

What will transpire during Daniel's seventieth seven? In Daniel 9:26-27 we read:

- 26 And after the sixty-two sevens Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself. And the city and the holy place shall be destroyed by the people of the coming prince. And his destruction shall be in the outpouring; and until the destruction there shall be war, desolations are decreed.
- 27 And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one seven. But in the middle of the seven he shall cause sacrifice and offering to cease; and upon the wing shall come a desolating abominable idol, even until the end, and until that which is decreed shall be poured out upon the desolator.

Daniel uses the expression "desolating abominable idol" or "abominable idol that makes desolate" (שְׁקוּצִים מְשֻׁמֵּם) three times in his book. The other instances are found in 11:31 and 12:11. Do these three instances have reference to three distinct events? Do they all refer to the same event? To which of these three instances does our Lord refer in the Olivet Discourse?

In Daniel 11:31 the construction is וְנִתְּנוּ הַשְׁקוּץ מְשֻׁמֵּם. To what does this use refer? In Daniel 11, verses 2-35 predict what came to pass in the history of Persian and Greece in such a precise fashion that liberal critics of Daniel have taken the position that this book must have been written after the events it describes. In the historical sweep of this section, Daniel 11:31 clearly refers to the desolating abominable idol of Zeus that Antiochus Epiphanes, king of Syria, placed in the Holy of Holies of the temple in June, 168 B.C. Thus Daniel 11:31 cannot be the Abomination of Desolation referred to in the Olivet Discourse, because our Lord said that that Abomination marking the Great Tribulation was yet future.

In Daniel 12:11 the construction is וְלִתֵּת שְׁקוּץ שָׁמַם. It would appear that this reference to a desolating detested idol refers to the same event spoken of in 9:27.

In Daniel 9:27 the construction is וְעַל כִּנּוֹר שְׁקוּצִים מְשֻׁמֵּם (see the note on 387 for the problem of the plural of שְׁקוּץ). It is the setting up of this abominable desolating idol referred to in Daniel 9:27 and 12:11 to which our Lord in the Olivet Discourse makes reference, an event that marks the Great Tribulation described in the section of the Discourse.

What are the major features of Daniel's seventieth seven? What will transpire during that yet future period of seven years? What does Daniel 9:26-27 tell us?

The following features can be discerned in Daniel's seventieth seven:

- (1) A "coming prince" will make a strong covenant or firm treaty with the Jewish people for one seven (seven years).
- (2) Under the terms of this treaty, the Jews will once again sacrifice in the temple in Jerusalem (this implies the building of the Third Temple).
- (3) After three and one-half years of the seven year period, the "prince" will stop the Jewish sacrifices in the temple.