

1. In contrast to the clear fulfillment of Daniel 9:25-26, verse 27 is more difficult as far as history is concerned and its time of fulfillment.
2. There are 4 views offered in opposition to the future fulfillment and interpretation of verse 27.
  - A. The fulfillment came in the events following the Maccabean persecution.
  - B. The fulfillment came in the destruction of the temple in A.D. 70.
  - C. The fulfillment is an indefinite period beginning with Christ.
  - D. The fulfillment began with the public ministry of Christ and was completed 3½ years after his death.
3. However - all 4 views have one common failure - none of them provide literal fulfillment of the prophecy.
4. The determination of the antecedent of "he" in verse 27 is the key to the interpretation of the passage.
5. The other difficulty with the 4 interpretations is that there is no seven-year period marked off in any clear way in history which has fulfilled the last week or 7 years.
6. The question that faces anyone seeking an accurate interpretation of verse 27 is - what is the most natural and intelligent exposition of the text?
7. The precise prophecy of verse 27 indicates that this "he" - the one in view - enters into a covenant relationship "with the many."
8. Also, the point that "the many" are Jews is indicated by "your people" in verse 24.
9. The Antichrist - on behalf of his empire - will make a treaty with the nation of Israel.
10. This treaty/covenant will probably entail a promise of special liberties and protections. With such protection - Israel will feel that they are safe and secure.
11. Then in the middle of the seven-year period the Antichrist "will put an end to sacrifice and offering."
12. This is also affirmed by Jesus Himself in Matthew 24:15-16, 21.
13. And - obviously - sacrifices cannot be stopped and a temple cannot be desecrated unless both are in operation.
14. The last part of verse 27 describes the desecration of the temple.
15. The last phrase is also made clear in Daniel 11:31 and 12:11.

16. Daniel's prophecy of the 70 weeks (490 years) comprehends the total history of Israel from the time of Nehemiah in 445 B.C. until the second coming of Christ.
17. So this final week of seven years begins with the introduction of a covenant relationship between the Antichrist ("prince that shall come") and "the many," the people of Israel.
18. This covenant is observed for the first half of the seven-year period (3 ½ years) then it will be broken.
19. The beginning of the last three and one-half years is marked by the desecration of the future temple, the stopping of the sacrifices, and the desolation of the Jewish religion.
20. The culmination of the prophecy is the second coming of Christ.
21. This also closes the "times of the Gentiles" given in Daniel's prophecies of the four great world empires.