

Prophets

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interpretation, but taking the whole chapter as a whole, I think that is more likely, but it would be possible that he is just turning to the righteous for a brief period. The chapter as a whole has such definite rebukes in it that I question it in this particular instance. Continuing then, he says, "Your eyes are closed. You are in a deep sleep. The Lord has poured out on you the spirit of deep sleep and closed your eyes. The vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed." And here is a beautiful picture of the situation of the leaders of the people, those who are supposed to be the religious leaders and instructors of the people. "The vision is become to you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, and they say, 'Read this', and he says, 'I can't, because it is sealed' and then they give the book to one that is not learned, one that can't read, and they say, 'Read this', and he says, 'I can't, because I can't read.'" "In other words, everybody has got an excuse. Instead of one man saying, Well, let's find a way to break the seal and see what the message is. Let's get a person who has a right to break the seals." He says, "Oh, no. It's sealed. I can't do it." He can perfectly well interpret it. Here's another one, the thing is all unsealed and open and it is easy for him to get access to it and he says, "No, I can't read it. I can't read." Well, he could go and get somebody that can read. Everyone is looking for an excuse to avoid doing God's will, and how easy it is for us to look for signs and indications to show us what we should do, instead of taking the simple words of God's message and seeing what He wants us to do. We're all looking for excuses today as they were then, and so the vision is to them something that they are trying to avoid, any sort of an argument or system or theory or anything that will take the place of the hard, important work of getting down to read the vision God has given and study it and understand it and see what the message is there that's vital for our lives. Everybody is sidestepping that. Anything else, they seem to feel, is preferable. Therefore the Lord said, "Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their