

Daniel 12:4-12 (part 1) - Prophecy is a Promise

Intro - We are coming to the end of our study in Daniel and we will conclude by addressing 3 big topics contained in chapter 12 over the next 3 weeks. Today's subject matter is PROPHECY. There are many prophecies recorded in Daniel and a main point we should consider is that Prophecy is a Promise...God promises to bring something to pass in the future and HE tells us before it happens so we might believe in Him & take Him at His word. *A prophecy is a promise.* Our text today shows us that God's promise is a HIDDEN PROMISE. It is mysterious in its meaning but completely preserved for its fulfilling. God's promise is a hidden treasure...a time capsule waiting to be opened. It is also a VERIFIED PROMISE. God's promise may be mysterious in its meaning but is wide open in its saying. It is an open secret that has been verified by witnesses and written down for all to see. Friend and foe alike are privy to God's public promises. God's promises are also REAL PROMISES. They are literal promises that will be fulfilled in the exact way in which they were made. God doesn't stutter when He states what the future holds, and we shouldn't wonder if He will really bring about what He has promised. Today we will consider the SEALING, the SWEARING, the TIMING of Prophecy.

SEALING

- Context
 - Chapters 10-12 - an angel has been disclosing the future to Daniel. Inside scoop
- 12:4
 - The inside scoop is supposed to stay somewhat "inside"
 - The message is to be "concealed."
 - Hidden....kept in secret....cloaked....mysterious message...
 - Parable/riddle that we just can't quite unravel....yet
 - The message is to be "sealed."
 - To be preserved for the proper time (canned)
 - 12:9 8:26
 - This prophecy is like a time capsule
- 12:4b
 - Some take this as a prophecy of the information/transportation age (???)
 - More likely is means - Toward the end...these words will be unsealed and better understood
 - people will run to & fro eager to understand the "time capsule"
 - 12:10
 - Revelation - book with seals broken....content unveiled/unsealed
- Daniel didn't understand the prophecy
 - 12:8
 - With prophecy....hindsight is 20/20 but foresight is a little squinty

SWEARING

- There may be some difficulty in the understanding prophecy, but we should have total faith in the fulfilling of prophecy.
 - Prophecy is a promise
- The angel takes an oath and swears to God about the truth of the matter
 - 12:7 raises both hands (place hand on Bible "swear to tell the truth...")
 - Deut. 6:13 (3rd Commandment)
 - Heb. 6:13, 16
 - Jesus was put under oath - Matt. 26:63-64 (Luke 22:70)
- The oath had witnesses
 - 12:5-6
 - Matt. 18:16
 - Verified promise with 3 witnesses. (Publicly notarized - signed, sealed and will be delivered)
- Swearing about timing
 - 12:7 Rev. 10:5-7
 - The angel calls God as his witness to the veracity of his statement
 - The angel swears by the Eternal God regarding earthly timing
 - God who is outside of time & controls time will verify this time capsule
 - Acts 15:18
- God being eternal is an unshakable foundation for our faith in His word
 - God is without beginning or end
 - Ps. 90:2 Rev. 1:8 God & His word "was, is, and is to come"
 - God's word is without beginning or end
 - Matt. 24:35
 - There is no place where God is not, and no time where God is not
 - He fills heaven and earth Jer. 23:24 and inhabits eternity Is. 57:15
 - We inhabit limited space and time...so too our promises (lack longevity)
 - The timeless God's word doesn't change and it has no expiration date
 - 2 Peter 3:3-4, 8-9 God doesn't have limitations or lack longevity...neither does His word
- The angel swears by the eternal God
 - We should trust the eternal God and His eternal word

TIMING

- The angel mentions a general & specific timeframe. Real/Literal promise
 - General timeframe
 - 12:4 - end of time 12:9 - end time
 - Specific timeframe
 - 12:7 - time, times and half a time = 3 ½ years
 - Repeated timeframe in Daniel & Revelation (Christ & anti-christ)
 - 12:11 - 1290 days (why the additional 30 days???? - Rev. 11:3 ????)
 - 12:12 - 1335 days (plus 45 more days?????)
- Still sealed....but sure
 - Acts 1:7 Matt. 24:36 be timid about timing