

Council on Dispensational Hermeneutics
Session # 1
Hyperbole and Poetry in Prophecy



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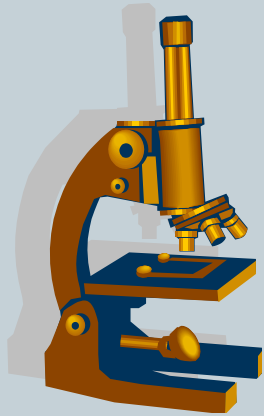
DSG ETS Discussion Nov 2007



- Brent Sandy update of *Ploughshares and Pruning Hooks*
- My response
- Issues are many
 1. Hyperbole and poetry in prophecy
 2. Extended metaphors and the nature of language
 3. Implicitly conditional prophecy
 4. Speech act theory
- Overall issue appears to be objectivity versus subjectivity in interpretation
- Prophetic details become less important than ethical exhortations

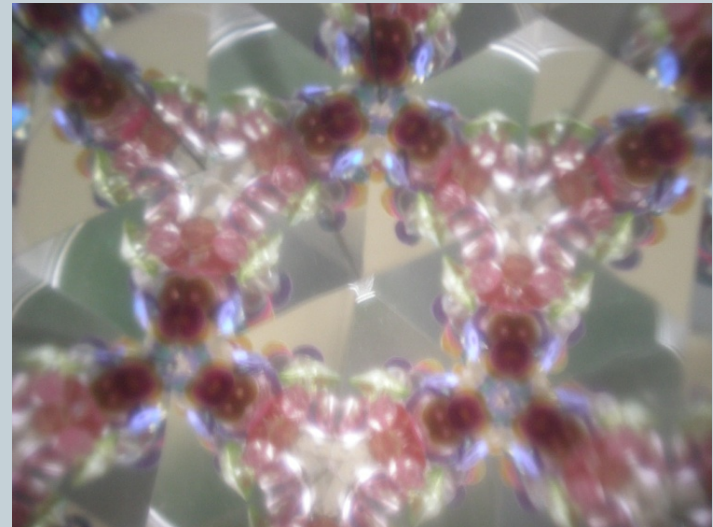
A Word Picture from Sandy

- Where traditional dispensationalism is



Microscope

- Where we need to be



Kaleidoscope

Specific Example of Joel



- **Sandy's interpretation—no eschatology in Joel**
- **Why?**
 1. Cosmic imagery not enough to suggest eschaton (see Hab 3:4-11) – an example of hyperbole?
 2. Joel's focus is elsewhere – on how the readers are to respond (repentance?) and not on the details of how God was going to judge (i.e., perhaps in the eschaton)

Specific Example of Joel



- My response
- Cosmic imagery by itself is not enough to suggest eschatology in a passage (Sandy is right on this)
- However, details matter and, in Joel, they point to eschatology
 1. Statements of permanence (2:2, 19, 26, 3:17, 20)
 2. Content similarity with other eschatological texts (Dan. 12:1, Matt 24:21)
 3. Sequence in Joel matches eschatological sequence elsewhere (judgment of Israel [2], restoration of Judah and Jerusalem [3:1], judgment of the nations [3:2-12]—compare with Matthew 24-25)

Discussion Questions

