

“SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES”

Daniel 12:4-8

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INTRODUCTION

In John 19:38 Pilate asked Jesus, “What is Truth?”

Many in this Postmodern world do not believe that there is such a thing as absolute truth. However, Jesus said in Jn. 17:17: **“Sanctify them through Thy Truth, thy Word is Truth.”**

Many searches take place in this world for important missing items:

- Missing treasures
- Missing children
- Fugitives from the law.
- Religious meaning—search in the cults or other strange religious groups

The most important search is found in **John 5:39**: “You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me.” Also, see our theme verse from which we get our church name: **Acts 17:11**—“*Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.*”

I. THE PROPHET’S SEARCH (vv. 8ff)

In the passage before us tonight we see the prophet’s search for understanding in vv. 8ff. But, alas, the words were “concealed and sealed up until the end of time.” Many of the ancient prophets wanted to understand better some of the details about the predictions they had made: **I Pet. 1:10-11**.

II. THE ANGEL’S SEARCH (5-7)

See I Peter 1:12

A. The Scene (5, 7a)

- Two angels—one on each bank of the Tigris river (symbolical representation)
- Angel of the Lord over the River—sovereign over the affairs of the nations
- The certainty of the end of the time of suffering

B. The Searching question (6)

- “End of these wonders”
- Cf. 11:36; 8:24
- The end will come during the reign of the Antichrist.

C. Swearing of an Oath (7b)

- Cf. Dt. 32:40—swearing by His eternal existence; here “by Him who lives forever”
- Note the solemnity of lifting up **two** hands.
- The time limit of the Great Tribulation would be **3 ½ years**—“time, times, half a time”.

D. Until the “shattering of the power (hand) of the holy people”—see Dt. 32:36

III. THE BELIEVER'S SEARCH (4)

A. The Preserved Word

- Conceal and seal"—not to hide, but to preserve! (See 8:26) The seal is for preservation. Copies were to be made for general use.
- For the "time of the end" see 11:35, 40, etc.

B. Persevering Search (4b)

1. Many go back and forth—in search of something.
2. See II Chr. 16:9; Jer. 5:1; 49:3
3. Compare Amos 8:12—a vain search. Why?
 - They have lost the right to revealed truth.
 - Their minds and hearts are closed.
 - They look in the wrong places.
 - Time and circumstances don't help them to understand.
 - Once we are closer to the time of fulfillment it will become clearer.

C. Personal Knowledge—"Knowledge will be increased"

Compare Mt. 24:15—"Let the reader understand."

CONCLUSION

What are you searching for?

Many for success, wealth, a good position of honor, fame, being "number one"

See Mt. 7:7: "Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you."

*Angels, prophets, and believers recommend us to **search the Scriptures.***

See Proverbs 2:4.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES. SEEK THE LORD.