

Revelation 22:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

Analysis

The command not to seal the book contrasts Daniel's instruction to seal his prophecy (Daniel 12:4). Daniel's visions awaited distant fulfillment; Revelation's are imminent ('time is at hand'). The unsealed book indicates accessibility—all believers should read, understand, and obey. Reformed theology emphasizes Scripture's perspicuity—it's clear for salvation and obedience, not hidden in esoteric meanings. The urgency ('time is at hand') calls for immediate response, not academic study divorced from application. Unsealing demands proclamation and obedience.

Historical Context

Sealed documents remained closed until appointed time or proper authority opened them. Daniel's sealed vision indicated lengthy delay before fulfillment. John's unsealed revelation indicated imminent application—churches needed immediate access to these warnings and encouragements. The approaching persecutions made the visions' guidance urgent and necessary for faithful endurance.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Revelation's unsealed nature challenge you to read and apply it rather than avoiding it as too difficult or mysterious?
2. What does the urgency ('time is at hand') teach about treating biblical prophecy as practically relevant rather than merely academically interesting?

Interlinear Text

καὶ λέγει μοι, Μὴ σφραγίσῃς τοὺς λόγους τῆς

And he saith unto me not Seal G3588 the sayings G3588

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προφητείας τοῦ βιβλίου τούτου ὅτι ὁ καιρὸς ἐγγύς

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Additional Cross-References

Daniel 8:26 (Parallel theme): 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.

Revelation 1:3 (Prophecy): Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

1 Peter 4:7 (Parallel theme): But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

Revelation 10:4 (Parallel theme): And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.

Matthew 10:27 (Parallel theme): What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.

Romans 13:12 (Parallel theme): The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

Ezekiel 12:23 (Parallel theme): Tell them therefore, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will make this proverb to cease, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel; but say unto them, The days are at hand, and the effect of every vision.

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

Daniel 12:4 (Parallel theme): 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.