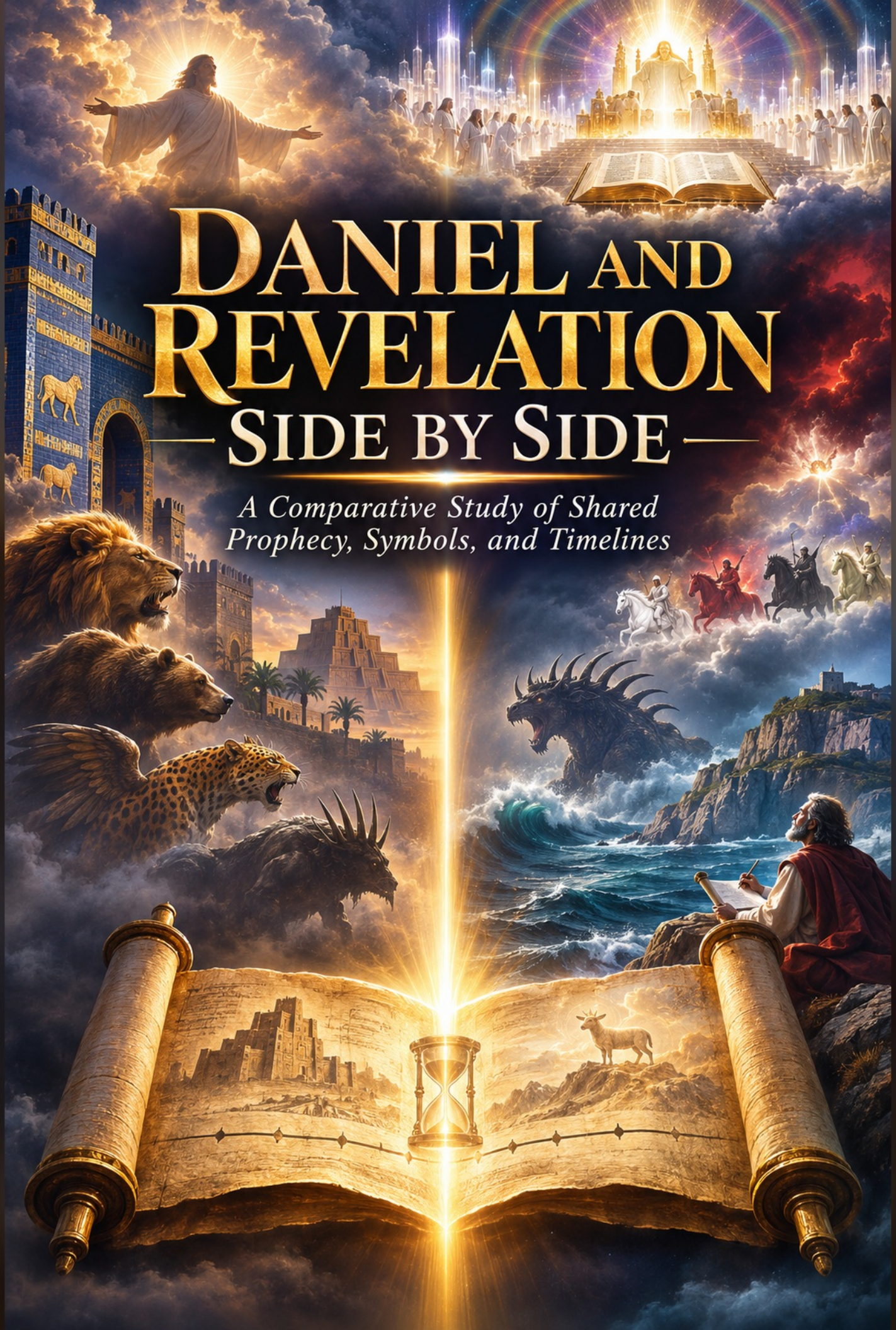

DANIEL AND REVELATION
SIDE BY SIDE
A Comparative Study of Shared Prophecy, Symbols, and Timelines

Daniel and Revelation Side by Side

A Comparative Study of Shared Prophecy, Symbols, and Timelines

A free handout from the Daniel Bible Study and the Revelation Bible Study

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Daniel and Revelation Side by Side

Daniel and Revelation were written about six hundred years apart, one by a captive in Babylon and the other by an exile on the island of Patmos. But they tell one story. Daniel watched the kingdoms of this world rise and fall and saw God's kingdom take their place. John was shown how that story ends. Many of the same pictures show up in both books, sometimes in almost the same words, and God gave them to us so that each book helps explain the other.

This section lays the two books next to each other. First come the pictures they share, each with the Daniel passage, the Revelation passage, and a few words on what the pair tells us. Then a table lines up the numbers, followed by what each book adds that the other does not, and where I stand. All Scripture here is from the Steadfast Literal Bible.

You might ask, "Why not just read each book on its own?" You can, and you should. But reading them side by side keeps us honest. When Revelation borrows a picture from Daniel, Daniel usually tells us what it means, and when Daniel leaves something sealed, Revelation often opens it.

Beasts Out of the Sea

Daniel 7:3 *And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different this from this.*

Revelation 13:1 *And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns*

Revelation 13:2 *And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and its feet like **those of** a bear, and its mouth like **the** mouth of a lion.*

Daniel saw four beasts, one after another: a lion (Babylon), a bear (Medo-Persia), a leopard (Greece), and a fourth beast so terrible he could not compare it to any animal (Rome). John sees one beast that carries the leopard, the bear, and the lion all in its body. Notice that John lists them in the opposite order. Daniel was looking forward from Babylon, and John was looking back from the other end of history. I believe this tells us the final world power gathers up everything the empires before it stood for.

Count the heads. The leopard has four, and if the lion, the bear, and the fourth beast have one each, Daniel's beasts have seven heads among them, and the fourth beast has ten horns. John's beast has seven heads and ten horns. I don't believe that is an accident.

Ten Horns, Ten Kings

Daniel 7:24 *And the ten horns: from it, the kingdom, ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the former **ones**, and he will bring low three kings.*

Revelation 17:12 *And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings for one hour along with the beast.*

Both books explain the horns for us, so we don't have to guess: they are kings. Historic Rome never ruled through ten kings at the same time, and in John's day these kings had *"not yet received a kingdom."* That is why I believe the ten horns are a future union of rulers that grows out of the old Roman world and hands its power to the Antichrist (Revelation 17:13).

A Mouth Speaking Great Things

Daniel 7:8 *eyes like the eyes of man **were** in this horn, and a mouth speaking great **things***

Daniel 7:25 *And he will speak words against the Most High, and he will wear out the holy ones of the Most High*

Revelation 13:5 *And a mouth was given to it speaking great things and blasphemies; and authority was given to it to act **for** forty-two months.*

The little horn of Daniel 7 and the beast of Revelation 13 are the same person, the one we call the Antichrist. They have the same mouth, the same boasting against God, and the same time limit. Daniel 11:36 says the same thing a third way: *"against the God of gods he will speak extraordinary things."*

Don't mix this horn up with the small horn of Daniel 8. That one came out of the Greek kingdom and was fulfilled in Antiochus IV Epiphanes in the second century B.C. He was a preview of the Antichrist, not the Antichrist himself.

War Against the Saints

Daniel 7:21 *that horn was making war with the holy ones and prevailing against them*

Revelation 13:7 *And it was given to it to make war with the saints and to overcome them*

God does not hide the hard part. For a time, the Antichrist wins. But both books tell us how long it lasts. Daniel's very next verse says it goes on only *"until the Ancient of Days came"* (Daniel 7:22), and in Revelation *"the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings"* (Revelation 17:14).

As I explain in both studies, I believe the church is caught up to meet the Lord before these years begin. The holy ones who suffer here are those who come to faith during the Tribulation, and many of them pay with their lives (Revelation 20:4). I respect believers who see the timing differently.

Three and a Half Years

Daniel 7:25 *they will be given into his hand until a time and times and half a time*

Daniel 12:7 ***it will be*** *for an appointed time, appointed times, and a half*

Revelation 12:14 *where she is nourished there a time and times and half a time*

Revelation 11:3 *they will prophesy **for** one thousand two hundred sixty days*

A *"time"* is one year, *"times"* is two years, and *"half a time"* is half a year, so three and a half years in all. Revelation says the same length of time three ways: *"a time and times and half a time"* (12:14), forty-two months (11:2; 13:5), and 1,260 days (11:3; 12:6). Counted in prophetic years of 360 days, forty-two months and 1,260 days come out exactly the same. When three different ways of counting land on the same number, God is making sure we don't miss it.

The Seventieth Week

Daniel 9:27 *And he will make a covenant strong for the many **for** one seven; and **in** the middle of the seven he will cause sacrifice and grain offering to cease*

Revelation 11:2 *and they will trample the holy city **for** forty-two months*

Revelation never uses the words "seven years." That number comes from Daniel. Gabriel told Daniel that seventy sevens were set for his people and his city (Daniel 9:24). Sixty-nine of them ran from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem to the Messiah, who was then *"cut off"* (9:26). I believe the church age falls in the gap between the sixty-ninth and seventieth sevens, and that the last seven years are still ahead.

Daniel splits that last seven in the middle, when the sacrifices are stopped. Jesus pointed to that same moment when He spoke of *"the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet"* (Matthew 24:15). Revelation then fills in the halves with its forty-two months and 1,260 days.

Not every Christian reads it this way. Many see no gap and believe the seventieth week was fulfilled in the first century, through Christ's ministry and death and the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. I hold the futurist view, which means most of these prophecies are still ahead of us, for the reasons I give in the Daniel study.

The Throne and the Books

Daniel 7:9 *His clothing **was** white like snow, and the hair of His head like pure wool; His throne **was** flames of fire*

Daniel 7:10 *a thousand thousands were ministering to Him, and a myriad of myriads were standing before Him. The court sat, and books were opened.*

Revelation 5:11 *the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands*

Revelation 20:12 *And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened*

Both men were taken into the same throne room. They saw the same crowd of angels too big to count, and the same books opened for judgment.

Here is something worth slowing down for. In Daniel, the white hair like wool belongs to the Ancient of Days, God the Father. In Revelation 1:14, John sees the same thing on Jesus: *"His head and hair were white, like white wool, like snow."* John is telling us that the Son shares the Father's glory.

One Like a Son of Man

Daniel 7:13 *with the clouds of the heavens **one** like a son of man was coming; and He reached the Ancient of Days*

Revelation 1:7 *Look, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him*

Revelation 14:14 *and on the cloud **One** sitting like a son of man, having on His head a golden crown*

Jesus' favorite name for Himself was *"the Son of Man,"* and He took it straight from Daniel 7. When the high priest put Him under oath, He answered, *"from now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven"* (Matthew 26:64).

In Daniel, the Son of Man comes to the Ancient of Days and is given a kingdom that *"will not pass away"* (7:14). In Revelation, we see Him come from heaven to take it.

The Man in Linen and the Glorified Christ

Daniel 10:5-6 *a certain man clothed **in** linen, and his loins **were** girded with gold of Uphaz. And his body **was** like topaz, and his face like the appearance of lightning, and his eyes like torches of fire, and his arms and his feet like the look of burnished bronze*

Revelation 1:13-15 *clothed **in a robe** reaching to the feet, and girded around at the breasts with a golden sash. And His head and hair **were** white, like white wool, like snow; and His eyes **were** like a flame of fire; and His feet **were** like fine bronze, as refined in a furnace*

Linen and gold, eyes of fire, and feet like polished bronze. The two descriptions are so close that John seems to be telling us he saw the same Person Daniel saw. Both men also fell on their faces: Daniel says, "I was in a deep sleep on my face" (Daniel 10:9), and John *"fell at His feet as dead"* (Revelation 1:17).

In Revelation 1 there is no question who it is. It is Jesus. In Daniel 10, I lean toward seeing the man in linen as an appearance of Christ before He was born in Bethlehem, though some see a mighty angel. I hold that loosely.

Michael and the Time of Distress

Daniel 12:1 *And at that time Michael will arise, the great prince who stands over the sons of your people; and there will be a time of distress such as has not been since there was a nation until that time*

Revelation 12:7 *Michael and his angels warred against the dragon*

Michael is the angel who stands guard over Israel, Daniel's people. Both books bring him in at the same point, right when the worst trouble the world has ever seen breaks out. Jesus described the same days: *"For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not happened from the beginning of the world until now, nor by any means will happen"* (Matthew 24:21).

Both books also give the same comfort. In Daniel, those who escape are *"everyone who is found written in the scroll"* (12:1). In Revelation, the ones who refuse the beast are those whose names are written *"in the book of life of the Lamb"* (13:8). God's promises to Israel stay with Israel, and He keeps every name He has written down.

The Oath Toward Heaven

Daniel 12:7 *he raised his right **hand** and his left **hand** to the heavens and swore by the One who lives forever*

Revelation 10:5-6 *lifted up his hand to heaven, and swore by the One who lives to the ages of the ages*

In Daniel, the oath answers the question "Until when?" with three and a half years (Daniel 12:6). In Revelation, the oath says *"that time will be no longer"* (10:6), meaning the waiting is over and *"the mystery of God should be finished"* (10:7). Daniel was told the end would come. John was told it had arrived.

Sealed, Then Opened

Daniel 12:4 *shut up the words and seal the scroll until the time of **the** end*

Revelation 22:10 *Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.*

Daniel was told to seal his book. John was told not to seal his. Daniel's visions reached far past his own lifetime, and he admitted, *"I heard, and I did not understand"* (Daniel 12:8). By John's day the Lamb had come, and He alone was worthy *"to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals"* (Revelation 5:5). What Daniel saw from a distance, John was allowed to see up close.

The End of the Beast

Daniel 7:11 *I was seeing until the beast was killed, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning of fire.*

Revelation 19:20 *And the beast was captured, and with this **one** the false prophet who did the signs before it*

The beast's end is sudden in both books. In Daniel, the horn is still bragging when judgment falls. In Revelation, the beast and the false prophet *"were thrown living into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur"* (19:20). No one fights his way out of God's courtroom.

A Kingdom That Never Ends

Daniel 2:44 *the God of the heavens will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed*

Revelation 11:15 *The kingdoms of the world have become **those** of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign to the ages of the ages.*

This is where both books are headed. Every vision in Daniel ends with God's kingdom winning and lasting forever (Daniel 2:44; 7:14, 27), and Revelation ends the same way. The empires of this world get a few verses each. The kingdom of God gets forever.

The Dead Will Rise

Daniel 12:2 *many of those who sleep in the ground of dust will awake, these to everlasting life, and these to reproaches, to everlasting abhorrence*

Revelation 20:5 *But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were completed. This **is** the first resurrection.*

Daniel names both resurrections in one sentence. Revelation shows us that a thousand years come between them. Those who belong to Christ are raised first, and the rest of the dead are raised after the thousand years to stand before the great white throne (Revelation 20:11-12). Daniel saw two mountain peaks. John was shown the valley in between.

The Numbers Side by Side

Here are the numbers the two books share, in one place. Where Christians disagree, the right-hand column gives my view; the studies give the other views.

Number	Daniel	Revelation	What I believe it means
Seventy sevens (490 years)	9:24	Not named	The full time God set for Daniel's people and Jerusalem
Sixty-nine sevens (483 years)	9:25-26	Not named	From the decree to rebuild Jerusalem to the Messiah, who is then cut off
The gap	9:26	Not named	The church age, between the sixty-ninth and seventieth sevens
One seven (7 years)	9:27	Not named, but both halves appear	The Tribulation, still future
Middle of the seven	9:27; 12:11	11:1-2; 13:5-6	The Antichrist stops the sacrifices and sets up the abomination of desolation
Time, times, and half a time (3 1/2 years)	7:25; 12:7	12:14	The Great Tribulation, the last half of the seven years
Forty-two months	Not named	11:2; 13:5	The same three and a half years
1,260 days	Not named	11:3; 12:6	The same three and a half years, at 360 days a year
1,290 days	12:11	Not named	Thirty days past the 1,260; Scripture does not say what they are for

Number	Daniel	Revelation	What I believe it means
1,335 days	12:12	Not named	Forty-five days more, with a blessing for the one who waits
Seven heads and ten horns	7:4-7 (heads counted together), 7:24	12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 9-12	The final world power and its ten kings
A thousand years	Not named	20:2-7	Christ's reign on earth after He returns

One more word on the numbers. They are real, and I believe they mean what they say. But they were given to help God's people recognize the season and hold on through it, not to circle a date on the calendar. Jesus said, *"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming"* (Matthew 25:13).

What Daniel Gives That Revelation Assumes

Daniel lays out the history. The statue in chapter 2 and the beasts in chapter 7 name the empires in order, and chapter 9 gives the timetable of the seventy sevens. Revelation takes all of that for granted. If you have never read Daniel, the beast with ten horns and the forty-two months come out of nowhere. If you have, they feel like old friends.

What Revelation Adds That Daniel Leaves Sealed

Revelation adds the second beast, the false prophet (13:11-17), and shows the dragon behind both of them (13:2, 11). It separates the two resurrections by a thousand years (20:4-6), and it carries the story past the last judgment to a new heaven, a new earth, and the new Jerusalem (21:1-2). Daniel was told to go his way and rest (Daniel 12:13). John got to see where Daniel's road comes out.

Where I Stand

Here is where I stand, the same as in both studies. I hold the dispensational premillennial view, which means Christ returns before His literal thousand-year reign on earth (Revelation 20:1-6). I hold the Pre-Tribulation view of the Rapture: before the seven years begin, Christ comes for His church, and believers are caught up to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). At the end of the seven years He returns to the earth with His saints to reign.

Faithful Christians see these things differently. Some believe most of Daniel and Revelation was fulfilled in the first century. Some read Revelation as a picture of the whole church age. Some see the little horn only as Antiochus. Your view on the timing of the Rapture won't affect your salvation either way. What matters most is that we know Jesus and stay faithful to Him, just like Daniel did and just like John did.

Study Questions

1. Daniel saw four beasts and John saw one beast with parts of three of them. What does that tell you about the last world power?

2. Compare Daniel 7:8, 21, 25 with Revelation 13:5-7. List every way the little horn and the beast match.

3. Revelation says three and a half years three different ways. Why do you think God repeated it?

4. In Daniel 7:9 the white hair belongs to the Ancient of Days. In Revelation 1:14 it belongs to Jesus. What does that teach you about who Jesus is?

5. Daniel was told to seal his book, and John was told not to seal his. What changed between the two?

6. Both books promise safety to those whose names are written down (Daniel 12:1; Revelation 13:8). Is your name written there? How do you know?