

Daniel



Lesson 28-The Sealed and Opened Book—"Present Truth" **Focus: Dan. 12:4-13/Rev. 10**

- ❖ **Daniel was told to seal up his prophetic writings until "...the time of the end" (Dan. 12:4)**
 - Many would run "to and fro" searching the Scriptures and discovering the truth and the hidden secrets of Daniel's prophecies (as in Amos 8:12). But also, this would come at a time when men would be running "to and fro" all across the earth, and "knowledge" (in general, as well as prophetically, historically, of the gospel, etc.) would be increasing!!
- ❖ **When would the "time of the end" be? (See Dan. 12:5-7)** These verses clearly tell us that the "time of the end" would be at the end of the 1260-year period described in the books of Daniel and Revelation. The apostate Roman power would be persecuting for "...a time, times, and a half" (v.7). The end of that time period would mark the "time of the end." Therefore, **the date after which the Book of Daniel should be unsealed would be the year 1798 AD** (the end of the 1260 years during the middle ages).
 - **Take notice here of the details:** The little book of Daniel is sealed (especially a certain portion of it); the angel raises his right hand to heaven and swears by Him who lives forever and ever.
- ❖ **What prophecy would specifically be sealed up until the "time of the end"?** (Dan. 8:14,17,26). In other words, the Bible tells us **there was to be a specific time in history when this Bible prophecy** (of the 2300 days) **would be understood by God's people!** Is that clear to us from the Bible text? Note: It was just shortly after "the time of the end (1798 AD)" when Christians began to understand this prophecy. **A young Baptist farmer (later to become a preacher) by the name of William Miller began to understand this time prophecy in 1818 (just 20 years after 1798).** He and others began preaching about the nearness of Christ's coming all over the North Eastern United States in the years just beyond that date (1818). This led up to the great disappointment of 1844. They mistakenly thought that Jesus Christ would return in that year. Their hopes were greatly disappointed! This movement came to be known as the Advent Movement! Later, some who continued to study out the prophecies discovered that it was not speaking of Jesus' second coming at all. It was however, speaking of a change in Christ's heavenly ministry. The heavenly judgment, mentioned in Dan. 7:9,10,13,14,21,22,25,26 as coming directly after the time of the little Horn's 1260-year reign, was beginning (like the old Day of Atonement in Israel symbolized). (compare Leviticus 16:16,18,19,29,30 w/Dan. 8:14, the resemblance is very clear in the Greek manuscripts—Kathorizomai is the word which has been well translated in the KJV Bible as "cleansed." NIV does not make it as clear, but it's there).
- ❖ **Notice Daniel's response to the angel (of ch.12) and the subsequent information given to him (Dan. 12:8-13)**
 - (v.8,9,10) The words were closed up and sealed until the "time of the end" when a Christian people would finally understand them (not even the prophet Daniel fully understood the message given to him—this was for a future people to understand) **The righteous or wise would understand.** The Bible says, the wicked would not understand. Some wonder, why did God put all these prophecies into symbols? That's because, not everyone would need to understand it, or should! Evil ones, who fight against the truth, need not understand./// For verses 11,12 see next point...
- ❖ **Two additional time prophecy periods are added here (v.11,12). (1)** The first one gives 1290 days (years) from the Abomination of desolation that would be set up in the middle ages. Until what? The "time of the end" of course (v.9)! Therefore, the 1290 year time period would also end at the "time of the end" which we know is 1798. If you recall, the Abomination of desolation spoken of in Daniel 11:31 is the time when the Papal church took "arms" or military support and strength for themselves. This power greatly

increased in the year **508 AD**. From there, they were able to pollute God's holy covenant while using their own supply of military force. From **508 to 1798 AD is 1290 years!!** In 538 AD, just 30 years later, the 1260 began which also ended in 1798 (the "time of the end"). **(2) The second in the 1335. The Bible only says, "Blessed is he who waits..." and comes to that time of history!** (it says nothing more about this time period). The context of Daniel chapter 12 is about "understanding" the truths of Daniel's prophecies which had been sealed. **If you go 1335 years from the time event mentioned in v.11 (Abom. of Des., 508 AD), you will end up at 1843 AD!** That was precisely the year in which the Millerites finally understood that the 2300 year time prophecy (of Dan. 8:14) would end one year hence, in **1844 AD**. The "sealed" time prophecy date was fully understood by that earlier year, 1843 AD.

❖ **How does the book of Revelation describe the great unsealing of Daniel?! (Revelation 10)**

- A message for "land" (earth) and for "Sea." If the "sea" represents many peoples, nations, and languages what does the land represent? (*this is a universal message for every part of the world*). Christ himself was giving us this message (ref. Rev. 1:15,16)
- This "little book" (v.2) is **open!!** At one time, this little book must have been closed! **What "little book" in the Bible was closed or sealed up before?** (hint Daniel 12:4) Revelation was never sealed up or closed (Rev. 22:10).
- John hears something more about the events that would happen...but God tells Him not to reveal it (v.3,4)—that was a brief message only for the Prophet, John.
- Notice how v.5,6 parallel with the content of Daniel 12:5-9.
- (v.6)—"time" no longer...(Greek word is *chronos*, meaning "time") Some versions say "delay"—"time" is more accurate. The 2300 year time prophecy had come to its end at this point. It's the longest and the last time prophecy in the Bible. There are no more time prophecies after the date of 1844 AD.
- (v.7) looks forward to the 7th Angel's Trumpet which describes the ending of this heavenly Judgment (ref. Rev. 11:15-19/ compares to Daniel's heavenly Judgment—Dan. 7:9-14).
- (v.8-10) describes the bitter sweet experience of 1844. The Christians of that time who were aware of, and preaching this time prophecy misunderstood the event which was to happen. It was a great disappointment for them...very bitter in their belly...but the message of Jesus' return had been so sweet in their mouths. The people of that day misunderstood what the "cleansing of the sanctuary" of Daniel 8:14 was. They thought it was Jesus' return. After the great disappointment, they realized their error and began to proclaim the message correctly.
- (v.11) God still had a Message and a Mission for these people to carry to the entire world...after that bitter-sweet experience of 1844. They were to carry the restored truths of heaven—the Sabbath, the heavenly Judgment, and an overall message of preparation to meet Jesus at His coming (See Revelation 14:6,7; the 3 angel's messages began to be understood and proclaimed from this time forward. A work to prepare for Jesus' coming, Rev.14:14).

- ❖ **The experience of disappointment in 1844** (when Christ's ministry shifted to the heavenly Judgment) **was not unlike the experience of Christ's early disciples** (when Jesus began his special ministry for us, dying as the Lamb). **See Luke 24:17,21-27,32.** *The disciples of the first century were greatly disappointed after Jesus' death, because they had misunderstood the precise events prophesied to happen to the Messiah. After their "great disappointment" Jesus "opened their understanding" of the prophetic scriptures so that they could understand the truth (seeing their error). From here, Jesus sent them to the entire world with a saving message to bear. The 3 angel's messages, the nearness of Christ's coming, and a right understanding of prophecy is no less of an important message for us today! It is "present truth" which Jesus has given us!!*

Question (s) for the Heart:

Is it your desire to be prepared for Jesus' second coming? ____ Will you seek to live by all the truth that Jesus gives us? ____