

THE WORD OF

TRUTH

Bible Study Course

Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:32

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THE PROPHECIES UNSEALED

The unsealing of the prophecies is a revelation reserved for the last days. In the last book of the Bible, which bears the name Revelation, chapter 10 announces the unsealing of the prophecies mentioned in the book of Daniel. This lesson will explain that what we have studied in previous lessons concerning the prophetic history of the world, is an awakening to the urgency of the crucial and exciting time in which we now live. May the Lord deliver us from our deadly lethargy and let us pray that we see the importance of what we are studying.

It will be noticed that Revelation 10 is a parenthesis, or interruption to a line of thought begun in Chapter 8 and not completed until the latter part of Chapter 11. The sequence of events thus interrupted is the sounding of the seven trumpets. The seventh of which proclaims the immediate end time events to take place on this earth.

1. What is the Angel said to be holding in His hand?

Revelation 10:2 _____

Note: The fact that the little book is said to be open suggests that it was at one time closed.

2. What book does the Scripture describe as being closed?

Daniel 12:4 _____

Note: The book of Daniel is the only book in Scripture that is said to be closed. Since this book was to be closed up *until* the time of the end, it naturally follows that at the time of the end it would be opened. As the closing of this book was especially mentioned in prophecy, it is reasonable to expect that its opening would also be mentioned.

3. What promise was given to Daniel?

Daniel 12:13 _____

Note: Daniel sought to understand the meaning of the things he had been shown (Daniel 12:8). The angel then told him that the things he had seen could not be understood until the time of the end, which implies the promise that at that time they would be understood. In telling Daniel that he will stand in his lot at the end of time, the angel is giving him the assurance that the prophecies he had recorded, but which he could not then understand, would later be properly understood and proclaimed.

4. What did the Angel proclaim had ended?

Revelation 10:6 _____

Note: It is apparent from the events yet to follow, that "this time that has ended", cannot be the end of this world's history, nor can it be the end of probationary time, for man's probation does not end until Christ ceases His priestly ministry. Probation does not close until after the seventh trumpet has sounded, for it is at the seventh trumpet that Jesus receives His kingdom (Rev.11:15; Dan.2:44; 7:14). The "time ended" must therefore indicate an end of prophetic time, for we are unable to identify any other time to which it may refer.

5. What did the Angel indicate would end when the seventh angel begins to sound his trumpet?

Revelation 10:7

Note: The mystery of God is the preaching of the Gospel and the work of Christ upon the heart (Eph.6:19; Col.4:3; 1:26-28). The finishing of this work would begin at the sounding of the seventh trumpet and is the LAST call for salvation to fallen man.

This message is concurrent with the revelation of the prophecies of Daniel and began with the close of the 2300 day (year) prophecy, coincident with the beginning of the cleansing of the Sanctuary in heaven in 1844 (lessons 8-12). It is at this time, the sounding of the seventh trumpet, that Jesus enters into the Most Holy place to receive His kingdom (Rev.11:15; see note Q.4).

6. In the proclamation of the gospel to the whole world, what event is said to be taking place?

Revelation 14:6-7

Note: The sounding of the gospel message to the world for the last time is a call for men to prepare for the judgement that is now in progress. It is clear from these passages that, at the end of the prophetic time periods revealed in the book of Daniel, the gospel message, embracing the warning of the judgement, would sound to the whole world.

The voice of the Angel with His hand uplifted in the attitude of an oath, declares that time should be no longer, meaning, that the last of the prophetic periods had reached its fulfilment, and that no chronological prophecy would extend beyond that time. No longer could men look to a future event as marking a definite period of time that must yet elapse. The next event to which their eyes were pointed was the return of Jesus Christ.

As the close of the last great prophetic time period drew nigh (2300 days), there was an increased interest in Bible prophecy, such as had never been seen before. Far and wide was heralded the message of the soon return of

Christ. It was during this time that the great foreign Bible societies were formed and the first missionaries were dispatched into all the world.

7. Though sweet at first, what is said concerning the book, once it had been eaten?

Revelation 10:10 _____

Note: The students of prophecy did not at first distinguish between the work of judgement and the return of Christ. Having accepted the commonly held belief that the earth was the sanctuary, they understood the cleansing of the sanctuary to be the purification of the earth. When the calculated time for the prophecy of the cleansing of the sanctuary (lesson 12) had passed and the Lord did not return, they were engulfed by bitter disappointment.

8. Regardless of the disappointment, what did the Angel say was yet to take place?

Revelation 10:11 _____

Note: Following the great disappointment of 1844, the faithful believers turned again to study and prayer. The Lord revealed the error and they discovered the truth of the heavenly sanctuary. They saw that rather than the return of Christ, the prophecy pointed to a closing work to be accomplished for the believers just before His return to receive His waiting church. The first angel of Revelation 14:6,7 was followed by two more angels with messages. They must prophesy yet again.

In the message of Revelation 10 is the announcement that the prophecies of Daniel would be understood, with the ultimate focus being placed on events just preceding the second coming of Jesus. Here is evidence that God is giving the last warning to this world and that sin is near its end.