

THE BOOK OF DANIEL
"Seventieth Week Purpose"
Daniel 9:24-27

Introduction

1. God has one eternal purpose which is forever being worked out. Indeed, eternity itself is included in God's design for the universe.

2. Supporting His one eternal plan, however, are subordinating directions to this plan. One of these concerns the people of Israel. This particular strain of the one eternal purpose is intended to perfect all that God has ordained for this nation. He has promised that it will never fall short of ultimate fulfillment.

3. It is this area of working with Israel that our present section of the text moves. Mark how pointedly God assures of ultimate and final dealing with Israel. Consider the following actions described by the prophet:

1. FINISHED TRANSGRESSIONS.

In a bold sweep thru the history of Israel, she has transgressed in the following time periods:

a. Mosaic. A cursory reading of the inspired text covering this period will reveal the tragic account of Israel's transgression against God (cf. Num. 14; 1 Cor. 10:1-11).

b. Prophetic. Again and again the prophets were sent in order to cause Israel to obey, but alas this failed. (cf. Isa. 6; Jer. 2, etc.).

c. Messianic. Until this era was complete, one might have hoped for a change of heart in Israel. But it ended with the slaughter of the Messiah.

2. ENDED SINS.

Here the blessed thought is expressed that God will bring internal cleansing to the nation of Israel. Scripture is replete with texts which show God's design in this area. It will yet be a purified nation. (Jer. 33:8, 9; Rom. 11:26).

3. RECONCILED NATION.

Today the nation stands estranged from God. She presses on with little or no interest in the purpose of God thru the Messiah. But the day will come that

Israel will be an-one-ment with the Lord. She will recognize God's Messiah and eternally recognize His arrangements with the nation. She will walk with Him in peace and harmony. (Hosea 3:4, 5).

4. BLESSED TIME PERIOD.

Judgment is not alone punitive with God, tho there is this aspect. God has His eye set upon a situation of righteousness and glory. This has always been the case and it shall be realized. No idea of post-millennialism here, but the absolute fulfillment of God's promises concerning a literal kingdom in which His righteousness shall be known and experienced. (Psa. 72).

5. ANNOUNTED HOLY OF HOLIES.

With the restored people will come a restored worship of the Lord. The purpose of these renewed situations will be the remembrance of Calvary and the work of the Messiah for the people. An entire section of Ezekiel is given over to this future event (Ezk. 40:1-48:35).

6. SEALED VISION.

With the prophecy of the Lord concerning Israel complete, the end of the 70th week is come. Hence, the books are sealed. God's Word again is affirmed to be unalterable. Glory to His holy Name!

Conclusion. This section is one of the most pregnant doctrinal portions of the Book of Daniel. It has been shown that God is moving with design and purpose thru the ages. We KNOW in advance the general outline of His program. We can rest and be assured that nothing will change so long as God is Sovereign--thus is forever! Amen and amen.