

STRAIGHTWAY

And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him [Mark 1:18].

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The Wicked Shall Do Wickedly and Shall Not Understand

Dr. H. T. Spence

Continuing our burden from the previous issue, we come to another aspect of the understandings of the wise and wicked in the End Time. Even though the Scripture describes in certain contexts great details of the time of the end, it is obvious that the wicked will not and cannot avail themselves of this divine revelation. Nevertheless, the Bible is and will be a source of comfort and direction to those who are true believers in God.

The Mystery of the Word of God

The Bible truly is the singular miracle book! No other writing

in human language is infallible and inerrant. The Bible dwells in a dual dimension of eternity and time; yet, even in time, it is timeless in the fact that it cannot be limited to a specific generation. God's Word has also a dual concept in that it has eternally existed as the Living Word (the Son of God) and the Written Word (the "scripture of truth," Dan. 10:21) in heaven. Forever God's Word has been settled in heaven; it is as eternal as its author.

There eventually came a fullness of time when God appointed for the Living Word to come

This edition includes two more articles

Part Five—"But the Wise Shall Understand"—Daniel 12:10d

Part Six—"Blessed Is He That Waiteth"—Daniel 12:12-13

to earth, take on flesh, and dwell among men. Likewise, the Written Word, which was eternal in heaven, was appointed in time to take on the “flesh” of an anthropomorphic (human) language. The Holy Spirit moved within the womb of a virgin woman and brought forth the creation of a body for the Living Word; likewise, the Holy Spirit moved upon holy men to bring about the enfleshment of the Word in human language. The written Word of God is not the covers of the book, the ink, or the paper upon which it is written; it is the breathing of God in human language words. Although the words within the Bible can be found in a dictionary and other books written with words, it was when the Holy Spirit brought these words together and breathed upon them over a period of 1600 years and through forty to forty-four writers that we were given the written Word of God on earth.

The Old Testament was given to the Jews; the New Testament was given to the Church. *God's Word was not given to the world!* It was “once and for all” delivered *unto the saints* to keep and guide God's people through the last days even up to and through the End Time. “We have also a more sure word of prophecy, whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts” (2 Pet. 1:19). This Word is for God's saints in bringing them through the worst of times unto the coming of the Lord.

Although given in human language, this divine revelation is portrayed in such a way that it is hidden from the wicked, even though it is understandable by those spiritually minded. The apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 2 gives us a classic insight to this truth, as he presents “the things,” yea, “the deep things” of God. The Apostle, in his transition concerning the wisdom of God, declared, “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” (2:9). These “the things” are God's Word, for he continues by saying, “But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God” (2:10). Paul clarifies that these “things” of God's Word are a revelation. In the next verse he declares,

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For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God (2:11, 12).

Only the Spirit of God can illuminate “the things” of God to a man, for such things are not of a man, but of God. But Paul continues: “Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.” The Word or the things of God were given by divine inspiration and not by the human wisdom of man. Thus, in the light of these truths, Paul then declares, “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” The natural man neither understands nor accepts “the things” of God: literally he rejects and refuses to accept the things of God. This principle is true not only of the Word of God but also of God’s men. The wicked do not know, nor discern, nor understand God’s men; the wicked do not discern what they do and why they do what they do. Paul continues in verses 15 and 16:

But he that is spiritual judgeth [discerneth] all things, yet he himself is judged of no [natural] man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he

may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

The spiritual man is given the ability by the Holy Spirit to sift, to examine, to decide rightly, because he has the eyes of his heart enlightened (Eph. 1:18). He is no longer blinded by the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4). At the martyrdom of the Apostolic Father Polycarp, the crowd in the arena did not understand why he would be willing to be burned at the stake, rather than simply say, “Lord Caesar.” He was unwilling to save his earthly life by the worship of Caesar in place of the Lord Jesus. *The wicked could not understand.*

“None of the wicked shall understand,” for they are blinded by their own sin, by the world, by the Devil, and by the delusion sent by God. Even on the Cross, the Lord Jesus Christ acknowledged in His prayer to the Father that “they know not what they do.” The wicked are not bettered by the Word, or by the rod of God, or even by any of the warnings of God; they are hardened through their own tribulations unto their own ruin.

Understanding God’s Word and Providence

In contrast to the wicked, the godly shall be taught of God to understand the ways of God’s providence foretold by the prophets. They truly have God’s wisdom in these matters. Wicked men will continue to practice wickedness, while those who are

wiser by tribulation and trial shall understand. This truth is important. *It is not the clarity of how the Word of God is written that automatically reveals the Word to a person.* It will always take the enlightenment of God's Spirit to bring about the discernment of what the Word is saying.

God may not give a specific discernment to his men until an appointed and needed time for that truth to be understood. We can observe this principle in Daniel 12:8, when the prophet said (as the Hebrew reads), "I heard [perfect tense] and was not understanding [imperfect tense]." Daniel was asking what will be the final outcome? What will be the permanent achievements? It was made clear to him in 12:9 that there would be no understanding given to him of these matters. These words would only be revealed when those things come to pass. Daniel would not know the understanding of the prophecies now, but men, at the appointed time, would come to know at the time of the end. Daniel 8:26 states, "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."

Prophecy declares that great trouble will accompany the End Time of the Church Age. While the wicked will not understand this trouble arising, God's people, given wisdom by Him, will understand. The end is both partly hidden and partly revealed by God.

Part of the End Time that is revealed concerns global governments and world empires. Movements within these will effectively bring about an Antichrist who will rule the world, and a beast of the earth that will ride the back of the beast out of the sea. We understand there will be a one-world religion. Even though these principles are revealed, the wicked still will not understand the danger. This principle is portrayed in Acts 4:25–28:

Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together. For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

Peter and the apostles saw this in the Word of God through the power of the Spirit.

There is also enough revealed by the Spirit of God to guide and urge us in the right way:

Enter ye in at the strait gate, for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction and many there be which go in thereat. Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it (Matt. 7:13,14).

Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even

the Father: when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power, For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet (1 Cor. 15:24, 25).

God knows the end from the beginning. Nothing surprises Him. Nothing frustrates Him. Everything is used to fulfill His purpose. Since the end is with Him, what foolishness it would be for an individual to think he could reach a happy end by opposing God's ways. If we are following His ways, we have no fear for the end.

The World's View: A New World Order

The twentieth century was the key century for the transition of the world into the End Time. It was the first time in history that we experienced a "world" war. It was the first time we experienced mass destruction of mankind with a weapon of such magnitude as the atomic bomb. It was the first time of a closed world order being pursued rejecting God's presence. Within the latter part of that century, we began to witness the face of the world beginning to drastically change. We truly have entered into a confrontation of God's prophecy versus the world's prophecy of the End.

On June 12, 1987, President Ronald Reagan gave a speech at the Brandenburg Gate commemorating the 750th anniversary of Berlin. In that speech Reagan challenged the

Soviet leader at that time, Mikhail Gorbachev, to "Tear down that wall!" referring to the Berlin Wall that was built in 1961 around Western Berlin. Reagan had hoped that taking down the wall would be an emblem of Gorbachev's desire to increase freedom in the Eastern Bloc of Germany through *glasnost* ("transparency") and *perestroika* ("restructuring"). It was eventually through Reagan's and Pope John Paul II's influence upon Gorbachev that the wall was torn down, permitting the people to begin crossing the border. As a result, today Germany is one country.

In the late summer of 1990, war erupted between Iraq and Kuwait. The lightning-fast, 100-hour war was witnessed via satellite around the world. Global humanity became obsessed with the potential of this war. Because so many nations were involved in this anticipated battle, Neo-Evangelicals and the Charismatics gave prophecies that this might be the Battle of Armageddon to bring an end of the world. But, of course, that war did not unfold as the world thought it would.

In 1992 the European community emerged as a possible forerunner of the United States of Europe provoking much prophetic interpretation. But in June of this year (2016) the United Kingdom made a public declaration to pull out of the governmental European Union. How this will affect the rest of

Europe and its influence for others to do the same remains to be seen. The massive immigration especially of Muslims into European countries (predominately the U.K., France, and Germany) and into our own country is profoundly affecting the ethnic makeup of many countries.

Amidst the struggles of political and economic survival, there is still the aggressive global talk of a “New World Order.” Early in 1971 John Lennon (after breaking up with the Beatles and now with his mistress Yoko Ono) gave to the world the song *Imagine*. The lyrics caught the attention of the world by openly declaring the hope of a time to come where there would be no countries, no religion, no heaven, no hell, no possessions, everyone living for today, and the world becoming as one. His dream was a world of secular hedonism, a world without religious faith, without national pride or sovereignty, without anything to fight for, without any private property, but with a one-world government and communal property. He suggested that if the governments were to take away everything, there would be nothing to fight for. Hypocritically, Lennon died with an estimated \$250 million being left to Yoko Ono and their son.

Many individuals have written about this hope over the decades of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Walter Millis, in his book *Road to War: America, 1914-1917*,

made the observation concerning Colonel Edward Mandell House, the aid to Woodrow Wilson: “The Colonel’s sole justification for preparing such a bath of blood for his countrymen was his hope of establishing a new world order of peace and security as a result.” We read of the many contributions that the Rockefellers have brought forth as a great force of economic power behind a global government. As early as July 26, 1968, the *New York Times* stated, “In an address to the International Platform Association at the Sheraton-Park Hotel [New York-Governor Nelson], Rockefeller called for the creation of a “new world order.” Adolf Hitler, as cited in *The Occult and the Third Reich* is quoted as saying, “National socialism will use its own revolution for the establishing of a new world order.” Richard N. Gardner, former deputy assistant secretary of state for international organizations under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, in *Foreign Affairs*, April 1974, declared the following:

In short, the “house of world order” will have to be built from the bottom up rather than from the top down . . . An end run around national sovereignty, eroding it piece by piece, will accomplish much more than the old fashioned assault.

Jimmy Carter, the Democratic presidential candidate in 1976 stated, “We must replace balance of power

politics with world order politics. *The Humanist Manifesto II* (1973) declared the following:

We deplore the division of humankind on nationalistic grounds. We have reached a turning point in human history where the best option is to transcend the limits of national sovereignty and to move toward the building of a world community . . . a system of world law and world order based upon transnational federal government.

And we must include the New Age leader of the past, Benjamin Crème, who stated in April 25, 1982, “What is the Plan? It includes the installation of a new world government and a new world religion under Maitreya.” Maitreya is the so-called coming messiah of every religion (such as the coming Buddha of complete enlightenment).

It is evident that for decades there has been continuity between the White House, the State Department, the Council of Foreign Relations, the Trilateral Commission, various secret societies, and the leadership of the New Age movement. There is this one obsessive, driving force toward a one-world government, a world police force, world courts, world banking and currency, with a world elite in charge of it all. Some of the goals are a complete redistribution of wealth, an elimination of Christianity, and a depopulation of two or three billion people in the third world by 2020.

America: The Year 2016

Our country is in an absolute moral, spiritual, religious, ethical, and governmental shambles. The very laws of the land corrupt and continue to oppress righteousness rather than preserve righteousness and the good we once knew as a nation. America’s distinctives are but a distant memory; is there anything made in America that has not been touched by foreign influence? Our country has truly entered the Post America Era that our present administration announced eight years ago would aggressively be pursued. We are on the eve of UN powers controlling our nativity and bringing us into conformity to the whip and the will of the global, one-world order. The direction is set, the powers are in place, the mood and spirit of global society is pressing us onward, and there is no champion for Truth.

As we have entered well into this ominous year of darkness in our country, what will rise from the mud, the mess, the debris, and the cesspool of our present national distress? We are witnessing violence filling our country and the world, but the wicked do not understand why it is all happening. They certainly refuse to acknowledge the depravity of man and the intensifying of sin in these last days; they refuse to acknowledge the powers of demonic evil in “religious” Islam; they refuse to acknowledge the willful demise of the God-appointed family; they

refuse to acknowledge the secular philosophies that pervade the halls of education and politics; they refuse to acknowledge the demoralization of our country as we have sown to the wind of debilitating promiscuity and are now reaping the whirlwind of national suicide. Ironically, they will use these evils to intentionally bring the downfall of a country, knowing that they will destroy the former glory of that nation. But what will come out of the desolation and the chaos that has been sown? The global leaders hope that out of what they believe to be controlled chaos, they will be able to bring about a new world order, a utopia built on man and a denial of God. To divert the thinking of the common man, we are manipulated through the social media to believe that our problems stem from lack of money, racism, ethnicity, poverty, bad DNA, Christianity, overpopulation, availability of guns, and lack of societal tolerance. Yes, we are at the hour of global apostasy where the wicked will do more wickedly and will never understand.

The year 2016 will be the year when America will reap the finality of what we have sown. God has given us over to “Obamination” for eight years. But what is before us? Whatever public Christian concept remains in our country is an apostate Christianity. It has no power to stop the appointed powers to which God has given us over. We stand in the wake of our national debauchery;

we are living in a national disaster of character in leadership. What will this year unfold for our history?

Conclusion

The words of Ezekiel 14:13, 14, and 16 indicate that a city or nation could fall so deep into sin that God would not spare it, no matter what prayers are prayed:

Son of man, when the land sinneth against me by trespassing grievously, then will I stretch out mine hand upon it, and will break the staff of the bread thereof, and will send famine upon it, and will cut off man and beast from it: Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD. . . . Though these three men were in it, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither sons nor daughters; they only shall be delivered, but the land shall be desolate.

God is still in control of the events of this country amidst the fact that America sees what the media wants us to see. Will there be the “dark horse” to arise in God’s providence which will send us to the final dismantling of America? Who will be able to turn the tide of the flagrant enemy that has already come in like a flood among us under the guise of immigration? Will several enemies unite at the given command to drive us to our knees of surrender, with a new unknown leadership emerging from the wings? Though the wicked may believe they are orchestrating the imminent events of America, they do

not know that God is in control.

May God help us not to trust in men, but only in God for our future days. We once again cry out, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" 

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“But the Wise Shall Understand”

Daniel 12:10d

Dr. H. T. Spence

As we near the coming presidential election in the United States, we find our nation at its worst diabolical condition in its history. The public death-of-God ideology in a country that once knew the true God has brought us to an epidemic proportion of lawlessness of living, to an official abandonment of all morality, to oppressive violence filling our cities, to a runaway economy (with absolutely no discipline and the expectation of a greater economic collapse than the recession of 2008), to a public education system that while failing to educate succeeds in cloning children for elite political correctness, and lastly, to the aggressive rise and religious influence of Islam which is being methodically and intelligently transplanted by our Islamic president into every remote community of America. Yet, when professing Christians think that we have finally reached the bottom of the mire of our nation’s debauchery and sin, behold, another depth is found, explored, and inculcated into the already overwhelming national cesspool. America has entered the dark, bottomless pit of Romans 1:21–32. The collapse of society in judgment from God is already evident. The Lord only needs to leave us to ourselves and we will commit national suicide. Death and destruction are the inevitable of

fallen humanity. Our only hope is for Christ to return and set up His kingdom in order to save humanity from its imploding destruction.

A Nation Given to Wickedness

The world is reeling like a drunken madman, and the waves of the sea of humanity are roaring, longing to release a beast out of its sea. The perplexed governments of the world are looking for a man to usher in the hopeful utopia of a world without God. Secular humanism believes that global chaos must come before a global cosmos; the world must come to disorder before it can evolve into order. Thus we are witnessing the intelligent dismantling of anything and everything that has law, order, design, substance, or stability.

Over the centuries the Devil through his human representatives has overthrown nations either through skillful deception or through chaotic terrorism. In the twentieth century, communism conquered nations like Russia through deception and China through the violence of terrorism. More and more in the twenty-first century, Islamic terrorism is forcing all nations to fear, destruction, and chaos as it arrogantly presses onward with its global domination. Simultaneously, Islam is plying its antichrist doctrine through deception.

There is not a day that passes but what we are bombarded by a sympathetic media promoting Islamic religious knowledge and damage-control rhetoric to cover Islam's diabolical evils.

Contributing to the deception is the enigmatic Pope Francis. While methodically dismantling traditional Roman Catholicism and conforming it to an interfaith religion, he has carefully minimized any negative perspective of Islam (just like Obama) within the Romanist religious world. Francis is the prima donna of postmodernism, acclimating Rome to a non-principled religion that will make Catholicism easier to be assimilated into a one-world religion. This pope may play a major role in the final amalgamation of world religions. As a powerful friend to the new world order, he equally has close relationships with the sodomite community of Rome and the world while simultaneously outwardly sympathizing with the Muslim world. His time as pope may simply be for a transitional season because he seems to have been chosen for another role of facilitating the uniting of world religions. The pope is of the same mindset as President Obama in the demand for globalization of the increased powers of the United Nations. This pope has proved to be the most deceptive of the recent papacy, an archenemy to truth and surprisingly even to the beliefs of Rome.

At the writing of this article, our country stands in exceeding fierce times as we witness the diabolical powers of two political parties with their front-running candidates. One candidate stands as an aggressive empathizer of the lesbian/homosexual lifestyle from the feminine perspective, eagerly willing to sell her very soul to the Devil to gain the presidency. Only God and the prince power of the air know the depth of the covenant she has made with the underworld of darkness in anticipation of gaining this prestigious office (Luke 4:6). Is it now possible for someone to become president of these United States without being demonically possessed? For the White House has truly become a haven for the cohorts of the prince of darkness. This woman of ill repute and her husband have lived for years in the very iniquitous den of promiscuity. Rumors now abound that Bill Clinton is in the advancing stages of AIDS and side effects from other sexually transmitted diseases such as dementia. Only providence has kept her alive in spite of the mini-strokes she has had, including the damage to her brain from a fall in 2012. These troubles coupled with her drug and alcohol addiction have caused further brain damage, producing visible contortions and uncontrollable laughter at times. The media works hard at "damage control" in her public appearances. In that she has become the personification of "The Lie," it

apparently does not seem to bother the populace.

As Clinton Foundation coffers reach nearly a billion dollars fed by Muslim countries, the strange, “accidental” deaths of many individuals surrounding her and her husband continue to escalate in number. Just in the months of June, July, and August five men writing or preparing to testify against the Clintons have mysteriously died: Mike Flynn (editor), John Ashe (UN official), Seth Conrad Rich (Democratic staffer), Victor Thorn (Clinton author), and Shawn Lucas (Sanders supporter).

For the past twenty years Hillary Clinton has been surrounded by her “body woman” Huma Mahmood Abedin, a female Muslim who has become the controlling power in all aspects of Hillary’s life and political career. In addition to all this, there is now the concern for her running mate Tim Kaine, a politician who has received large donations from various Muslim groups such as the Islamic PAC (Political Action Committee), the Muslim Brotherhood (he has spoken at their gatherings), and even donations from the radicals at CAIR (Council on American Islamic Relations). If Hillary lives long enough to become President (the Clintons refuse to reveal their medical records to the public), the former governor of Virginia, Tim Kaine, could step into office and, though what may be an enigma

now, may in the future reveal the key to a Muslim takeover of our government. Hillary Clinton may be the candidate that God will give as a foolish shepherd to lead this nation to its final destruction.

Within the other political party, a dark horse arose last year from the rank and file of the business world, claiming to be a political outsider. He has stepped forward in disturbing prominence as a man of immense wealth with financial holdings literally around the world, a man with families from three marriages (and yet, children who have become business associates with their father), a man who had his own successful TV program, and a man who has financially contributed pragmatically to both sides of the political fence. Donald Trump is a man of the contemporary but has become the enigma to both sides of that ideological fence. Is he the other side of the same global coin? Will we find him to be the delay in the final judgment of this nation? Is he real, or is he the carefully prepared image to be the decoy within this melting pot of candidates? He promises to make America great again, but the only way this will ever be true is for the nation to turn back to God through deep repentance. This understanding is not part of the rhetoric of the remaining candidates.

The media tries to persuade the country to vote a certain way by writing and declaring their positive or

negative remarks concerning this man or that woman, but even their polls are part of “The Lie.” At present, the polls declare Hillary out in front by a large margin. However, the polls may be announcing literally what the powers-that-be want us to believe; the truth of the matter could be the opposite.

Corruption continues to rule and reign in our society in every aspect. The wise know there is only one voice that is true and that is the voice of God’s Word. True voting is a thing of the past in our country; voting today is often resolved by the Venezuelan machines secured for the voting booths linked with the corruption of the dictator of that country, as well as the overwhelming tactics of the politically correct, as we saw with Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) in the previous presidential elections. The hatred between the two candidates proves there is great division within the Kingdom of Darkness, demons vying against one another to rule through men and women.

God is giving the world over to the finality of the “Day of Man,” and we are witnessing the intensity of hatred, pride, anger, and debauchery at its greatest hour. It all will birth the “Man of Sin,” the “Son of Perdition,” the “Antichrist.” The world is roaring for this man to arise! And God’s people are being given wisdom to see what is happening, refusing to be taken by the rhetoric, and knowing

full well only the coming of the Lord is the hope for the saving of mankind from his destruction. We must remember that above all the mess, the mud, the corruption, the deception, the lying, the swarming of demonic Islam, there stands God and His plan. Even the wrath of man will ultimately rise to praise Him. Though God is not the author of confusion, He will work through it and in spite of it in the history of mankind. The rhetoric flowing from the mouths of presidential candidates and the media certainly is filled with the powers of darkness, yet God is still on His Throne.

Amidst the voices of complexity and confusion, the true saints hear the voice of God’s Word as to the End Time with its signs and powers. Some may be praying for a delay of the collapse of this nation, while others may be praying for God to speed up the destruction to bring us closer to the Tribulation Period and then to the coming of Christ to set up His Kingdom. As the wicked will do more wickedly and shall not understand all that is happening, the wise will understand through the light of God’s precious Word.

The Wise Shall Understand

We have come to our theme statement in Daniel 12:10 concluding the verse, “but the wise shall understand.” Back in Daniel 12:3 we read, “And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and

they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.” In the End Time of Daniel’s Last Week and the time of intense trouble that is mentioned in 12:1, the prophet is now told about the remnant. The remnant are designated as *wise*, in that they were able to see through the unbelief and wickedness, both religiously and politically, of their generation. The *wise* actively have been living for God in their generation, and thus God has given them an ear to hear and an eye to see what is happening.

Revelation 7 mentions 144,000 Jewish evangelists who will rise during the Tribulation Period having the seal of God in their forehead. In Revelation 14 a multitude which no man could number rises in the last half of Daniel’s Last Week. These will be the *wise* during that End-time period. They will behave themselves wisely in their obedience to God. Their words coming from their wisdom will turn many to righteousness. They will influence others to the faith. The wise will be the contrast to the world in that End-time season. For many will try to understand what is happening but will not come to know the insight of it.

“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” (Dan. 12:4). These words express concern that the prophecies

revealed unto Daniel were to have clear understanding to those living in the time of the end. The words of prophecy will be especially designed to help those seeking to trust in the Lord in their affliction at the climax of the age.

The closing phrase of 12:4 “many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased” is difficult to translate, leading to various interpretations. A familiar interpretation includes the increased travel of our modern society; certainly there has never been in the history of the world more advanced travel than today. However, in this context the search for knowledge seems to be the main idea. Amos 8:11, 12 gives a similar prophecy:

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.”

The Hebrew word in Daniel 12 for *knowledge* is literally, “The Knowledge,” making knowledge the understanding of this long prophecy. The implication is that attempts to understand the truth will require considerable effort. As to be found in Amos 8:12, there will be a vain traveling about in order to discover “the knowledge.” Amos implies that the search for knowledge by men will

often go unrewarded either because they do not look in the right place, or because their time and circumstances do not justify their understanding of prophecy that does not immediately concern them. Those living in the time of the end will have far greater understanding of these truths than was possible to see in years gone by. There may be truths that even we at this present time do not see in the Scriptures that God will reveal to those in Daniel's Last Week. There are prophecies in which insight will be given by God, knowing that such truths will be needed for that particular time in history. God's men in all ages have desired to be wise, to know God's Word for *their time, their season*, the dispensation in which they found themselves.

Note 1 Peter 1:10, 11:

Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: 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.

Even in the next verse in Peter's words concerning "things the angels desire to look into," he goes on to declare, "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end, for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." God's men have wanted "The Knowledge" for the time in which they lived; but is it to

be revealed to them? Daniel wanted to know but was bidden to content himself and quietly go his way; the prophecies would be revealed only at the proper time. Men through the centuries have struggled in wanting to know, such as Daniel on several occasions, but it was not the time, yea, it was not the "end time."

The End Time of the Church Ages

We believe we are in the time of the end of the Church Age. Many prophecies (especially within Daniel and Revelation) began to be opened around the mid-part of the 1800s. Several of God's men became the wise ones through the Holy Spirit to grant God's people insight concerning these books for their time. This understanding deepened following the height of the Awakenings and Revivalist periods.

One of the prophetic passages that brought companion insight was the parable of the wise and foolish virgins (Matthew 25:1–13). In 25:1 the virgins come out to meet the Bridegroom. This anticipation truly was the early hope of the first-century Church in the light of the second coming of Christ. They "took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom." But then we read of the sad plight of Church history in verse 5: "While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept." This verse gives us various views of spiritual sleeping. The first word *slumbered*

has the understanding of “nodding,” “in and out of sleep,” or “dozing off.” The second term *sleep* has the meaning of “full sleep.” In the light of Church history, there may be several contextual meanings of these two terms. It certainly indicates there was much spiritual sleeping through the Church ages that brought great fallings away. There have been a number of seasons in the past two thousand years when there was little light and the Word of God was not an open vision. Nevertheless, there was enough light for men and women to know the Gospel of salvation for their souls. This was especially found in remnant groups, although they did not always see the “fullness of Truth” revealed through those centuries. The Reformation certainly brought the great revelation of the supreme authority of Scripture, justification by faith, the universal priesthood of all believers, the reviving of the truth concerning the supreme sacrifice of Christ above the works of the institutional Church, and salvation of the soul through grace alone. It was God’s timing for these truths to be seen for His people in greater detail in the 1500s and 1600s.

Additionally, in God’s timing the great Revivalist period brought deeper insights from the Word of God about how to “live” the Christian life. The Reformation had brought to the forefront the fundamentals of the Christian Faith needed to become a Christian. Now

there was needed deeper truth for the living, the embellishing truths of an inward life with God. Yes, there was first needed the spiritual sight of the objective Christ as our Justification, our High Priest, our Mediator, and our Righteousness before the Father; all of this was brought forth by the Holy Spirit during the season of the Reformation in the public church. But during the Revivalist movement the Holy Spirit brought forth deeper insights because the times now demanded deeper truth. Though Christ my righteousness stands before the Father as my imputed righteousness, there was the desired Righteousness of Christ *within*, an imparted righteousness.

During the Revivalist period of the 1700s, there was a movement throughout Europe for perfection: perfection in art, perfection in music, perfection in architecture, perfection in drama and poetry. This desire to bring different aspects of life and art to perfection in principle and beauty paralleled God’s men crying out for a Christian perfection. There was a longing for the principles of God’s working within to bring about the “beauty of holiness.” Yea, a “pure heart,” with pure motives, with pure desires, and with a pure will and mind. They called it “Christian perfection.”

We must carefully acknowledge what they meant by it. Christian perfection was not “sinless” perfection as many have tried to attach to the term.

The clear definition of Christian perfection by these men of God was simply the greatest commandment, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy mind, and strength." Could it be possible for a Christian to experience and know this? Yes, this was their longing within the great redemptive work of Christ. *Who could be against such a longing and hope?* These men began to see deeper insight to the Gospel and its power for man. It was now the time for the Holy Spirit to reveal these principles that were already within the Scriptures but had not been opened fully as yet to the Church. Before certain truths can be known, other truths must first be seen.

It is interesting to note that coming out of these "heart" redemptive truths were insights on the second coming of Christ. The Second Coming has always been believed by the people of God, but its details were not seen as yet out of the Scriptures. But between 1840 and 1860 this fundamental now was seen with greater insight; the Holy Spirit began to move upon the hearts of His men to give the needed sight for the Scriptures that now brought the urgency of being ready for the coming of the Lord. In Matthew 25:6 we read, "And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him." This cry that He is coming brought a greater

consciousness to the preparation of the self, the heart, and the living of the Christian. It brought a greater understanding as to the walk with God, communion with God, and the relationship of the self with God. It drew the sight upward, after the burden of preparing one's self *for* Christ and *in* Christ. This cry rent the air. The original Greek is very clear that it was a loud, piercing sound that continued to linger with these virgins. Yes, the sound-cry of "Behold the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him."

We must keep in mind it was a "midnight" cry; it was the darkest of the night. We believe the Lord will come in the darkest hour of history with humanity's sea waves roaring and the hearts of men failing because of fear. The political spectrum of governments will be at its lowest ebb; the church will be at the darkest hour of its own apostasy. At this hour of the cry, we find the virgins sleeping and slumbering. It was a sound that awakened them, a sound that influenced them to do something about preparing themselves to meet Him. This was the burden that flowed out of the Philadelphia Church Age, the last age before the apostate Laodicean Church Age.

It has now been over 165 years since the sound-cry came with great force to the Remnant, and this cry is still echoing. The Remnant preachers are still crying out to "prepare" to meet Him. We will "go" to meet

Him! I have observed over the forty-six years in the ministry that those who do not believe in an imminent coming of Christ tend not to be as urgent in their living for Christ; they have no driving heart and motive to live the Christian life. They tend to be worldly, carnal, compromising, and apathetic in their professing-Christian daily living. There seems to be no “blessed hope” purifying them and motivating and provoking their heart to be ready to meet Him. For the Scriptures reveal, “And unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation” (Heb. 9:28). This statement could not be referring to the open coming of Christ at the Battle of Armageddon in Revelation 19 and Zechariah 14. At that time everyone, whether they are looking for Him or not, shall see Him appear.

Several spiritual movements came at the time of this “cry,” including the birth of the Fundamentalist movement. It was the call through preaching to get back to the Scriptures and prepare the heart and life for the Lord’s Second Coming. The *lamp*, the life of the Christian, was to be trimmed, put in order, and made ready. The *wick*, which drew the oil up to the light, was to be trimmed, fine-tuned in living in order to make the light brighter and more beneficial. (Surprisingly, the virgins did not simply light the wick; they trimmed it in order to give the burning pattern greater clarity.) Yes, the five wise

virgins, in hearing the cry, trimmed their lamps, poured in fresh oil from another container, and lit the wick. Oh, the midnight hour! The hour when the sleep is the deepest and awakening is most unwelcomed. The Lord will come in a time of history as a thief in the night, to steal us away. Preparation of heart is most unwelcomed in this time period of history.

Wise and Foolish Virgins

I remember in my younger years when prayers of God’s people were fervent, hearts were broken, and altars were not only for saving the unconverted but also for helping Christians to trim their lamps (removing the charred portion of their wick-life to sustain the burning of the light of Christ). These years witnessed much preaching about a life being readied; conversations were often marked with the blessed hope of Christ’s Coming. God’s saints spoke often about the oil of the Holy Spirit, the need of a deepening life with Him, that spiritual replenishing of the life in the Holy Spirit. But sad to say, such preaching, such conversations, and such hunger are conspicuously lacking in our generation.

Back then, while reform and change were seen as needed, God’s saints discerned that the life must have the oil in order to burn for Christ. The trimming of the wick without the oil is of no benefit. Repentance without godly sorrow

had no power; only through the godly sorrow was repentance granted by God. "Give us of your oil" was often the cry from one to another in those days. "How did you come to victory over sin?" "How did you come to know communion with God?" "Why is your love for Him so deep and earnest?" Yes, these were questions asked in church, on the telephone, and around the altar. It seemed that the righteous daily life and walk of individuals with Christ could almost supply another's spiritual lack; thus, some Christians believed they could ask for such oil from deeper-living Christians. Just being around deeper Christians seemed to some to be a store of grace from which they could draw without personal preparation.

O dear reader, we must see here the warning of *delay* concerning the soul and of *trusting in others* in the hope of getting ready at the end. Although God may give time to certain individuals to get ready, when the Rapture takes place, there will be no time for preparation. The Rapture will be in a moment: the soul and the spirit of life in Christ must be ready. What was the response of these wise virgins? The spirit and mood was this: "I see the times in which I live; I cannot afford to give away one day of what I have gained from Christ in my walk. My heart is always saying, 'I must have more.'"

In Matthew 24 the wise sent the foolish to the sellers of the oil. They

that sell are ministers and stewards of Christ's mysteries, who dispense the means of grace in preaching and teaching. "Go ye and buy for yourselves!" Oh, the urgency of the declaration! Everyone must bear his own burden; the grace must be their own grace. Personal faith, personal holiness, personal preparation, and personal anointing must be for the individual; it cannot be provided from other lives. A husband cannot provide it for the wife, or the wife for the husband. The parents cannot provide for the children, or vice versa. Everyone must receive the oil on his or her own. Either the sinner at the White Throne judgment or the Christian at the Bematos judgment shall be judged individually.

While the foolish went to buy, the Bridegroom came, and they that were ready went in with Him (Matt. 25:10). This is our burden as we live on the eve of such days. "But the wise shall understand." As a pastor and teacher, I must be ready to preach and teach the procuring of this biblical oil, as well as how to reserve this oil. The term in Daniel 12:10 for the *wise* is a term implying that of a "teacher," or one who causes others to understand. What are the truths that I must see in the Matthew 25 parable? I must have a concern about how I am living in what seems to be a time of delay in Christ's coming; I must be pure, spiritual, a virgin in this present age; I must have oil; I must be awake and watching; I must be trimming the

wick of my life for the burning flame of Christ; yes, I personally must be ready. The five foolish virgins did not have a burning and living relationship with the Bridegroom. They failed at the end. Certainly there was not a conscious need of care and forethought for preparation in the light of His coming.

Although wise men are mentioned frequently in the first five chapters of Daniel, these wise men of that day did not understand, nor could they interpret. There are many professing wise men today in all fields of science, medicine, education, politics, and even in religion. Yet they do not know what is needed to be understood for this hour in history. There is no true insight to the problems of our times; they have no working remedy.

Conclusion

In the light of the imperative need of wisdom, we close this article with this important observation concerning End-time wisdom. There are two classic terms for *wisdom* in the Greek that draw us to the needed insight about it.

The first term *sophia* is the concept of wisdom that reveals insight into the true nature of things. We must pray that God will grant us insight to what is happening in our country, the true nature of our country, and what will take place in the months ahead. We must see the falling away even within Fundamentalism, within

the Fundamentalist schools of our times, for there is no spiritual nature of God found in them now. More and more we will need to be careful with our associations. We must see beyond what appears to be fair, as the nature of it may not be of God.

The second term *phronesis* is an important word for the practical use of *sophia*. We are told in 1 Chronicles that the tribe of Issachar (who came to David when he was in flight from Saul) “had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do.” They brought with them this twofold wisdom: (1) an understanding of the times with insight to the nature of what was happening, as well as (2) the knowledge or practical wisdom to know what Israel ought to do. Many even within conservative churches do not know what is happening in these crucial days, although they may acknowledge it is a troubled time. They have no consciousness that God is resolving history, yea, even the history of the Church. In the falling away of Fundamentalism, they do not see the nature behind this falling away nor the problems that the apostasy has created; they continue to blindly remain without any understanding of what they ought to do.

May we not be so ignorant. May we not be so unwise. May we be a people being readied in the wisdom of God’s Word, being prepared to meet the Lord.

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“Blessed Is He That Waiteth” Daniel 12:12–13

Dr. H. T. Spence

We come to the final words of Daniel’s book! This prophetic book concludes with Daniel being promised *rest*, with the assurance that he will stand in *his lot, his inheritance*. This promise is found in the End Time for the Jew, the end of Daniel’s Last Week. Three sets of days are committed to him in the hope of the resolved End Time. There will be a final 1,260 days—the end of the Last Week. There will be a final 1,290 days—the end of the times of the Gentiles. And there will be a final 1,335 days—the end leading to the beginning of the Millennium. This latter set of days is when the Jew will stand in his allotment of land and enter permanently into a rest.

Precious words are uttered to him, “Blessed is he that waiteth” (v. 12). Oh, the blessedness of him that waiteth! This announces that the waiting through the trouble of Daniel’s Last Week (the first set of days, which is actually the days of the last half of Daniel’s Last Week), the waiting through the Battle of Armageddon (the second set of days), and the waiting through another forty-five days will bring the final promised rest for this prophet and his people, the Jews.

In light of the end and the promise given to him, Daniel is told that he should live the remaining days of his

life quietly, faithfully, and patiently. By the end of his book, Daniel is well into his 80s and in retirement from his governmental duties; God now resolves the prophecies to his beloved prophet. The final words to Daniel are given as a vision of the End Time that includes great troubles. Nevertheless, these prophecies were not to disturb him or distract his attention from his present duties of living; rather, they were to inspire him in character.

The Blessed Hope for Our End Time

Dear reader, we are in our End Time. That which comes to a Christian who is waiting for the hope of the coming of Christ at the end of the days is a great blessedness. First John 3:3 declares that “Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself even as he [Christ] is pure.” The Greek rendering carries the meaning of this blessed hope of the Second Coming *set upon him or resting upon him*.

Three events are mentioned by the apostle John in this verse: (1) Christ’s appearing, (2) our seeing Him, and (3) our becoming like Him. This hope becomes a purifying element to the Christian soul, a cleansing from defilements. This hope is an efficacious one. Daily this “blessed

hope” is to transform the Christian heart with a continual intention of the mind towards God and towards the hope of His Son’s coming. This hope guards our living to be conscious of His coming. This coming to us is a rapture, a catching up unto Himself. It is imminent in our thinking; it is impending, threatening, yea, it is at the door. Christ is likely to come at any moment. We read of this in the parable of the virgins; the cry of the bridegroom came when the virgins were asleep. In the Olivet Discourse Christ declared this coming would be “in an hour that ye think not.” To His disciples He exhorted, “Watch and pray.”

He will come as in the days of Noah. Both concepts of the End Time (the secret Rapture, and the open coming at the end of the Tribulation Period) should be viewed by signs as in the days of Noah. Such a prophecy from the Lord Himself clearly indicates that this cannot be a post-millennial view, that is, the belief that the Church will prepare the world in a universal acceptance of Christ for His return. Also Christ revealed that His coming would be “as it was in the days of Lot Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed” (Luke 17:28, 30).

There is another truth about this blessedness that is part of the coming of the Lord. Paul speaks of this hope at the end of his life in 2 Timothy 4:8:

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

The word for *love* in this verse is the Greek word *agapao*. This verb is in the perfect tense, which indicates that this love for Christ’s coming begins at some point in the life and continues in the present-tense living of that life. We as Christians must ever love His appearing. To love His appearing means more than to simply love Jesus. In speaking over the years with many professing Christians, there have been a number who did not anticipate Christ’s coming with any degree of joy. But the Bible reveals that there is such a precious wonder as delighting oneself in the thought of the appearing of Jesus. The Christian must look forward to this glorious event as a consummation of his hopes and the fruition of his faith. Second Peter 3:12 exhorts us in the phrase, “Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God.” “Looking” is the translation of the Greek word *prosdokao*, meaning to be anticipating His coming, yea, to be thinking upon it. The thought is that we are to look for this coming with the greatest of joy. Not only so, but we are exhorted to “hasting,” or “hastening.” This word means to desire earnestly (rendered in the present tense). It presents the meaning that we are to hasten our preparations for it, that we are to pray and work for that day to hasten

to us. Our souls are to run after it as one would run after that which he is eager to obtain.

Watching for His Coming

Another blessedness that must be accompanying our heart in the matter of Christ's coming is the duty of *watching*. One of the evil desires of Satan is to cause the Christian to no longer watch for the coming of Christ. The actual moment when Christ will come in the Rapture is unknown to men, to angels, and even to Jesus Himself, Who is still in a partial kenosis before the Father (Mark 13:32). Yet the characteristics of the times of His coming are given in the Bible to aid us in our watching. "As it was in the days of Noah"—when we see these kinds of days we need to be watching. According to Luke 17, men in the End Time will be given to materialistic living and consumed in the pleasures of life without the least suspicion that the coming of Jesus is nigh. Christ culminated His words in Luke 17 by declaring "two in a bed," "two in a field," and "two grinding at the mill." In each context, one is taken; the other is left behind. Christ once again declares the necessity of readiness and watchfulness for that event.

Meat in Due Season

A most important truth for the preachers of the End Time is found in Matthew 24:45–51, where Christ

declared the important duty of a servant of the Lord: *he is to ever give "meat in due season."* Though all of the Gospel is true and needed, there are certain Gospel truths that become more pertinent in certain generations than in others. How often we have read sermons from the past and wondered what made them so great back then, for as we read them they did not seem to have the "thrust" we had expected. Messages that would feed the household of God four hundred years ago, or even ten years ago, may not be the bread that the children need now; we find ourselves in different circumstances, in a different age of sin and philosophy. Even in our own lifetime, truth that was needed in our lives twenty years ago is not sufficient today, for we must ever be going on with God and going on in His Word. This is why it is imperative that God's men keep pace with God's appointment of truth from His Word for the present generation. The "evil" servant mentioned in the parable of Matthew 24 is the child of God who ceases to look for the coming of the Lord; he grows careless and indifferent, and begins to eat and drink (in 24:49 with those of verse 38).

Verses 48 and 49 also reveal the steps of the backslider. (1) He says in his heart, "My lord delayeth his coming." (2) He begins to criticize, and smite, especially with his tongue, his fellow servants. (3) He takes his place at the table of the world. Jesus

says that the Lord of that servant will come when he is not looking for Him, “And shall cut him asunder and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (v. 51). Yes, dear reader, we must ever be watching.

Waiting for His Coming

But there is this matter of *waiting* for His appearing. In 1 Corinthians 1:7 we read, “So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” We will need all of the *charismata* (the gifts) that God has for us in the living of the Christian life. These include the gift of Christ Himself, graces from Him, and gifts of the Holy Spirit. In the exhortation of the gifts, Paul also exhorts us to be “waiting” for Him to return, to eagerly anticipate His coming.

Over the years we have had precious students to come to Foundations and tell me in conversation that they dreaded the coming of the Lord, for one reason or another. A number of them came to this “dread” through words their pastors gave. We must not view the Second Coming with a spirit of dread. This verse given by Paul declares the need of “waiting”; the word reveals an eagerness of anticipation. Truly this is part of the blessing! First Thessalonians 1:10 states, “And to wait for His Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.” This word

wait in the Greek New Testament is a present infinitive, declaring to “keep on waiting for.”

The hope of the second coming of Christ was real and powerful with the apostle Paul, as it should be with us. Yes, it was subject to abuse then and is now also. But there is still the blessed hope for the coming of Christ, and Christians must ever be waiting. In the previous verse (1 Thess. 1:9) Paul speaks of “how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.” This showed the additional influence of the Gospel that had come to the Thessalonians. This additional influence brought to them an eager anticipation of Christ’s coming for them. They were eagerly looking for Him to resolve life and to deliver them from this world.

Then later we read in 2 Thessalonians 3:5, “And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and unto the patient waiting for Christ.” This is to be one of the ongoing desires of the Christian: for the heart to be directed, or made straight, carefully guiding the heart into the love of God. This is one of the important purposes of patience in waiting for Christ to come. Yes, patience comes from such waiting—remaining under life and all of its circumstances with joy—waiting for His return. Dear reader, we are to wait for Christ to come!

The “Delay” of His Coming

Do we see the great quartet of

this truth? (1) After preparing for His coming, (2) after desiring with all our hearts to see His coming, (3) after learning the needed duty of watching, then, (4) we must learn to wait for it.

Within the Olivet Discourse of Matthew 24 and 25, the Lord gave three parables to address the problem of how to wait for His “delayed” coming. The first parable (Matthew 24:45–51) presents the principle that we must be servants together in the giving forth of the Word, rather than giving ourselves to pleasures in the natural man as the age deepens. The second parable (Matthew 25:1–12) reveals that during what seems to be His delay, we must be a wise virgin; we must be pure; we must have oil; we must be awake; and we must be ready. The third parable (Matthew 25:16–30) reveals amidst the delay of His coming the important need to invest His talents.

Luke 19 presented the truth of the *pound* of life. Everyone receives a singular pound, that is, one life to live. But in this third parable of the Olivet Discourse, the *talents* of varying numbers are given by Sovereignty’s individual appointment. As the Master delays, what will we do with the pound and how will we invest Sovereignty’s talents. Will these be invested to His glory or hidden away in the earth?

Conclusion

The prophet Daniel is given these final words: “But go thou thy way

till the end be: for thou shall rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.” He is told to live out the remaining days of his life unto the end of those days. The “rest” from this world of troubles and wickedness is both appointed and promised. The “rest of rests” (the superlative rest) will be found in the coming of Messiah. It is in this closing prophecy that Daniel is catapulted into the Millennium, the hope and promise of the Jewish nation, when they will be able to live in their promised land in peace. Daniel is personally given the promise of those coming days that he will stand in his lot (his allotment of land) at the end of the days. We must remember that Daniel never returned to Canaan after his captivity; he never saw his appointed land. But the promise from God was that he will one day rest in that promised allotment.

The secret, second coming of Christ, which will culminate the End Time of the Church Ages, is to be desired above all other days. The true saints have been waiting for over two thousand years for this Coming. They have desired to see it, they have longed for it, they have waited with patience. But it is our prayer that we will be the generation who will have the promise as Simeon: “And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it

was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (Luke 2:25, 26). This is as much a command to patiently wait for that

day as it is to look for it.

May the Lord "bless" us in the waiting for His Son to come from Heaven.



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