

“Real wisdom and understanding will be destroyed and hidden” by Jeremiah

The theme of this time is “real wisdom and understanding will be destroyed and hidden.”

We will look at Isaiah 29:9-14. This scripture is about the rebellious church in End Times.

Isaiah 29:9 Stay yourselves, and wonder; cry ye out, and cry: they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink.

29:10 For the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.

The big phenomenon in End Times would be that the eyes of prophets are to be blinded. Prophets in Old Testament are like teachers in modern days as the scripture says below.

2 Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

“Head” means the leader of the church and “seers” can be interpreted as advisors and helpers of the church. It says that the eyes of those people would be closed in End Times. This means that those people will be turned blind and become unable to see the truth.

So, why do these people get blinded? The Bible says “they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink.” The wine is a parable of spirit in the Bible. Therefore, this explains that there will be a time when everyone will be influenced by the false spirit to be blind.

This scripture below is a prime example of how prophets were deceived to look at a particular direction.

1 Kings 22:19 And he said, Hear thou, therefore, the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and his left.

22:20 And the Lord said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said in this manner, and another said in that manner.

22:21 And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the Lord, and said, I will persuade him.

22:22 And the Lord said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and also prevail: go forth and do so.

22:23 Now, therefore, behold, the Lord hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the Lord hath spoken evil concerning thee.

As many as 400 prophets were covered by the deceiving spirit and couldn't see the truth. Therefore, they gave the false prophecies to the King.

Basically, they said, "Go attack Ramothgilead and win because Lord will grant you this" which sounded great to the King. That is why Ahab relied on this prophecy and ended up being killed. Trusting the deceiving prophets cost him his life.

This happened again when Jesus came to the earth. Teachers and priests in Israel and many others had their eyes blinded by the deceiving spirit, and they didn't realize it. Let's look at the conversation below.

John 9:39 And Jesus said, For judgment, I have come into this world, that the blind may see; and that those who see be made blind.

9:40 And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also?

9:41 Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We

see; therefore your sin remaineth.

Since they were not aware that they were blind, they ended up killing their own Saviour. The same thing is about to happen in End Times.

Isaiah 29:11 And the vision of all has become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed:

29:12 And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.

Jesus came to the earth in the middle of apostasy. For the people of this era, the prophecy in the Bible is just like **“the words of a book that is sealed.”** Even specialists of the Bible and Pharisees couldn’t understand its contents fully.

Sure, they had the Old Testament. It contained the book of Daniel which prophesized about coming of Messiah, as well as other books such as Psalm, Isaiah, and Malachi.

The prophecy of 70 weeks in Daniel correctly prophesies when Christ would come, and in fact, He appeared as prophesized. However, they didn’t realize it was Messiah even when they saw Him right in front of them. They had many books of prophecy and studied the Bible, but none of those were useful for them.

How should we call this? This is exactly what, “the seal is not open” and “unable to understand what the prophecy” mean. Indeed, the seal of Daniel was never open to them. Even if you hand over the book to literate people and ask “please read this,” they won’t be able to read it as it is sealed. Daniel describes this in this way.

Daniel 12:9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

12:10 Many shall be purified and made white, and refined, but the wicked shall continue to be wicked: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

Here, it is written that the prophecy about the future is sealed and the seal is not necessarily going to be opened to anyone. Rather, as it says **the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand**, the bad people will never understand what it means as the seal is never going to be open to them.

This is what happened when Jesus came to the earth. Despite the fact that more than 300 prophecies described His life, Pharisees and rabbis who were supposed to be specialists of the Bible didn't realize who Jesus was.



Many people failed to recognize Jesus the Nazareth as Christ

They were the wicked people in the eye of God therefore the prophecy of the Bible remained sealed to them.

The seal of the book of Daniel was used as a test to distinguish the different types of people and all the wicked people were eliminated. While Pharisees and rabbis may have looked beautiful outwardly, they were greedy inside and hypocritical.

<The seal will remain unopened when Jesus returns>

Now, what happened when Jesus came to the earth can be said to happen again when He returns. This means the word of the Bible will be sealed again. Revelation is a classic example of sealed book as it is written below.

Revelation 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

It describes that Revelation is also the sealed book with the same reason why Daniel was sealed. The book will be used to test teachers, leaders, and Christians, in general, to distinguish between them. In the end, the phrase **the wicked shall do wickedly: and**

none of the wicked shall understand will be fulfilled at the end of church era as well.

This means no matter how you are an intelligent scholar, or popular pastor, if you are seen as a “wicked man” in the eye of God, the seal will never be opened.

We also need to remember that this is the era when the seal remains unopened. If you look at Christians insisting on things like the pre-tribulation rapture, it is obvious that their eyes are not fixed upon the truth.

Isaiah 29:13 Wherefore the Lord said, For as much as these people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips to honor me but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

29:14 Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among these people, even a marvelous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden.

Let’s think about "I will proceed to do a marvelous work among these people, even a marvelous work, and a wonder." This was fulfilled when Jesus came to the earth.

The way Jesus came to the earth was rather unexpected and surprising. How? Below are the examples.

1. In the Old Testament, there are more than 300 prophecies about the coming of Christ.
2. Jesus Christ fulfilled all the prophecies through His life.
3. Hypocritical Pharisees and rabbis didn’t realize that Jesus was God although they saw Him in their eyes.

God may have purposefully tried to eliminate those hypocrites and that is what happened when Jesus came to the earth.

As already mentioned, the people who thought Jesus would be born in Bethlehem failed to recognize Jesus because He was from Nazareth. This shows that whoever boasts their knowledge and wisdom will be humbled before God.

The same thing will happen in End Times as the Scripture says, **Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among these people, even a marvelous work, and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden.**

On the day, the predictions of those who are said to have wisdom and knowledge will be unfulfilled. What happens in End Times will exceed anyone's wildest dream.

Why? It has got to do with the seal. The reason we lock the door at home is to prevent strangers entering the house. We only give keys to our family and not to thieves and bad people. The seal works just like that: separating wicked people from faithful ones.

We need to know that God is not going to reveal the answers to the prophecies to all people. Rather, He has sealed the prophecies to wipe out Christians who still choose to live sinful and hypocritical life.

In End Times, God will "proceed to do a marvelous work among these people, even a marvelous work and a wonder." It will be way beyond our thoughts and imagination.

Many predictions of Christians about End Times will be unfulfilled. I insist that EU is not the country of the beast and Christ will never come before the tribulation. There is no relationship between the destruction of the temple and the third temple. We need to live a righteous life and fear God. Peter and other disciples correctly understood the Bible and realized that Jesus Christ was the Saviour.

In the same way, whoever fears Lord will be able to see the truth in End Times.

Amen



The seal of the country of the beast is yet to be opened.

Knowing the era “Israel in North, Judah in South, and Ecumenism” by H.F

Ecclesiastes 1:9-10

The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.

Is there anything whereof it may be said, See, this is new? It hath been already of old time, which was before us.

As we can see, what happened in the past will happen again. Can we actually say that what is written in the Old Testament is not related to what happens now?

I think it is fair to say that what happened in the Old and New Testaments could happen even now. Revelation mentions the cities called Babylon as well as Sodom/Egypt, so we should think that our time is also an extension of the Old and New Testaments.

In the Old Testament days, God's people Israel got split into 2 groups: Israel in North and Judah in South. Judah was supposed to inherit David Dynasty but there were only two tribes, comparing to Israel who had 10 tribes. However, the king of Israel in North was not part of David's family and he was an idol worshipper.

After a long conflict, the two countries became one family. That was when strange doctrines came into Judah in South and consequently, their faith faded away.

2 Kings 8:18 says And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab: for the daughter of Ahab was his wife: and he did evil in the sight of the Lord.

Just like how Assyria conquered Israel in North due to their apostasy, Judah in South was also captured by Babylon.

If **“The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that**

which shall be done," what happened to the two countries should be considered to be related to present time. There are many parables such as an older sister for Israel and a younger sister for Judah.

As Psalm 78:2 says **"I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old,"** it is described that God talks in parables and mysteries. It is also stated that Jesus always used parables therefore, I suppose the truth will be seen only when the parables and mysteries get revealed by Holy Spirit.

If God's people in the Old Testament are separated into Israel and Judah, I think it could be potentially said that the people in the New Testament can be separated into Catholics and Protestants.

Catholics have more population and hence more power. However, their faith is not based on the Bible because Mary is never described as a savior in the Bible. In God's eye, worshipping Mary is absolutely idolatry. Also, Pope insists that there is no hell and the evolutionary theory is correct. This shows the attitude that Pope is more reliable than God and in fact, there are lots of non-biblical teachings in Catholic. 2 Kings 12 reveals that Jeroboam the king of Israel started to worship idols. Indeed, Catholic is just like Israel in the Old Testament.

Protestants experienced the revolution led by Luther in 1517 when they chose to be separated from Catholic teaching. Despite the history, 500 years later, they are now trying to combine with Catholics.

Currently, the Ecumenical movement is getting popular and different denominations are exchanging their religious values. For example, EKD in Germany has invited Pope to have a combined service in March.

Even in the U.S where Protestants have their roots is the same. Last year, there was a music festival with Pope as a guest in Washington D.C and many Protestant leaders joined it. One of the well-known pastors in the U.S Rick Warren is also a friend of Pope.

In Japan, pastors often preach at Catholic churches. Some denominations argue whether the religious revolution was necessary or not. We have a Bible version which was put together with the help of Catholic.

Ecumenical people often mention "from conflict to acceptance." This sounds great as it opposes to conflicts and encourages tolerance as well as acceptance. However, Catholics are said to even try combining with Muslim, Buddhism, Hinduism, and other religions. This goes to show that they don't recognize the Bible as the only truth.

Although it may appear good to have interactions between different religions, you have to wonder where the truth of God has gone. You can't put anything above the word of God. Just because you don't want to fight doesn't mean you can compromise your integrity. You have to think what is right in the eye of God.

Ecumenical movement and combining with Catholics are what Judah did with Israel. We are walking on the same path as Judah which caused the wrath of God in the Old Testament days. If it stays like this, Christian churches will be destroyed because of apostasy. This is what we need to learn from the Bible. It is important to understand parables and judge the time.

Amen



Martin Luther pointed out the mistakes in the Catholic doctrine.