



### **When No “Prophecy Update” Is Necessary**

*In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans— in the first year of his reign, **L. Daniel, observed in the books the number of the years which was revealed as the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet** for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years. **So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.** — Daniel 9:1-3*

Daniel took God at His written Word, that prophecy was about to be fulfilled. He did not recognize this because of current events or because someone pointed it out to him, but simply accepted by faith that a God incapable of going back on His Word would do **exactly what** He said He would do, **exactly when** He said He would do it. At the risk of pushing the envelope on the absurd, did Daniel consult websites or seek confirmation from those who issue weekly “prophecy updates”? Did he quote current events reported on Fox News or CNN? Did he start a countdown or go out and stand on a hill, waiting to be taken in the promised return? No, when he realized God’s prophetic Word was going to be fulfilled, his first reaction was to sincerely turn to God Himself: “*So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes*”. Why is it that so few who claim to believe we are living in the shadow of the ultimate prophetic fulfillment of the Second Coming have emulated the example of Daniel?

Daniel was not responsible for Israel’s seventy years of captivity. Daniel was not someone who participated in and needed to repent of Israel’s sin. But as a member of God’s people, he recognized their general condition and knew that they weren’t spiritually ready for what was about to take place. He realized, according to God’s Word, that the **physical** restoration needed to be preceded by a parallel **spiritual** restoration. His first reaction was to intercede for God’s people with not just prayer and fasting, but yes, repentance.

*I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed and said, "Alas, O LORD, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, we have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances. Moreover, we have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our princes, our fathers and all the people of the land. — Daniel 9:4-6*

Daniel recognized an important mutual relationship, that God “*keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments*”. He knew there was an obligation on the part of God’s people to remain obedient to His Word and ways so as to enjoy the benefits of His promises. But he also did not fail to acknowledge their true state, that “*we have sinned...even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances*”. They had not only forsaken God’s written Word, they had abrogated **all** the avenues of His Word in that “*we have not listened to Your servants the prophets*”; they ignored the messengers as well who reinforced and confirmed His written Word.

Do I really need to provide you with an exhaustive, detailed explanation of how such things are being replayed once again within the walls of the Church at present? Why is it that this generation appears to be so unresponsive to its spiritual condition in the shadow of Christ’s imminent return? It is more than just the anticipated apostasy setting in.

*'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and **you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,** I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. — Revelation 3:17-19*

Unlike Daniel for his time, we are becoming more and more like Laodicea. So many are not just blind, they don’t even know they’re blind; so many are naked, metaphorically speaking, and yet don’t know they’re naked. Nonetheless, what Daniel originally recognized is equally required for this very hour—“*therefore be zealous and repent*”. The last of the seven churches before His return, in the character of Laodicea, needs a proper spiritual restoration in anticipate of the physical restoration about to come.

As Daniel continues his prayer, he repeatedly highlights the shortcomings of the spiritual condition of God's people which has resulted in their not being properly prepared for what is about to take place:

- *"...we have rebelled against Him..."* (Dan. 9:9)
- *"...nor have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His teachings..."* (Dan. 9:10)
- *"...transgressed Your law and turned aside, not obeying Your voice..."* (Dan. 9:11)
- *"...we have sinned against Him".* (Dan. 9:11)
- *"...we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our iniquity and giving attention to Your truth".* (9:13)
- *...we have not obeyed His voice".* (Dan. 9:14)
- *"...we have sinned, we have been wicked".* (Dan. 9:15)

It's a repeated call to repentance with a simultaneous return to God's Word. And regardless of your chosen eschatology, regardless of your predisposition for the timing of the Rapture or the particular details of God's prophetic Word to which you are personally drawn, if we truly believe a divine fulfillment is imminent, why is it so few embrace Daniel's humble and biblical example? Why are we not interceding for the proper spiritual preparation of God's people where His return is concerned? Or as Daniel states as his prayer concludes, *"we are not presenting our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion".* (Dan. 9:18)

I am not making an appeal that you set aside your eschatology—your preferred interpretation of the final End Times timeline, but simply asking that, as a Christian who believes God will fulfill His Word and execute the Second Coming, shouldn't the proof of our faith in His Word be proven by our actions? If we truly believe we are seeing prophetic events unfold in our times, shouldn't we be more concerned about spiritual readiness than self-proclaimed prophetic headlines? Wouldn't our efforts be most productive if we worked toward the proper spiritual preparation of His people than issuing updates on how little time remains? Shouldn't we be glued to His Word more than ever?

Notice that Daniel took God at His written, given Word. He did not need confirmation from anyone or anything else. He did not initiate his own public campaign to bring about public awareness of the imminent fulfillment of the prophetic in their lifetime. He retreated to a very fundamental position by sincerely seeking God because the most important issue Daniel recognized was the lack of spiritual preparedness. The problem was not whether people would agree with him that God's prophetic Word was about to be fulfilled; the problem was what they were doing about it. Having taken God at His Word that the end was about to come, Daniel's primary concern was that as many as possible would be properly prepared for it. But neither did he need to enlist anyone to join him in this realization; Daniel personally followed through individually as the natural action of his personal faith and understanding of the Word.

In what may be the most important aspect of Daniel 9, take special note of the fact that Daniel, recognizing that a fulfillment of God's Word was imminent, never requested another sign, a further explanation, or an additional clarification of what was to come. Daniel accepted that God's Word concerning the seventy years where Israel was concerned was sufficient where His prophetic Word was working, but because of his humble reaction of intercession, without ever asking for it, God provided an additional revelation as to the seventy weeks of years remaining for the whole world. (Dan. 9:20-27) In other words, the right response of prayer and fasting and repentance resulted in additional disclosures of God's Word. Daniel's right response to God's Word was a gateway to an even deeper revelation. How did Daniel gain a further, deeper understanding of God's prophetic Word? By studying God's already given, written Word.

I absolutely and readily confess that I have had to adjust my interpretation of God's prophetic Word on a number of points in the course of my life. I would be a liar if I tried to assert that what I believe at this time is what I always believed and that I have never deviated from it. No, there have indeed been changes. But that for which I **am** dogmatic is that these changes have not come about because of what I have observed in the news, nor has such resulted from anything revealed in a so-called "prophecy update". The driving source of the change has come about as the result of immersion in the Word, and I don't just mean the prophetic portions alone. The deeper my commitment to not just studying but putting into practice God's Word, the more it has not just changed me personally, but sharpened my understanding of what God has specified He will do in the Last Days. Because of a deeper understanding of God's Word, I can readily

"When No 'Prophecy Update' Is Necessary", Page 4 of 6

see when something presented in the news is a fulfillment of His prophetic Word, not the other way around. But far too many have reversed the process: not having studied God's Word for themselves, they have allowed themselves to be dependent on someone else interpreting events for them, and therefore do not realize that many of those assertions actually have no biblical basis. Because they really aren't properly prepared spiritually, they're ill-equipped scripturally. At a time when God's Word matters most, they are actually paying attention to something else in its place.

Just because someone issues a "prophecy update" does not automatically mean they are suborning error or intentionally propagating false teaching. I am focusing more on the other side of the equation, the consumers of that product. The example of Daniel provides the *right* reaction to the fulfillment of anything prophetic, that Scripture is the source of further light on the subject.

This is a big reason why, in the First Coming, John the Baptist had to come to prepare the proper spiritual way for Christ's imminent arrival. John's baptism was a ministry leading people in personal repentance of sin and a return to God's Word and ways so that they would be properly prepared spiritually for the Messiah's coming.

*When all the people and the tax collectors heard this, they acknowledged God's justice, having been baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose for themselves, not having been baptized by John. — Luke 7:29-30*

The Scribes and Pharisees were supposed to be the most educated where God's Word was concerned, those who not only preserved His written Word, but were at the forefront of teaching it. That was not enough. Without a proper spiritual preparation in their personal life, knowledge was not enough. And in fact, the Gospels are full of the misunderstandings of the Messiah's coming by those spiritually and scripturally ill-prepared. Even when they saw the signs and miracles for themselves, it had no effect because of their spiritual predisposition and mishandling of His Word. It would appear that on an even greater scale, this is being replayed yet again in the shadow of the Messiah's return.

It is *always* important to seek Christ, but in the Last Days it is even more important than ever to turn to Him. It is *always* important to intercede for the spiritual welfare of the Body of Christ, but in the Last Days it is even more important. It is *always* pressing that

"When No 'Prophecy Update' Is Necessary", Page 5 of 6

His people repent of their sins and return to His Word, but it has never been more important than in these closing hours as we observe not just what has already been fulfilled, but knowing that a God incapable of violating His Word will do precisely **everything** He has promised without fail for every given syllable of it.

We could all learn a lesson from Simeon and Anna. (Lk. 2:22-38) When they beheld the infant Jesus, they both proclaimed the fulfillment of God's promised arrival of the Messiah. Even though they would not live to see Jesus grow up and undertake his 3-1/2 year public ministry some thirty years later, or see any miracles, or even hear any of His teachings, the very few prophecies they witnessed being fulfilled at the earliest stages of the First Coming were enough to confirm for them that **all** that God promised **would** be fulfilled without fail. For the biblically faithful, just one fulfillment of God's Word is enough to know that it is all about to be fulfilled exactly as given.

Well then, call me "Simeon". I have already witnessed early fulfillments of God's prophetic Word where the Second Coming is concerned. I therefore know for certain that whether I will live long enough to see them all come true is not necessary. Just one fulfillment, even in the earliest stages, is enough to know that it will all come about exactly as specified. It is no longer a matter of "if", but "when". So now it's time to seek the Lord both personally and in earnest for the entire Body of Christ.

We aren't in need of more "prophecy updates", but a genuine change based on our faith in God's Word as He brings everything about. And that change begins with our sincere concern and efforts on the part of the whole Body of Christ. Even if, like Daniel, we are personally right with God, a proper End Times faith is even more concerned for the spiritual state of His people than ever before.

In Him,

[Servant@WalkWithTheWord.org](mailto:Servant@WalkWithTheWord.org)

*[Note: This commentary was drawn upon chapter 4, "Daniel 9: The Weeks of Years", in the author's book, "The Anti-King(dom)".]*