



# A Special MESSAGE

**Have you ever kept a secret diary? Maybe you carefully wrote down your treasured thoughts, and then locked the diary and hid it so no one else could see and read it. That is something like what happened at the end of the book of Daniel.**

- 1** What was Daniel told to do with his book?  
**Daniel 12:4** "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and \_\_\_\_\_ the book until the time of the \_\_\_\_\_; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."  
**Daniel 12:9** "And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are \_\_\_\_\_ up and \_\_\_\_\_ till the time of the end."

When a book is sealed, it cannot be understood. Let's think back to our study of Daniel. Are you glad that we can understand it, since we are living in the time of the end? How did the book of Daniel go from being a closed, sealed book to an open, understood book? That is what we will uncover in this lesson.

- 2** Where did the angel with Daniel's little book appear in Revelation?  
**Revelation 10:1, 2** "I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a \_\_\_\_\_ was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the \_\_\_\_\_ and his left foot on the \_\_\_\_\_."

**John saw a mighty Angel come down from heaven. He looked very amazing, for He was wearing a cloud and had a rainbow around His head. His feet looked like pillars of fire.**

The book of Revelation also says there is a rainbow around God's throne. (Revelation 4:3.) So this angel comes with a special message right from God's throne!

While John watched, the Angel set His right foot on the sea and His left foot on the land.

- 3** What does this mean? Think about the symbols we have learned, and draw a line from the symbol on the left to its meaning on the right.



Remember, we learned that in prophecy, the sea represents places in the world with lots of people. (Revelation 17:15.) Land represents areas of the world with only a few people. This Angel stood on both the sea (lots of people) and the land (few people) showing that what He says is for everyone living in the world. (See Revelation 10:11.)

- 4** How did John describe the Angel's clothes, face, and feet?  
**Revelation 10:1** He was "clothed with a \_\_\_\_\_."  
 "His face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of \_\_\_\_\_."



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- 5** How did God lead the Israelites out of Egypt into Canaan?  
**Exodus 13:21** "And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ to give them light, so as to go by day and night."

John saw this heavenly messenger wearing a cloud, and both of His feet looked like pillars of fire. This vision tells about a time when God was getting ready to lead His people with an important message.



- 6** What was open in the Angel's hand?  
**Revelation 10:2** "He had a little \_\_\_\_\_ open in his hand."

Remember, the angel in Daniel's vision called for a book to be closed until the time of the end. This Angel has an open book in His hand.

- 7** What was John told to do with the little book?  
**Revelation 10:8** "Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, 'Go, \_\_\_\_\_ the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth.'"

- 8** What did the Angel tell John to do with the book?  
**Revelation 10:9** "So I went to the angel and said to him, 'Give me the little book.' And he said to me, 'Take and \_\_\_\_\_ it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as \_\_\_\_\_ in your mouth.'"

- 9** Then what did John do?  
**Revelation 10:10** "Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and \_\_\_\_\_ it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became \_\_\_\_\_."



**John did not hesitate to obey, even though he was warned it would make his stomach bitter. He ate that book; and just like the Angel said, it tasted very sweet, but it gave him a very painful stomach ache.**

Maybe John remembered that the prophet Ezekiel was told to eat a scroll, and it was as sweet as honey in his mouth. (Ezekiel 3:1-3.)

- 10** When Jeremiah "ate" God's words, what did they do for him?  
**Jeremiah 15:16** "Your words were found, and I ate them, and your word was to me the \_\_\_\_\_ and rejoicing of my heart."



**Is that what God's Word is to you? Is it something you devour because it is so sweet, or could it be said that you just lick it a little every now and then? If you are not hungry for God's words, you can ask Jesus to give you that strong desire.**

So what does all this mean? Can we look back in history and find a time when studying and believing the recently-opened book of Daniel brought great joy followed by bitter disappointment? Yes!

In the early 1800s in the United States, there was a farmer named William Miller who decided to study carefully the whole Bible from beginning to end. He was especially interested in the prophecies found in Daniel and Revelation.

William Miller discovered the 2,300-day prophecy we have already studied. "For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed" (Daniel 8:14). Using the Bible to explain itself, he figured out that this long time prophecy would end around A.D. 1844, only a few years in the future.

It was commonly taught in the churches at that time that the sanctuary



symbolized the earth. William Miller assumed, then, that the cleansing of the sanctuary meant that the earth would be purified by fire at Jesus' second coming. So he began to teach that Jesus would come sometime in 1843 or 1844.

William Miller was not the only person to study the prophecies in Daniel. About the same time, people all over the world came to a similar conclusion. Eventually, many decided that October 22, 1844 was the day Jesus would come, since that was the date for Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement. This was the special

day on which the earthly sanctuary of the Israelites was cleansed every year.

William Miller and many others from different churches preached about Jesus' soon return. Those who believed Jesus was coming soon were called "Adventists," because they believed in Jesus' second coming, or "advent."

The movement spread like wildfire. As the prophecies of the book of Daniel were explained, many people repented and turned to the Lord. Thousands of people were converted. Places of amusement, drinking, and sin were turned into churches. What an amazing time it was! Surely it was a sweet message and a sweet experience.

**Remember, though, the prophecy in Revelation 10 said that this special experience would become bitter—like a really bad stomach ache.**

And this is exactly what happened. When Jesus did not return on October 22, 1844 as many expected, thousands of people were deeply disappointed.

Today, this is called the "Great Disappointment."

**11** What does Revelation 10 say would happen next?  
**Revelation 10:11**  
"And he said to me, 'You must prophesy \_\_\_\_\_ about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.'"



**After the Great Disappointment, some of those who had eagerly looked forward to Jesus' coming went back to the Bible to figure out what went wrong.**

They reviewed the 2,300-day prophecy again. And they studied what the Bible says about the sanctuary more carefully. They learned that the Bible never calls the earth a sanctuary. It only talks about two sanctuaries—the one the Israelites built in the wilderness, and the one God had built in heaven, of which the Israelite sanctuary was just a copy.



They studied Hebrews 8 and 9 and other verses that tell about the heavenly sanctuary. They realized that on October 22, 1844, Jesus had gone into the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary and started the investigative judgment. We learned about this important time of judgment in lesson 7.

As they studied Revelation 10, they realized that God still had a work for them to do to help people get ready for Jesus' soon coming. God

called them to rise from their disappointment and to prophesy again to "many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings." We are living in this special time, and we can help to finish this important work.



Let's look at another place in Revelation where we will recognize the Adventists' experience. This is Jesus' letter to the sixth church, called Philadelphia.

**12** What did Jesus say about Himself in the letter He sent to this church?  
**Revelation 3:7, 8** "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, 'He who has the key of David, He who \_\_\_\_\_ and no one shuts, and \_\_\_\_\_ and no one opens.' I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.'"



When Jesus went into the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary to start the judgment, He shut the door into the Holy Place and opened the door into the Most Holy Place.

**13** What special news did Jesus tell this church?  
**Revelation 3:11** "Behold, I am \_\_\_\_\_ quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown."

**Some of the Adventists did hold fast to their faith in Jesus, even though they had to be patient and wait since He didn't come when they thought He would.**

**14** Jesus is working for us now as our High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary. What does He want us to do?  
**Hebrews 4:14-16** "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, \_\_\_\_\_ the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come \_\_\_\_\_ to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to \_\_\_\_\_ in time of need."

Jesus promised this church, "I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth" (Revelation 3:10). All the people of that generation have died. They will not have to go through the big final test that we learned about in lesson 16. They were already tested and found to be faithful. May we also be faithful and follow Jesus wherever He leads us with His Word.

**15** Do you want to ask Jesus to help you to be faithful to Him? \_\_\_\_\_

### Answers

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|--|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. seal / end / closed / sealed        | 4. cloud / fire  | 9. ate / bitter   | 14. Jesus / boldly / help |
| 2. rainbow / sea / land                | 5. pillar / fire | 10. joy           |                           |
| 3. water: many people land: few people | 6. book          | 11. again         |                           |
|  | 7. take          | 12. opens / shuts |                           |
|  | 8. eat / honey   | 13. coming        |                           |