

“The Good News”

Daniel 9:20–27

15 May 2022

INVITATION

1. The prophecy in this text has been described as “the dismal swamp of Old Testament criticism.” It is a “dismal swamp” not because the text is depressing but because the sometimes-heated arguments over its proper interpretation is depressing. How should Christians treat one another in the face of theological or interpretive disagreement?

RECOLLECTION

2. What stood out to you as you listened to the sermon preached Sunday morning? Was there anything said on which you require further clarity?

OBSERVATION

3. What does it mean that the “anointed one” was sent “to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity” (v. 24)? How do we understand this fulfilled prophecy in light of our ongoing battle with sin? How does a proper interpretation of this text help us in our struggle against sin?

APPLICATION

4. Is the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple something Christians should rejoice over? Why, or why not?

5. The mixture of good news and bad news in this text gives us a sense of realism about the prophecy: that God's promises are not always only favourable. God sometimes allows unfavourable providences to attend favourable providences in our lives. (We have seen this also in Job's life on Sunday nights.) To what end does God allow trouble and affliction to attend the lives of his faithful people?

6. Are contemporary Jews our brothers and fellow heirs of the kingdom of God? Explain your answer.

7. How serious is God about sin and holiness? What does sin and holiness have to do with a covenant relationship with God?

8. We noticed on Sunday morning that there were some translation issues that needed to be wrestled with to properly understand the prophecy. Should it discourage you to find that there are potential problems in your favoured English translation of the Bible? Explain your answer.