Daniel, Volume 2: God's Plan for the Future
A Prophetic Quartet
Daniel 12:1–4

The Heart of the Matter

Life lived under the sun has a depressing quality about it, at least according to Solomon. "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity," he said. "The living know they will die; but the dead do not know anything, nor have they any longer a reward, for their memory is forgotten" (Ecclesiastes 1:2; 9:5). Live, die, and be forgotten—that's encouragement for you! Anyone with such a philosophy would come to the same conclusion Solomon did: life under the sun is empty. But is this really true of God's servants? Daniel, as he comes to the close of his book, received a vision of four groups of people who will have significant lives in the future and on into eternity—not forgotten by God.

Discovering the Way

1. Setting and Background (Daniel 12:1)

In the last half of the tribulation, terrible persecutions will sweep over the earth in an attempt to exterminate God's people, the Jews, but the archangel Michael will protect them.

2. People and Events (Daniel 12:1–3)

During that time of tribulation, four groups of people will receive honor and reward from God.

3. Words and Knowledge (Daniel 12:4)

Daniel was ordered to keep the vision a secret until the right time, when additional information about the last days would be given.
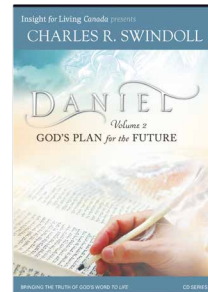
Starting Your Journey

God's ways are not like ours. First, we honor the famous and soon forget, but God honors the unknown and never forgets. Second, we give earthly rewards, but God gives heavenly ones. Third, our works a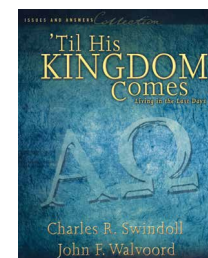re temporal, but God's works are eternal.