the long monologue (11:2-12:4) of the man dressed in linen garments (cf. 10:5). Although it consists of only ten verses this conclusion presents many ideas and involves a considerable number of problems.

Since verses 4 to 12 can be better understood if arranged in accordance with the type of material, whether simply a narrative of something Daniel saw happen in his vision (N), a question someone asked (Q), a prediction (P), or a command (C), the material will be arranged in accordance with these four categories:

- Narrative
- Question
- Command
- Prediction

- C (4) "But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end" [literally, "a time of end"].
- P "Many will go here and there to increase knowledge." [better, "and knowledge shall be increased" (KJV)].
- N (5) Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank.