

The verse actually I should warn you, does not refer to human travel. The verse refers to the fact that as time goes on people will go back and forth through the Scripture. As they go back and forth through the Book of Daniel and other parts of Scripture--it's really search back and forth is what it says-- as they do so their knowledge of God's plan for their particular period and situation will be increased. God said to Daniel, Seal up the book for it is for a latter time. All of God's Word is good for all of God's people in all time, but some of it has particular relevance today it didn't have 200 years ago. And may not have 200 years from now if the Lord tarries.

Other parts of it perhaps were crystal clear 200 years ago and do not fit with our particular immediate needs! We may read it over and get a comparison, get a figure, get something that is a blessing to us, but its full meaning may elude us, because it was written particularly to deal with the problems of the people at a different time. Now that of course is comparatively little of the Scriptures. The great bulk of the Scripture fits people at all times, because at all times people have been sinners and at all times the great need has been to come to know Jesus Christ. And it's been to come to know him so that we can grow in him and be built up in the image of Christ as he wants us to be.

Now the ecumenical movement in these last 50 years has been very very active, but it has also been very very discouraged. To these leaders of the ecumenical movement it seemed so simple. Here are the Methodists --60 years ago they were preaching salvation through Christ on every street corner in America. Today that message is largely gone from the Methodist church, and they have succeeded in getting the great bulk of the ministers to put their great stress on social improvement. I think that began with their great stress on alcohol. They were a great force in bringing in prohibition, and now they are not so strong against alcohol. They were strong against tobacco. They are not any more. But they are very strong for social changes, and they have a great body of elderly people who knew the gospel and who loved it. And the younger people would go because their parents did; they get a feeling of pleasure out of being in the church but they don't get any real Christian teaching.

One man said to me I used to hear my grandmother speak about the Holy Spirit. I haven't heard him mentioned since. The people don't realize what's happened. So you have your Methodists pretty much the same. You have your big Presbyterian churches, many of them, pretty much the same. Baptists churches the great bulk of them the same. And these -- yet these leaders who are identical in their views they say, Let's get together and form one big church. And these people say, My ancestors were Methodists. I was brought up a Methodist. I couldn't leave the Methodist church for any one big union. Others say I was brought up a Baptist. My ancestors were Baptists. I couldn't leave the Baptist church for any union. And the heads of the ecumenical movement are discouraged. Why can't we get them together? Fifteen years ago they made a great proclamation: the churches are going to get together. But they didn't