

LET THE PROPHETS SPEAK

The Old Testament prophets spoke with one accord concerning Israel being prominent in relation to last days prophecy. During the Church Age many have tended to neglect the prophets and write them off as essentially “irrelevant”. Someone has even blasphemously suggested that we “unhitch” from the Old Testament!

The Church which is largely Gentile (in terms background makeup) has often grown “full of itself” and becoming “wise in your own estimation” (Rom. 11:25) have even succumbed to what is called “Replacement Theology”. This errant view says God is DONE with physical Israel and that now all the promises made to Israel are somehow “spiritually” fulfilled in the Church. That too is blasphemous! If God can’t be trusted to fulfill His promises to Israel then He flat out can’t be trusted. This view is a full-frontal attack on the very character and person of YHWH God.

The prophets have often been written off like “dingy old” writers that have long ceased to be relevant. But they are going to make a “last days” comeback!

Daniel 12:4 (NKJV)

4 “But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”

Shut up the words: Close the scroll. No more was to be added at this point. The contents essentially related to a future time of which Daniel had been given a glimpse. He was given an outline of what is to come in relation to His people, Israel, but only an outline.

Seal the book: To seal a document meant to affix a seal and thereby preserve it and authenticate it as it was. It could not be tampered with or altered without breaking the official seal. Daniel’s prophetic announcements were **symbolically sealed**, meaning they could not be altered as they awaited fulfillment.

In Revelation (cf. Rev. 5-6), the seal of the scroll of judgment is broken, signifying the time for fulfillment has now come. However, here in Daniel we see those things were SEALED for a future time. They are to be

preserved for a future time of fulfillment. For the Jews in Daniel's day, it was essentially a "CLOSED BOOK" until the time of the end.

Until the time of the end: This phrase gives us the time frame when the seal will in essence be broken in relation to Daniel's people. The Jews are the ones essentially in view in this context.

The time of the end: In close context Daniel 11:40 relates this "end time" to the time of the Antichrist and a "time of trouble such as never was" (12:1) which will culminate in the second coming of Christ.

Daniel 12:4 shows that the Bible cannot be altered. The prophecies that God gave to Daniel are SEALED. They cannot be altered or changed and God in His sovereignty will assure that to the very time of the end. In Matt. 24:15, Jesus spoke of this coming end time when people will be called upon to immediately respond to the message of Daniel. The message will still be intact at that point! It is divinely sealed and preserved for this future time when it will all be fulfilled as given.

Many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall increase:

Some have tried to relate this to the fact that in the last days there will be an increase in travel and scientific knowledge. That may happen to be true, but I don't think that is what the CONTEXT is telling us here.

"To and fro" denotes intensive activity. It has the idea of "back and forth", of "here and there." It is used in the sense of searching diligently, to scrutinize closely, or to investigate thoroughly (cf. Amos 8:12).

In this context, they are pouring over the prophetic Scriptures, and the Book of Daniel in particular. They are intensive in searching for answers to what is going on in the world.

Note the context: It relates to the time of the end when the book will be opened and unsealed in terms of knowledge increasing. At this point, **Daniel** will make sense to them and they **will see it**. They will understand the specific prophecies related to Antichrist and the times they find themselves in (cf. Mt. 24:15-16).

The Old Testament prophets interwove truths about the Messiah in connection with Israel – both in relation to His first coming and also in reference to His second coming. In both cases Israel is always prominent.

After His resurrection Christ said to His disciples, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!” (Lk. 24:25).

LET THE PROPHETS SPEAK! (AND BELIEVE THEM!)

Daniel 12:9 (NKJV)

9 And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.