



~**Seal--Seal Not**~
By Jim Boardrow

Rev 22:10

"And he said unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand."

Daniel 12:4

"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

How many times have you been told by someone or heard on a radio program that one of the reasons that we know we are in the last days is because "knowledge has increased", or "we have a better knowledge of the scriptures now than those in the past"? Generally speaking, I would say this is far from the truth. A Preterist understands that this "increase in knowledge" prophesied in the book of Daniel, was fulfilled in the time frame of the end of the Jewish age (AD 30-70). If anything, God has confounded the knowledge of "this age" by blinding the eyes of men from seeing Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of all the promises of God. Let me say that I was among the ranks!

Where is this knowledge that Daniel prophesied of? Of course, the futurist misses the timing of this "knowledge" because he is looking for something to come. Many people believe that the end is so close that the "knowledge" has already come or is nearly complete.

When would the increase of knowledge come?

Let's see *from the scriptures* if the New Testament writers taught that this "knowledge" was something that would be sealed up for another 2,000+ years.

A direct parallel to Daniel 12:4 is Revelation 22:10. Daniel, as well as John, received a vision of the time of the end. Daniel is told to seal up the book, till the time of the end. OK, lets say that Christ is coming in the year 2000. From Daniel's time approximately 586 BC till 2000 is over 2500 years. OK, that is a good reason to seal up the book, amen? Twenty-five hundred years is an incredibly long time for a book to be sealed up until the end. Then at the end the seal of the book would be loosened, right? So after five-hundred years (many days) had passed from Daniel to Johns book of Revelation, the angel of the Lord tells John at the end of the book:

Revelation 22:10

"And he said unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand."

"Seal not", why? "at hand". If Johns vision was referring to events nearly 2000 years to come, the book should have been sealed up with John just as well as it was with Daniel. The visions that Daniel received of the end were referring to "many days". "At hand" has nothing to do with events 2000 years to come.

Daniel 8:26

"And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision;

for it shall be for many days."

Daniel 10:14

"Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days."

Not only was it for many days, but it was concerning what would befall the "Jews" in the latter days. So after many days (500 years) what exactly befell the Jews? Not one stone of the temple was left upon another (Mat. 24:2), and the armies surrounded Jerusalem (Luke 21:20-22) because those were the days of vengeance, that all things which are written were fulfilled.

The end of the Jewish age!

OK, so the timing of this knowledge was brought to pass at the end of the Jewish age. Let me further prove this and also explain just what this knowledge was (and is).

The knowledge spoken of in Daniel is the wisdom given by the Holy Spirit to understand the deep things of God. Things which in ages past had not been revealed to men, but to those in Paul's day it had "been" revealed.

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

"Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to naught: (7) But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: (8) Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. (9) But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. (10) But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God."

Although the Spirit led men of old as the OT was written, they didn't understand how the promises were to be fulfilled, but once the redemptive work of the Spirit had been given at Pentecost, the knowledge of the glory of God was revealed in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: (4) In whom the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. (5) For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. (6) For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The glorious gospel of Christ reveals the glory of God in Jesus. All of God's promises are fulfilled in Christ. Men in times past didn't see how God would fulfill his promises to His people.

2 Corinthians 1:19-20

"For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timothy, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea. (20) For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."

Peter also says that it was to "them" that the OT men prophesied of the things which "then" were being reported in the gospel through the Holy Ghost.

1 Peter 1:10-12

"Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: (11) Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. (12) Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into."

The prophets inquired and search diligently, about "grace" that would come to whom? They searched diligently, but it was not known to them how God would accomplish His eternal purpose. Plain and simple, this knowledge was a mystery in times past, but, to those in the first century church, this mystery had been revealed, even the mystery of the Gentiles being partakers of God's promises "in Christ".

Ephesians 3:3-6

"How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, (4) Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) (5) Which, in other ages, was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets, by the Spirit; (6) That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise, in Christ, by the gospel:"

Ephesians 3:8-10

"Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the un-searchable riches of Christ; (9) And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: (10) To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers, in heavenly places, might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God"

By now it is obviously clear that the "knowledge" spoken of by Daniel, is that spoken of by the new testament writers regarding fulfillment of Gods redemptive plan. Knowledge of REDEMPTION and the REDEEMER. We must know how it is that we are saved. Only the Spirit can take a man beyond the carnal way of justification by works. Today the Spirit works the same way. Not with increased wisdom beyond Paul, no, but the knowledge of Jesus Christ that causes us to glory in Him - Christ crucified. We know Him and He will never say to us - " I never knew you."

Someone may say, "True, that knowledge began at Pentecost, but it is still increasing till today and will increase until the end". They may also bring up Isa 11:9 to prove that knowledge must increase until the "whole earth" is full of the knowledge of the Lord. Fortunately, this verse is fulfilled already.

Isaiah 11:9

"They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."

Romans 10:16-18

"But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, Lord, who has believed our report? (17) So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (18) But I say, Have they not heard? Yes, verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world."

Titus 2:11

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,"

Unlocking the mysteries of the book of Revelation wasn't the specific "knowledge" Daniel wrote about. It is the knowledge of salvation revealed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Many professing Christians utter, with their lips, to know Jesus Christ, when in fact they know "*their*" Jesus, but not the Savior that only God can reveal to man. It really seems that most professing Christians today don't know the severity of their depravity. Without knowing the un-searchable need of a Savior, it is likely that these people have fashioned a Jesus like unto them, and not according to truth.

John 17:3

"And this is life eternal, that they might know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent".

Jeremiah 9:23-24

"Thus says the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: (24) But let him that glories glory in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD which exercise loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, says the LORD."