

## MIDDLE EAST PEACE – THE FULFILLMENT OF BIBLE PROPHECY (Part 5 of 9)

This detailed look at Daniel 9:26-27 will give us a more thorough understanding of God's prophetic plan and purpose for our world, Christ's Church and especially His plan for the nation of Israel. Here is what those two verses tell us about that prophetic plan and purpose –

**“Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”**

In the passage above, Daniel makes us aware of an important detail. His focus is upon a specific individual. The prophet doesn't mention him by name. But his identifying feature is that he will be descended from the people who will serve God's purpose in executing His judgment upon the nation of Israel for rejecting their Messiah during His first advent. This is in reference to the Roman army which invaded Israel, destroying Jerusalem and its temple in AD70. There has been much speculation as to the ethnicity of this man. Some claim a direct link to the nation of Italy from which the Roman Empire originated. Others claim that he will be generally of European descent. The safest approach in regard to his identity would be to agree that this individual will be Gentile and not Jewish. Of that we can be certain, without becoming guilty of unnecessary speculation.

What will this Gentile individual do that amounts to such monumental Biblical significance? Daniel tells us at the very beginning of v27 – **“And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week.”** That one week will be one and the same with the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel's prophecy. That one-week covenant will consist of one major overriding factor. It will be a treaty which will bring peace to the Middle East. Daniel doesn't say that this firm one-week covenant will consist of a peace treaty. But what else could it be? What else would allow for the nation of Israel to rebuild its much longed-for temple? Daniel tells us, confirmed by Jesus in Matthew 24:15, that there will be a Jewish temple in existence in Israel in the middle of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week. The reason why there is no Jewish temple in existence in Israel at this moment? It is primarily due to the fact that the surrounding Arab/Islamic nations would never allow for it. But apparently, there will be a provision in this firm covenant with the many for the building of this Jewish temple. In addition, it does seem that the apostle Paul confirms this covenant as a peace treaty in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3, as the response throughout the world will be an exclamation of: “Peace and safety!”

No such peace treaty has ever been created on behalf of modern-day Israel thus far. Many attempts have been made for some semblance of peace, with very brief and minimal results. But this future peace treaty, this firm covenant with the many, will be different. It will be of the utmost monumental prophetic significance, engineered by this one individual, a future prince who will be of Gentile descent. But even this covenant of peace will not last; and not due to any violation on the part of some of its Arab participants, but due solely to this individual prince, who will commit a sin so egregious that both Daniel and Jesus refer to it as the abomination of desolation.