

“Be A Star”

(A Witness for Christ)

Daniel 12:3

“Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

**WHEN
WAS THE LAST TIME
YOU TOLD SOMEONE ABOUT JESUS CHRIST
?**

Look at this verse – do you see what it is saying – **when you lead someone to Jesus Christ you are like the stars of heaven forever and ever.** And when you have divine insight into the past, the present and the future you shine like the brightness of the expanse of heaven.

Oh, people, you may not know a great deal about the sciences of this world but if you know the **Wisdom of God's Word**—then—you are like the brightness of the expanse of heaven.

**I hope this one verse convicts you,
inspires you to tell others of Jesus
the Savior of their souls...**

**and when you do this...
you are like the stars of heaven forever,
for you have given them life forever.**

Those who have insight I am sorry that the translators did not do justice to the Hebrew. In the Hebrew this is a Hiphel stem – and this should be translated “*those who cause to have insight*” and is in parallel with the phrase “*those who cause the many to righteousness*”

Those who cause to have insight

Those who cause the many to righteousness

In context this refers to the 144,000 Jewish evangelists of **The Tribulation**, spoken of in Revelation 7. Twelve-thousand from each of the 12 tribes of Israel. And as a result of their ministry of proclaiming the gospel throughout the world, *”a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes of people and tongues—languages standing before the throne and before the Lamb”*

It is amazing the poor understanding of the Bible by the cults of Jehovah Witnesses and Mormons. All these 144, 000 will be Jews.

Daniel 12:3

“Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

This is an historical recognition of those who teach the truth of the Word of God and those who lead others to a saving Knowledge of Jesus Christ, which results in the imputation of God's Perfect Righteousness. Oh, people, it is so important to understand the all importance of righteousness before God.

It is not just a matter of having your sins wiped away by the cross work of Jesus; it is a matter of having the presence of God's Perfect Righteousness in you. And the only way this can happen is to believe in Jesus Christ and this is why it is so important and such a privilege to share the gospel with others.

Note that phrase *like the stars forever and ever*: This is no difference than the way we speak of stars today. *She is a movie star; he is a star in athletics, etc.* So if you desire to be a 'star', here is one sure way of being one and your stardom will last forever and ever. You just lead a never dying soul to salvation by faith in Jesus Christ.

Oh, people, do not miss your opportunity to be an ETERNAL GLOWING STAR. Tell someone today the precious old story of how Jesus Christ died for them and rose again that they may live forever! Tell them that a simple act of faith in this Jesus means they will receive a divine righteousness that they can receive in no other way! And they will live forever with their Savior.

When I think of the poor Mexicans the Risley's have led to the Lord, and how they, in turn, 'ran' to tell their own friends and relatives the gospel story...; that here are some people who live in a shed that has no plumbing, no electricity, yet, they will be eternal glowing stars!

How about you? Don't you want to be a star?

So many will respond to the gospel in The Tribulation only to die a martyrs death because they would not give in to what is politically correct and politically demanded. Today churches, from the Methodist - to the Presbyterian - to the Lutheran - to the Roman Catholic Church - are rejecting biblical truth to go along with the way of man.... calling wrong > right;... calling sin > no longer sin;... and rejecting biblical truth in so many other issues, such as homosexuality, which the bible clearly teaches is a sin and an abomination to God.

But you know what, I do not mind that... nearly so much as to all the distortion and changing of the Gospel that has been going for centuries. If you don't have the gospel right, in truth, then all your doctrines do not matter.

Daniel 12:1-2 addressed the great doctrine of the ***Resurrection***, while 12:3 addressed the issue of ***Rewards in Eternity***.

Daniel 12:4 addresses the *Two Signs of the end*.

4 *“But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.”*

This verse has been translated in a multitude of ways and interpretations... all the way to meaning that “we are not to study” the book of Daniel, until after the rapture of the church and into The Tribulation.

As we begin our study of this verse let’s make one thing clear.

What is your view of God?

God is not hiding or sealing this book from the Jews of the Old Testament nor of the believers in the Church nor the Jewish believers in The Tribulation.

If that were the case:

1. Why write in the first place in sixth century BC?
2. Why not let it be hidden until the rapture of the church?

No, Daniel received these visions to write this book for the edification and instruction and for the doctrines of all history from the time it was written. Daniel had these visions for the understanding of the Jews of all that was and is and shall occur in their history, and for the hope and peace and understanding of believers in the Church Age.

Look at Daniel 11:33 in the time of Antiochus Epiphanes IV in the 2nd century BC. If this book is sealed from them they cannot have the *insight from the book of Daniel*.

Let's note carefully our Lord's instructions to Daniel.

But as for you, Daniel, where does this come from?

Verse 1 talked about how Michael will come to the defense of his people;

Then in verse 2 there was Resurrection of his people;

Then in verse 3 *those who have insight*.

And now for you Daniel... *but for you Daniel* you are some 96 years old, You were taken from your home in Judah when you were but a lad, and you have been on a long journey so you can write these visions...but now Daniel it is time for you to come on home!

So... *conceal these words and seal up the book*

First, let's look carefully at the two verbs ordered of Daniel.

Conceal This is the Hebrew word **satam** and I am going to read to you the first words defining this Hebrew word out of three Hebrew Lexicons.

Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament Brown, Driver and Briggs:

STOP UP, SHUT UP

Theological Wordbook of The Old Testament Harris, Archer and Waltke:

STOP UP

The complete Word Study Dictionary Old Testament Barker and Carpenter:

A VERB MEANING TO STOP

Therefore, if we just take a simple understanding of this word, it means to stop.

Daniel you have been writing for a long time, on many prophecies from visions, it is time to stop, lay down your pen and get ready to come on home up here with Me.

Next: *seal up the book* we have already seen what this word means in

Daniel 9:24

“Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.

Daniel’s vision of 70 weeks, when fulfilled, will seal-up the prophetic vision.

Here in Daniel 12:4 Daniel is instructed by the Lord to seal up his writings of his visions. That is the visions of Daniel are now over. He has received all he is going to receive.

What Daniel is being told is that “Men won’t understand the content of this apocalyptic vision (Daniel 10-12) until the end times.

There are sections in this vision that won't be understood until the various prophesied times in history arrive and then all of a sudden men will understand the contents of the vision.

Prophecy is inherently ambiguous until fulfilled. This is why good Bible teachers will differ on the details of prophecy, it simply hasn't occurred yet, so completely understanding unfulfilled prophecies will be impossible to completely understand until the prophecy events actually occur in history.

Now very important is the phrase: *Time of the End*. This does not mean "the end of the world." So many people, especially those who are trying to be sensational like to speak of the end of the world. I trust that everyone of you know we are not, nor have we been, speaking of the end of the world throughout our study of Daniel.

The *Time of the End* here refers to the end of The Tribulation, the Day of the Lord, as noted throughout the Bible.

Time of the End refers to the end of the Age of the Gentiles.

The *Time of the End* refers to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ back to earth, so this certainly does not refer to the end of the world. After Daniel's Seventh week, Jesus Christ will rule on this old earth for 1000 years.

I know that the alarmist say that due to global warming this earth is not going to be here very long. All that is to frighten people so they will follow in their plans of controlling the world. Take away the fact that Jesus Christ created the world, with a specific plan in mind and you are left with evolutionary destruction.

But God created this world with a specific plan in design. This world will be here and has been doing fine for at least 1007 years. Then after the thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ, this specific earth we now live on will be purified by fire and there will be a “new heaven and a new earth,” that will never perish. So while it may sound sensational it is anti-biblical to speak of the return of Jesus Christ to this earth as the end of the world.

Next we have two signs that the *end of time* is drawing near. *many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.”*

Here Daniel receives two signs of ‘the end of time’ (the end of the time of the Gentiles that has been since the time of Daniel in 586 bc) Daniel has seen in his visions the unfolding of suffering of his people from his day up to the end of The Tribulation, ending in the Return of his Messiah.

Two signs that we are nearing the time of the end:

1. *many shall go back and forth*
2. *Knowledge will increase*

You can imagine how this passage has been interpreted.

People going back and forth

Most of the time this is interpreted as the mass travel by people in cars—trains—airplanes. But what if that is not what this verse is speaking about?

What is the prophet Amos telling us is what all is going on...

back and forth

what are people really going back and forth about?

The minor prophet Amos was a shepherd in the Southern Kingdom around 769 bc, but he was called by God to the Northern Kingdom at the peak of its material and political success. He was called in a time of economic prosperity, yet his name and message was to be a “burden” and that is what Amos means: **a burden**. The condition of the Northern kingdom at the time of Amos’ ministry can easily be compared to America today. While the kingdom was prospering on the surface, beneath the surface it was crumbling from the cancer of anti-God greed and arrogance.

Hypocritical religious worship of idolatry had replaced any true worship of the true God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. All of this, intensified with gross immorality, gave the people a false sense of security, **as in America today.** Drought, famines, plagues, death could not wake these people up, So God called a watchman on the wall for them... God called **Amos.**

And as God did with Daniel, God gave to Amos visions... five of them.

And it is in the fourth vision that we learn what Daniel meant when he said *People going back and forth and knowledge will increase.*”

And if all you see is the mass of traveling today and the unbelievable access to knowledge you miss the real danger being spoken of here.

Look at Amos 8:11-12 where he prophesizes of the time in The Tribulation.

11. *“Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord GOD,*

“When I will send a famine on the land,

Not a famine for bread or a thirst for
water,
But rather for hearing the words of the
LORD.

12. *“People will stagger from sea to sea
And from the north even to the east;
They will go to and fro to seek the
word of the LORD,
But they will not find it.”*

The wording may vary a little from one prophet to the next but I hope you see that Amos and Daniel are speaking of the same period of The Tribulation, and saying the same thing on the condition of the people.

Daniel says *they will go back and forth* and Amos says they *will stagger from sea to sea.*

And why are they going back and forth?

Why are they staggering from sea to sea?
They are seeking the Word of God.

Behold days are coming

In Amos this refers to the Day of the Lord in reference to The Tribulation.

In Amos the Word of God is referred to as bread and water by which we sustain our lives.

Not a famine for bread nor a thirst for water but for the *hearing the words of the Lord*. This is the worst kind of famine, the most disastrous thirst---*for the Word of the Lord God*.

People will stagger from sea to sea, from the north even to the east people will stagger

everywhere, going back and forth (Daniel 12:4) and why?

Why are they staggering in every direction?

Why are people going back and forth?

They are seeking the Word of God.

But God has withdrawn from these people who do not really want nor desire Him. Oh, they will go back and forth, in all directions of the compass, but they will not find Him or His word. This describes the worst condition man could ever find himself.

And what is meant by the *Word of God?*

Does this refer to the True Gospel?... Which they have so strongly rejected.

Or does this refer to: “Is it Prophetic revelation?” ..or.. is it all the teaching on all that He is and all He has provided in sending His Son as the Messiah?

Yes, it is all of these and more.

They should have known this had they been studying the Pentateuch:

Deuteronomy 8:3

“He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.”

People all over America today are suffering from all kinds of disorders... mental and emotional and they run to doctors for some magic drug. But they do not run to the Word of God. If we could just realize that the Word of God is the greatest comforter to the soul, and to the emotions of our God designed bodies. He designed and created our bodies to respond to the richness and the comfort of His Word. And without it – SAD (stress-anxiety-depression)!!!

And fear!! And a futile search for a magical man made cure. “psycho-heresy” where you starve and thirst but reject the truth!

Of all the descriptions we have seen of Israel during The Tribulation, Amos 8:11-12 present us with the most hopeless condition to be in.

Now let’s look at the last phrase in Amos 8:12 *But they will not find it. Why?*

Why will they not find it ?

We start the answer in Isaiah 55:6

*Seek the LORD while He may be found;
Call upon Him while He is near.*

Then we go to Jeremiah 29:13

‘You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

Now to understand these two verses and to understand why they will not be able to find Him and *maybe* why some of your own prayers are not answered.

Ezekiel 14:1-5

1. *Then some elders of Israel came to me and sat down before me.* They came to Ezekiel seeking, searching for the Word of the Lord, for answers!
2. *And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,*
3. *“Son of man, Ezekiel these men seeking the Word of the Lord have set up their idols in their hearts and have put right before their faces the stumbling block of their iniquity. Should I be consulted by them at all?*
4. *“Therefore speak to them and tell them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Any man of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, puts right before his face the*

stumbling block of his iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, / the LORD will be brought to give him an answer in the matter in view of the multitude of his idols,

5. *in order to lay hold of the hearts of the house of Israel who are estranged from Me through all their idols.”’*

God answers from where you are! These men are in idolatry!

Now you should understand the significance of Jeremiah 29:13
‘You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

You cannot come to the Lord God with idolatry or occupied with yourself and expect Him to answer you in wisdom.

In your own prayer life, are you asking God for your personal gain or for His Glory? He knows the truth!

If you study carefully where Solomon was when he asked for wisdom, you will find that he was in *the high place* - that is the place of worship of idols. Knowing where he was it is easy to understand that the wisdom Solomon received was not divine wisdom but the wisdom of the world.

Then remember the rich Young Ruler, how he came to the Lord and ask, how to enter the kingdom of God, well, the answer he got was from the standpoint of the Law... so Jesus answered him from the Law that was in his heart--- *keep the whole Law.*

So in Daniel 12:4

“But as for you, Daniel, conceal—shut up the writing of these words and seal—close up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.”

What does it mean *“Knowledge will increase?”*

This is not knowledge about the true God. As they go back and forth, they will gather a great deal of knowledge but never find the true knowledge of God, just as man today searches for knowledge while rejecting the truth that is right there before their eyes.

Remember
You want to be a Star
Tell Someone About Your Savior!

Daniel 12:

5. *Then I, Daniel, looked and behold, two others were standing, one on this bank of the river and the other on that bank of the river.*

6. *And one said to the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long will it be until the end of these wonders?"*

7. *I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and*

swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these events will be completed.

8. *As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, "My lord, what will be the outcome of these events?"*
9. *He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time.*
10. *"Many will be purged, purified and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none*

*of the wicked will understand,
but those who have insight will understand.*

11. *“From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.*
12. *“How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!*
13. *“But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age.”*