

of their fulfillment). The scroll would include the complete record of Daniel's experiences and visions. As Keil points out, transcriptions would doubtless be made available, since they would be needed in the dangerous times that it describes.³

We can assume that Daniel and his successors carefully observed the command to close up and certify the scroll. The need of this special care can be illustrated by the many errors and changes that came into the Greek translation of the book of Daniel in the course of copying and recopying -- so many that Theodotion found it necessary to make a new translation, which was then substituted in most of the extant copies of the Septuagint. The fact that more additions were made to the Greek translation of this book than to any other part of Scripture emphasizes the necessity of this particular command.

This command is followed by a prediction, which most translators render: "Many will go here and there and knowledge will be increased."⁴ Some writers have taken this sentence as a prediction that in the last days there will be a great increase in travel and also in knowledge. Most interpreters, however, starting as early as St. Jerome, have considered the second clause as closely connected with the first, so that the increase of knowledge would be a result of the fact that many "go here and there," hunting through the document, and comparing Scripture with Scripture to find God's truth.

At first sight the question at the end of verse 6 might seem to ask how much time would elapse before the occurrence of "these astonishing things," but the answer in verse 7 interprets the question as meaning: "How long will it be from the beginning of these events to their end?" This answer has been taken by most interpreters as describing the length of the crisis rather than its distance from the time when Daniel had his vision.

This is the first of two predictions about great future crises. It is reasonable to expect it to refer to one of the two that have already been described in the book and most likely to the one most recently discussed. That would be the