

Cory!

The tendency is to take a word or a phrase and build upon it. The other is the tendency to approach it with a system all worked out and then try to fit it into the system. All my life my principal emphasis has been to try to lead people to take the Scripture as God's infallible guide to us, not merely as something to put on the shelf and say I believe in it, it's beautiful, now let's use our brains to figure out how we ought to live. But to say that this is in every part God's message to us and then as Christians one of our primary functions is to determine exactly what it really means. One of the approaches from this viewpoint is to put our emphasis on those matters that are clear in it, and take those matters on which there is a reasonable difference of opinion and look at them, and fit with those that are clear, and I believe that we come out to a pretty definite understanding about them. I would like to go through its features with you this morning. I hope you all have the papers in front of you. It will have the four verses on it that I will be referring to constantly.

Now it is said a text without a context is a pretext. This is true. Often it is very easy to go to the opposite extreme and take the context and twist everything to fit our idea of context. But it is very important that we have the general background in view and see exactly what is said. In this case the general background as contained in the first part of the chapter, is the fact Daniel studied the Word of God. He found that the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet that he would accomplish 70 years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

Daniel felt that this period of 70 years was approaching its end. He did not say, God is now going to deliver us. God has promised it, all we have to do is to accept it. Daniel made a great prayer of intercession on behalf of his people. Daniel said, We have sinned and we deserved all that has come to us. And we wish to repent in utter sincerity and call upon God to give us true righteousness and give us the wonderful blessings we have forfeited through our sin. After he made this great prayer God sent an angel to him, and surely Daniel hoped the angel would say, Daniel, your prayer is heard and you are right; the 70 years are just about over. Very soon a great period of glory and happiness and peace for your nation is coming now that your nation has repented of its sin. But God knew Daniel was a fine believer. He refers to him as one who is greatly beloved. But He knew that Daniel was not typical of his people. God's answer to his prayer that the 70 years was about over was 70 weeks are determined on your people to fulfill certain great purposes. These purposes as described and the events of these 70 weeks contained much that must have given Daniel heartache. I'm sure it must have been quite a disappointment to him as he heard it. But God said there is going to be a solution to this problem of sin. But the solution is going to take a lot longer than the 70 years, that have passed.

So we have this situation in mind that we are interested in exactly what God said and we find at v. 24 the purposes expressed. As we look at the last two purposes: to seal up the