

Prophecy Update “Best Telling Authors”

Likely you have not spent a lot of time reading Ephraim the Syriac. He lived and served the Lord in a town called Nisibis (modern Turkey/Syria border).

He was a deacon, Bible teacher, and hymn-writer in the early church. He is best known for writing theological poetry and hymns to teach doctrine and combat heresy. Because of his deep devotion and insight, the church later called him the “Harp of the Holy Spirit.”

Syriac is the early Christian dialect of Aramaic used for worship, theology, hymns, and Bible commentary in the Eastern church from the 1st century onward.

His works were preserved in Syriac monasteries. The West rediscovered him in the 1800s. Modern translations made him widely readable in the last 100 years. More accessible translations for pastors and general readers appeared after the 1980s.

Dr. Lee Brainard is a lecturer, fluent in biblical languages. He has written and lectured about

Ephraim's sermon, *On the Last Times, the Antichrist, and the End of the World*. Brainard lists 10 prophecies. Here are two of them:

1. "For all the saints and Elect of God are gathered, prior to the tribulation that is to come, and are taken to the Lord."
2. "...in order that they may not see at any time the confusion which overwhelms the world because of our sins..."

As exciting as that is it's not my point this morning. I've been calling our attention to a verse in Daniel, 12:4, which reads, "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

Daniel was told to seal the book. In other words, some of the prophecies he delineated would not be understood until the time of the end.

People ask, "Are we in the end times?" I know what they mean - they mean the Great Tribulation.

According to the writer to the Hebrew Christians, the end times began with the coming of Jesus and especially at His ascension into heaven.¹

¹ Hebrews 1:2

So the first thing we would say is that since we are in the time of the end, we can expect prophecies to be unsealed that were previously not understood. Then there is the curious phrase, “many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall increase.”

It turns out that phrase “shall run to and fro” is a Hebrew idiom. It does not simply mean physical travel though some interpreters apply it that way. Its primary meaning in Hebrew is to *search carefully, to investigate, to inquire diligently*.

Search, investigate, and inquire diligently into what? Knowledge of biblical prophecy will increase as the time of fulfillment approaches. It no longer be sealed.

A lot of smart people think that at least part of what Daniel meant is being fulfilled with the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. They are filled with knowledge about the early days of biblical Christianity, and of the books that are in the canon of Scripture. Finds like 10 statements about a pre-tribulation rapture in Ephraim are definitely adding to our knowledge of the End Times

Jesus promised to resurrect & rapture His Church. He said, in fact He promised to do it before a time of Great Tribulation would come upon the whole Earth.

The resurrection and rapture of the church is presented as an imminent event. It could happen anytime. Right now, for example.

Are you ready for the rapture? If not, get ready, stay ready, and keep looking up.

Ready or not,
Jesus is coming!