

Peace Treaty - CNBC - Congdon News & Bible Commentary Inbox

Inbox

Dear Friends of our ministry,

The recent news of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United States and Iran has caused much stir and speculation among some students of the Bible. I have had several asked if this is the prelude to the covenant of the Antichrist given in Daniel 9:27. This question is nothing new, for I have been asked about it every time I have taught on the 9th chapter of Daniel.

Therefore, I thought this would be a good opportunity to pass my view of the passage on to you. It is my hope, in the coming days, to resume giving commentary of the biblical relationship to current events in our world through my newsletters.

Daniel 9:27 is the only reference to a covenant between the Antichrist and Israel during the latter days. We read:

And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

I have heard many speakers call this a "peace treaty" that will make Israel safe from her enemies and relieve her of fear, at least temporarily. Key to understanding what this covenant is can be found only in this verse, for God has not defined it elsewhere in Scripture.

First of all, the word, "peace treaty" is assumed rather than stated. A careful consideration of the subject of the covenant is found with reference only to two actions, "sacrifice" and "oblation." These are worship functions toward God as specified by God's covenantal relationship to His people, Israel. Historically, Israel can only offer these to God upon an altar. In the earliest times this was a personal altar of godly people. With the formation of Israel, the altar was part of the Tabernacle and then the Temple, with the latter located in Jerusalem on the Temple Mount. This later location is the only acceptable location where Israel can hold sacrifices.

Today that mount is a major source of contention between Jews and Muslims, both considering it their sacred place. Following the 1967 War in Israel, Israel regained control of the mount, but turned over authority to a Muslim council with respect to the mosque located there. Periodically tensions and conflicts have developed as Jews try to pray on the mount and as they express the desire to resume sacrifices upon the mount. Contention over the mount and the actions on it, has been a factor in many of the conflicts between Arab and Jew.

We notice in our verse, that this verse refers to the mid-point of the Tribulation. Daniel's term "midst of the week" refers to Daniel's prophetic week of 7 years where it

is the last of the 70 weeks of Daniel's prophecy in chapter 9 verses 24 through 27. Therefore, the Antichrist stops "sacrifices and oblations" at the mid-point of the Tribulation. Inherently, this suggests that an altar has been in place prior to the mid-point of the Tribulation.

We next need to determine when the construction of a national Jewish altar is possible. As I have taught in my book on the Feasts of the Lord, I showed that Israel has had three national spiritual revivals in its history and all occurred during a Feast of Trumpets, also called the Feast of Remembrance, observance. The first was at the dedication of Solomon's Temple. The last two were after the return from the Captivity in Babylon. Both times in these last two, Israel began worshipping at an altar on the Temple Mount, but before the Temple was rebuilt. I believe the scriptures teach that God will "remember" Israel at the start of the Tribulation, by allowing an altar to be constructed before the Tribulation Temple construction begins and obviously completed by the mid-point of the Tribulation (week). Just a note, the biblical concept of "remembering" is not speaking of forgetfulness, but rather the review of a previous promise to a person or nation; preparation to fulfill the promise; and the action of fulfillment.

As I teach, with respect to the prophecy of the Battle of Gog-Magog (Ezekiel 38 & 39), I believe the armies of Gog, coming against Israel some time between the Rapture of the Church and the start of the Tribulation, will be destroyed by God in such a way that the world's population recognizes God's power expressed in His care and relationship to Israel. The beginning of the destruction of Gog's army is a massive earthquake ("shaking" - Ezekiel 38:19) in the land of Israel. I suggest that in doing this, part of God's purpose to turn the world's recognition of Him, Ezekiel 38:23; 9:28, 29, will be accomplished by the destruction of the current Mosque on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, along with Gog's entire army. That will open the way for the Antichrist to make this covenant with Israel, free of contention, to resume sacrifices and covenantal worship of God. Consequently, this will mark the beginning of Daniel's 70th week, the Tribulation.

Notice the elements of Ezekiel 39:29:

Neither will I [God] hide my face any more from them [Israel]: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.

Here is God's turning back in "remembrance of Israel" in order to begin the seven-year process of bringing Israel back to Him in full repentance. I also want to point out that I believe the Scriptures clearly teach that the catching up of all true believers of the Church-Age, the Rapture, will occur prior to the battle of Gog-Magog, thereby removing any confusion as to the role of the church and Israel.

Please do not hesitate to comment or send questions to me. In the future I can enlarge the above with more scriptural references.

May the Lord bless each of you.

In His service and yours, until He comes,

Rob

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