

vision and the prophecy and to anoint the most holy, we find that some say "to seal up the vision and prophecy" means to give a certainty that it is true; to put your seal on it; it's so. While others say "to seal" means to close it up until the time when it is needed. Still others say "to seal it up" means to close it up permanently; it's finished and done away, there is no more purpose in it. These are quite different, these purposes. We could take a long time discussing them and try to reach a conclusion and build on it.

But I believe the right approach is to say, What else is there in it that is really clear? The same is true of the last purpose "to anoint the most holy". This term is always used of a building or of a place, not of a person. Yet some think it here refers to a person. I believe we should lay these two purposes to the side and say God will make them clear in His own time. But let's see if there is something that is really clear in the purposes.

"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and thy holy nation to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make reconciliation for iniquity and to bring in everlasting righteousness. Surely here is a definite answer to Daniel's prayer. Daniel says, We have sinned; we want God's favor. God says, This problem of sin must be completely solved; it must be finished it must be ended. Everlasting righteousness must be brought in. And ~~xxx~~ so the primary purpose is the dealing with sin and bringing it to a complete end so it will no longer have sway over this world.

But there is another element that is obscured in the KJV. Rather unfortunately. "To make reconciliation for iniquity." The Heb. word there is kaphar, and that word kaphar is translated about 70 in the KJV as "make atonement" and is used constantly in connection with the Temple services, and it is translated 7 t. in KJV as

"reconcile" or "make reconciliation" and every one of them, practically every modern version translates it either "atonement" or "make atonement." In other words the atonement for iniquity is not the primary, or at least not the exclusive thing in this purpose. But it is a definite factor in it. It is here in this phrase which would be much better translated as all the modern translations do, I believe without exception, "to make atonement for iniquity." Atonement is here in the purpose. But the purposes go far beyond that wonderful, most vital factor of atonement. They spoke of the finishing of transgressions, and the bringing in of everlasting righteousness.

We notice it started with the words 70 weeks are determined. Of course the question immediately is, What's meant by 70 weeks? That is the place where many start. I don't believe we dare start with it. Seventy years is what we mentioned before. Now ~~x~~ we have weeks. Well, 70 weeks after Daniel had this vision sin had't come to an end. So it can't mean 70 ordinary weeks. Is it a general expression for time? There is a long period of time? You've had 70 years yes, but there's a longer period of time?