

SESSION TWENTY-TWO SUPPLEMENT

DANIEL 9:20-27

Applicational Lessons

INTRODUCTION

Prophetic material is fascinating to study, but is it possible to draw relevant application from this material that is appropriate for people in our day and age? Certainly this is possible, but students admittedly have a difficult time at first in seeing how to move from the text to application. One important key to this transition is to meditate on the text in search of *principles*. Once valid principles have been identified, specific applications can be drawn that are geared for the audience in mind. The following list provides some examples of principles and applications drawn from Dan 9:20-27.

1. Vs 22 - "insight with understanding"

Why is this happening? Why is Daniel being so honored? The answer is found in vs 23: "you are highly esteemed." Daniel was highly esteemed, because he was . . .

- a) a man of the Word (see 9:2)
- b) a man of prayer
- c) a man who was broken over sin and intense about confession

God may not reveal such things to you as He did to Daniel, but He may be pleased to give you more understanding of His Word than you presently have.

2. Vs 24 - God has a timetable for history, because He is sovereign. Only He is able to know the future and control the future. Hence,

- a. History is not just running out of control. God is in control and shall not be defeated. We are on the winning side.
- b. God knows your personal future, and nothing is going to take Him by surprise. He can also prepare you beforehand, because He knows what is coming.

3. Vs 24 - "for your people"

God's original plan with Israel has not been defeated, nor has it been abandoned. God is committed to what He starts and is faithful to His people who are part of His plans. He is faithful to you also!

4. Vs 24 - transgression, sin, iniquity

Our sin does not stop God's plans. We may be disciplined, but God is able both to discipline us and still accomplish His plans.

5. Vs 25 - The time of Messiah's coming

God the Father knew exactly when God the Son would come to earth. This was an eternal plan within the Godhead, and was precise to the utmost detail. Satan could not stop God's plan . . . he never will. God is right on schedule (even in regard to our own personal lives as well!).

6. Vs 25 - "even in times of distress"

God's work is often done in times of distress. The presence of obstacles does not indicate that God is not "in" what we are doing. In fact, it should be expected, as Satan will obviously want to hinder or even derail God's work. Hence, don't give up too easily. Realize there are spiritual battles going on as well.

7. Vs 26 - Messiah had to be "cut off"

This expression means to suffer a violent death. It was not enough for Jesus to be an example of a righteous person. He had to die for our sins, because there was no other way we could have forgiveness. [This would be a good opportunity for a gospel appeal]

8. Vs 26 - "have nothing"

This probably refers to His kingdom and dominion which had been foretold in Dan 7:13-14. Even Jesus must wait to have His glorious promise. Let us, too, be patient, and we shall one day be rewarded. Jesus had to suffer first, and so must we. He doesn't ask you to do what He Himself was unwilling to do.

9. Vs 26 - "even to the end there will be war"

War is the worst part of our earthly existence. It reminds us that man is not getting better, and humanism is a false hope. Man by his best efforts will not end war, because war is a result of man's sinful nature. We should work for peace as we can and be a peacemaker, but our greatest effort should be in reaching people with the gospel—only then will there be peace within.

10. Vs 27 - "firm covenant"

The Antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel, because Satan is a liar and the father of lies. But God will never let you down, and He will never double-cross you. You can trust Him completely!