

CURRENT EVENTS AND THE BIBLE

Greetings precious people, this week we are going to examine another of today's events and how they relate to the Word of God the Bible. Let us consider the areas of education, science and travel. Nearly 2700 years ago the Prophet Daniel wrote one of the 66 books of the Bible bearing his name "The Book of Daniel". It is filled with many fascinating prophecies covering a wide span of time, some of which is currently taking place and some still yet to occur.

Daniel concludes his writings with this prophecy, Daniel 12:1-4 "At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; There shall be a time of trouble; such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever. "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book **until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.**"

I wanted to give you the context of the verse we are focusing on so you could see for yourself how it fits into our subject. Clearly the first 3 verses are referring to the people of Israel and they have certainly experienced great hardships over the years as was spoken in the above verses. (According to the Bible, they will one final time experience a persecution that will be unparalleled in history; we may cover this in a future article).

Let us focus on the final words spoken in the above mentioned verses. First, Daniel mentions that "many will run to and fro". This has to do with travel. As you know, the speed and the ability to travel have increase exponentially in the last 100 years. Prior to the invention of the gas; steam; electric; and nuclear engines travel was limited to horse, boat powered by wind and walking. Just recently I heard of how the space program is going to be offering rides to space. The Russian space program is already doing this.

I just returned from Burma which required me to be on the plane for 17 hours for the leg between LAX and Bangkok. As I told those in Burma of my length of time it took to get to them I followed up with "it sure beats walking or swimming". We give little thought to traveling across country or half way around the world which used to take months just 100 years ago now is but a few hours.

The second area Daniel mentions that characterizes the Last Days is the "increase of knowledge". Once again I use the 100 year mark and ask you to think of the scientific advancements that have been made in the last hundred years compared to the millenniums prior to 1900, they are drastically different. In the computer field alone the advances in technology are staggering. The computers that were used to assist NASSA in the first years of space exploration needed many rooms to house them. Today all that technology can fit into something the size of our cell phone. This too is continually changing on an almost daily basis. The developments in the medical field are also astounding. The abilities to perform heart; eye; kidney; etc. surgeries and even recent face transplant. Space does not permit for me to mention all the other advancements that have occurred in the last hundred years but I am sure you can name many.

There is an interesting side to this aspect of increasing of knowledge. In 2 Timothy 3:7 the Apostle Paul writes of other characteristics that describe the Last Days,

“always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.” We see this very thing happening on a large scale today. With all the learning that has been taking place there the gulf between learning and coming to the knowledge of the TRUTH. Jesus said of Himself in John 14:6 “I am the way, the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father except through me.” As learning is increasing we seem to be distancing ourselves more and more from God.

There is certainly a good side to all the increase of knowledge and travel and I am thankful for this but we need to careful not to depart from the TRUTH.

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