

quite generally used in the sense of closing something up or fastening it together. These two meanings The word "seal" may represent either of these two meanings if used alone. If the word "up" is added to it, it confines it to the second meaning. Since there is no distinction in the Hebrew ~~meaning~~ word, whether it has ~~tek~~ the first or second meaning, it impresses ~~me~~ this writer as more reasonable always to ~~ka~~ translate it "seal" and leave allow the reader to decide between the two meanings than to add the word "up" and thus/declare that it has the second.

It is difficult to imagine what a reader a contemporary in Daniel's day would have thought to be meant by the phrase "to seal up vision and prophecy." If it is simply read "to seal vision and prophecy" it would be

the interpretation would be quite simple. Just as King Darius put his seal on the stone that closed up the mouth of the den of liona (Daniel 6:17) to certify that his authority was behind the act, so even though the small seal of the king did not materially ~~xxxx~~ increase the strength (bw?) of the enclosure, and just as Jezebel used Ahab's seal in order to certify that the order to kill Naboth came with the ~~xxxx~~ authority of the king, so the fulfillment of what was predicted in the visions of the prophets would certify the fact that these visions had actually come from God. Simply omitting the word "up" makes the statement one which would have been easily understood by a reader ~~x~~ in Daniel's time.

After reading Daniel's prayer with its pathetic references to the destruction of the holy city, and in particular of the sanctuary, it would seem quite natural to Daniel's contemporary to interpret this purpose as one of reestablishing the holy city and its sanctuary and anointing them for God's service.

Thus it seems that one reading would be there/~~ka~~ nothing hidden or bizarre or strange in these purposes if read by a contemporary of Daniel's. A Christian, however, must read them adds to the

knowledge that was available in Daniel's time the ~~knowledge~~ ~~xxxx~~ understanding