BELONGING AND BELIEVING

We live in an age when it’s more important to belong than to believe. People are looking for community and for connection. Even in the Christian community, truth and beliefs and doctrines are minimized. But God is calling us to worship in spirit and truth (John 4:24). In other words, it is not belonging or believing; it is belonging and believing. God wants us to have community that is grounded in truth.

Belonging and believing in an Adventist community necessitates that questions of Adventist identity must be answered. We must know for ourselves whether the central tenets of our belief system are indeed on solid biblical footing. Ellen White states that the 2,300-day prophecy is “the central pillar” of the Adventist faith. By implication, if we are wrong on the “central pillar,” the whole structure crumbles. How solid is the evidence for our interpretation of Daniel 8:14? This is an identity question that we cannot afford to entrust to others; we must examine the evidence for ourselves.
Write out Daniel 9:20–27 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Daniel 9:24–27. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, outline, or mind map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Daniel 9:20–27. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

What are the reasons that you are a Seventh-day Adventist?

Have you studied for yourself the reasons for your faith?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/dan13-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Why are wrong ideas of prophecy so spiritually dangerous?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/dan13-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Mark 1:15  
Luke 3:1  
Daniel 12:1  
Acts 7:54–60  
Acts 8:1-4  
Ezra 6:14  
Matthew 27:51

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Daniel 9:20–27?

Review your memorized verse from Daniel 9:20–27.
Where is Jesus in the midst of the prophecies of Daniel 9:20–27?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/dan13-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what are personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications you must make in your life from these prophetic studies?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/dan13-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

What are reasons that individuals are part of a denomination?

How important is the role of doctrines in choosing a denomination?

Is it more important to belong or to believe?

What evidence can you give for Jesus being the Messiah?

How does the 2,300-day prophecy build your faith in the Adventist movement?

Why is it important to have a solid biblical position for our core doctrines?

Why do you think the sanctuary is “the central pillar” (The Great Controversy, 409) of the Adventist faith?

What are the implications of living in a time of judgment since 1844?