

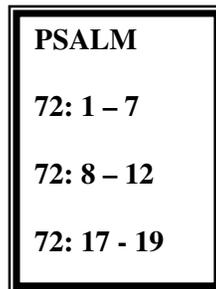
"THE MESSIAH'S GLORIOUS WORK"

Introduction

1. This text is a wonderful prophecy
2. It is a description of Christ's work
3. It is given to Daniel after prayer

1. DANIEL WAS DEEPLY BURDENED FOR GOD'S CAUSE

- 1) His situation in Babylon
- 2) The influence upon him: of prophecy: v.2
- 3) His profound concern for God's cause:
 - (i) v.3: fasting
 - (ii) v.5: confession
 - (iii) v.7: vindicates
 - (iv) v.10: sees obedience as all-important
 - (v) v.13: laments their poverty in prayer
 - (vi) v.18: great energy of soul expressed
- 4) Factors which enter into this burden:
 - (i) declension in God's church is lamentable
 - (ii) it troubles the godly when God is angry
 - (iii) the burden to move God to bless again
 - (iv) we must neither be slack nor despair



APPLICATION: Does the state of God's cause move us?

2. DANIEL IS GIVEN A VIEW OF CHRIST'S WORK

- 1) God gives Daniel comfort and help: v.20-22
- 2) He also has a wonderful word of praise given to him: v.23
- 3) He is also favoured with understanding:
OBSERVE: "The secret of the Lord...fear him".

APPLICATION: Not just study but spirituality

- 4) The work of Christ described: NEGATIVE / POSITIVE
NEGATIVE:

- (i) "to finish transgression" (v.24)
- (ii) "to make an end of sins"
- (iii) to cover "iniquity"

POSITIVE:

- (i) "to bring in everlasting righteousness": v.24
- (ii) "to seal up the vision and prophecy"
- (iii) "to anoint the most Holy"

- 5) We see how Christ here is the focus and centre of all God's purposes

APPLICATION: Let our eyes be ever on the Cross:

- (i) David in Psalm 22
- (ii) Isaiah in chapter 53
- (iii) Daniel here
- (iv) Paul: "God forbid..."

3. DANIEL IS ASSURED OF GOD'S PERFECT TIMING

- 1) God does all his work to his own plan and in his own time-scale:
ILLUSTRATION: the 4 seasons
APPLICATION: "A time to be born/die"...and also for Christ to return. All is fore-ordained.
- 2) This is expressed as "70 weeks" – these are "prophetic weeks", not literal:
 - (i) 7 sevens: from Daniel to Ezra / Nehemiah
i.e. rebuilding Jerusalem – temple + wall (see v.25)
 - (ii) 62 sevens: from Ezra / Nehemiah to Christ.
Christ to be "cut off, but not for himself" (see v.26)
APPLICATION: What a wonderful expression!
 - (iii) 1 final week: from Calvary to AD70
Christ will "confirm the covenant with many for one week" (v.27). This is the period from Pentecost to Fall of Jerusalem – Jews dispersed.

CONCLUSION

What a perfect plan!

What a book the Bible is!