

THE BOOK OF DANIEL
"The Backbone of Prophecy"
Dan. 9:24-27²

Introduction

1. God's Word is unalterably accurate. If there were no other portion to prove this, the section studied herewith is sufficient. It has also been the "racks and tortures of the Rabbis" according to John Owen (1616-1683). For, if a Jew would really give himself to the study of this passage, he would be forced to believe in Jesus as the Messiah!

2. With the mechanics of the passage in mind, there is much which needs to be given about the INTERPRETATION of the text. Let it be understood that this is NOT an application, but what the text actually unveils.

3. There are three major facets of prophetic importance. Note them carefully:

1. The pattern of the PRESENT TIME.

Here, it is possible to list the events of v. 26:

a. Messiah gains nothing.

His death indeed is the basis for all of God's dealings with men. However, at the moment there is no visible glory, hence at the time Messiah shall have nothing (correct reading for AV "not for Himself").

b. Jerusalem loses everything.

Both the city and the sanctuary suffer under the battering ram of the Romans. It is destroyed utterly. Date: 70 A.D.

c. Disruption unto the end.

Two items are specified: wars and desolations. Because the whole of v. 26 is untimed, these matters have persisted and WILL persist until the END. Take courage, therefore! These events come with such force, they are referred to as a flood. Better rendering is: "shall come overwhelmingly."

2. The program of the FUTURE TIME.

This is given to us in a variety of clear terms:

- a. A covenant confirmed.
Between the "prince" that shall come and "the many." The former refers to Antichrist and the latter to the Israelites of that day.
 - b. A worship stopped.
Both the blood and meal offerings come to an abrupt end. This happens in the "midst" of the seven (hence time, times, and half a time or 1260 days made plain).
 - c. A desolation experienced.
This is a description of the full fury of the Tribulation Period planned. Fearful governmental wrath of God (cf. Rev. 6-19).
 - d. A destruction accomplished.
The final phrase of v. 27 denotes the end destruction of the destroyer. Marginal reading for "desolate" is "desolator."
3. The purpose of the TOTAL TIME.
In a quick whisk of the pen, Daniel gives a stroke to summarize God's purpose for the entire 70 sevens. Here is what he wrote:
- a. Finish transgression.
Israel's rebellion against God will be dealt a final blow!
 - b. Make an end of sins.
Jewish sins will finally be washed full as a nation (cf. Rom. 11:26f.).
 - c. Make reconciliation.
Israel will have Calvary applied to the nation (Jer. 50:20).
 - d. Bring in everlasting righteousness. Here is a blessed reference to the fact that AFTER judgment God brings in His promised kingdom of righteousness.
 - e. Seal up vision.
With fulfillment of prophecy, it is forever sealed.
 - f. Anoint most holy. A reference to the holy of holies in the temple. The rebuilt temple is in view.

Conclusion. Lord, Thou art true, righteous and to be worshipped. I humbly bend myself before Thee. Glory to God.