



2020 1Q Daniel: Lesson 10 From Confession to Consolation

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

SABBATH

Read Memory Text: “O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name.” Daniel 9:19 NKJV

What was Daniel praying for? For deliverance and return to the promised land.

What lesson is there in this for us? Is it more than trusting God and praying for Him to help us deal with life’s problems?

Is there an object lesson for us in this? Remember the OT not only records real lives of real people who did real historic things, but are object lessons of a larger reality—what is the object lesson for us?

- Daniel was a captive in a foreign land
 - We are captives of sin in a foreign land
- Daniel trusted God with his life and God protected him
 - We trust God with our lives and God protects us
- Daniel studied Scripture and understood the time had come for Israel to be set free and return to Jerusalem
 - We study Scripture and understand the time has come in human history for God to act to set us free from this world of sin and take us to the New Jerusalem
- Daniel understood the people had failed in their mission for God by accepting the false Baal view of God and misrepresenting God
 - Do we understand that as Christians we have failed in our mission for God by accepting the imperial law view of God (which is the Baal view) and thus have misrepresented God? Or do we believe we have taken the right gospel to the world?
- Daniel confesses the failing and asks God to act to bring about the result
 - Do we confess our failing and are we willing to ask God to act to bring about the end-time events?

Why has God delayed the second coming of Christ?

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2Pet 3:8-9 NIV84



What would cause the delay? What has prevented people from coming to the knowledge of God and being saved? A false gospel that people have accepted and that Paul says has a form of godliness but no power.

How would you describe the false gospel that has gone to the world?

What is the true gospel?

One of the founders of the SDA church wrote the following, regarding the message that is to prepare the world for the coming of Christ:

“It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His character is to be made known. Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy and truth...The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is the revelation of His character of love.” Christ's Object Lessons, p.415

Do we believe the gospel of the kingdom of love, of the God who is love, of the Creator Designer and Builder of reality, whose laws are the laws upon which life is constructed to exist, has gone to the world? Or, instead has the lie of an imperial god who imposes rules and inflicts the death penalty gone to the world?

From the book *The Great Controversy*:

It is Satan's constant effort to misrepresent the character of God, the nature of sin, and the real issues at stake in the great controversy. His **sophistry lessens the obligation of the divine law** and gives men license to sin. [How? By the imposed law lie, that sin is a legal problem taken care of in legal ways outside the sinner. We don't have to keep the law, in fact we can't, Jesus kept it for us, paid the penalty and now we just live by faith in His legal payment to the Father so the Father won't kill us] **At the same time he causes them to cherish false conceptions of God so that they regard Him with fear and hate rather than with love. [This is the result of the legal lie, God becomes the source of inflicted punishment and the One whom we need to be protected from.]** The cruelty inherent in his own character is attributed to the Creator; **it is embodied in systems of religion and expressed in modes of worship. [These lies of Satan are embodied in our religions and worship—how? Through the legal lie that God's law is like imposed human law and all our theories and doctrines about God become corrupted to teach the lies of Satan.]** Thus **the minds of men are blinded, and Satan secures them as his agents to war against God. By perverted conceptions of the divine attributes, heathen nations were led to believe human sacrifices necessary to secure the favor of Deity;** and horrible cruelties have been perpetrated under the various forms of idolatry. GC 569.1 [And today's Christianity teaches the same thing, that we must present to God the blood of a sinless human sacrifice in order to secure the favor of the Deity.]



Tuesday of this past week as I was riding to work I was listening to Christian radio in my car and a well-known Christian evangelist had a short homily in which he said, that all of us are under “God’s death penalty” and Jesus took all the death for all the sins of the world to free us from God’s death penalty, so that God could forgive us and not punish us.

He made it clear the problem with sin, in his view, is that we are in legal trouble with God and that God in order to be just must use His power to inflict punishment upon those who would not otherwise reap it. Thus, the problem with sin is breaking rules, upsetting the rule-giver and receiving the punishment from the deity. This is pagan—it is the infection of Rome, it is the wine of Babylon and Christianity is powerless to do its mission until we reject this legal fraud and returns to worship the Creator, Him who made the heavens earth sea and fountains.

This means we reject the idea that God’s law is like human law and accept the truth that God’s laws are design laws, that sin is being out of harmony with God and His laws and that no human could remedy this situation and that Jesus is our Remedy and will heal and restore all who trust Him. But God justly leaves all those free who reject His free remedy to reap what they have chosen, separation from Him the source of life. Thus death, as the Bible teaches, comes out from unremedied sin, not from God.

So, are we praying for God to fulfill His promises and open the way for the final message to lighten the world, to remove barriers to communication, to remove obstacles to the light of heaven and empower those who are willing to take the truth forward to do so?

SUNDAY

The lesson points out that Daniel was a student of Scripture and as such was aware that the time of Jeremiah’s 70-year prophecy was coming to an end. Daniel was looking for God to act.

Read the last paragraph, “As we approach the last days...” Are we to be like Daniel and study God’s word? For what?

Do we study to:

- know the right rules or to know the right God?
 - Did the Jews at the time of Christ know which day was the right Sabbath?
 - Did they know the Lord of the Sabbath?
- know the right rituals or know the right realities?
 - Did the Jews in Christ’s day know the right rituals such as circumcision?
 - Did they know reality to which circumcision pointed?
- know the right predictions or know the right principles and purposes?
 - Did the Jewish leaders at the time of Herod, know the right prophetic prediction of where the Messiah was going to be born?
 - Did they know the right purpose of Christ coming to earth and the principles of God’s kingdom?



What about today—why do we study Scripture? Does it matter?

And what helps us study Scripture correctly? Understanding design law, understanding the Great Controversy context, and understanding the purpose of Scripture.

So why do we study Scripture?

- To know God
- To know God's methods, purposes and principles
- To be reunited with God and become part of His team and be transformed to be like Him in character.
- To fulfill God's purposes

How can sin be obliterated?

Can sin be obliterated by the use of might and physical power?

If God were to use fire to melt the entire earth and every sinner into nothingness, would that eradicate sin?

Is sin a physical element that can be physically eliminated? Is sin made out of molecules?

This is critical for people to understand, because the imperial law lie about God has God using physical power to eradicate sin. It alleges that sin must be punished and that God in order to be just will use power to torment and kill sinners. But what would using physical power to get rid of sinners actually do? Notice God can use physical power to get rid of sinners—but does doing that actually get rid of sin? What would it do?

In the book *The Desire of Ages* one of the founders of the SDA church wrote:

God could have destroyed Satan and his sympathizers as easily as one can cast a pebble to the earth; but He did not do this. Rebellion was not to be overcome by force. Compelling power is found only under Satan's government. The Lord's principles are not of this order. His authority rests upon goodness, mercy, and love; and the presentation of these principles is the means to be used. **God's government is moral, and truth and love are to be the prevailing power.** DA 759.1

Then later in the same chapter, and this picks up from a quote we used in last week's lesson,

The warfare against God's law, which was begun in heaven, will be continued until the end of time. [What law? How did Satan war against God's law? Could Satan go into some legislative body in heaven and pass new laws? Could Satan change God's laws? What could Satan do to war against God's laws? Lie about what the law of God is, to get angels to believe the laws of God are imposed rules, like created beings make, rather than design protocols that



are for our health and welfare.] **Every man will be tested. Obedience or disobedience is the question to be decided by the whole world.** [When you hear this to you get anxious? Why? Which law lens do you hear this through? If imposed law, imperial law, then we hear performance, and pressure to perform, but what do we hear through design law? Healing, living in harmony with life as God built it, and this is achieved only through trust in God who heals us.] **All will be called to choose between the law of God and the laws of men.** [What kind of laws are God's laws and what kind are the laws of men? How are do the operate? What is the way they are enforced? What happens if you break either kind? What do people do when they believe the lie about God's law in dealing with a law-breaker? It is the beastly system of coercion that results.] Here the dividing line will be drawn. There will be but two classes. **Every character will be fully developed;** and all will show whether they have chosen the side of loyalty or that of rebellion. DA 763.3 [What is the difference in the end, is it a legal accounting or the actual character of people? Who have trusted and worshipped our Creator God and been transformed in heart to be like Him, and who has worshipped the satanic view of god and become like Satan?]

Then the end will come. God will vindicate His law and deliver His people. [How does God vindicate His law? Would God be able to vindicate design law by using power to inflict punishment upon lawbreakers? No, this would sustain Satan's charges. So the entire Christian community that teaches God must use power to punish sin, is presenting Satan's view of God and obstructing the final message to prepare people to meet Jesus.] Satan and all who have joined him in rebellion **will be cut off. Sin and sinners will perish, root and branch.** [What does cut off mean? What kind of law is being described? When a branch is cut from the vine does the vine have to use power to kill the broken off branch? And what cuts the people from God? Is it an act of God that cuts people off, or is it their sin and their refusal to let God graft them back in to unity with Him?] (Malachi 4:1),—Satan the root, and his followers the branches. The word will be fulfilled to the prince of evil, “Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God; ... I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.... Thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.” Then “the wicked shall not be; yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be;” “they shall be as though they had not been.” Ezekiel 28:6-19; Psalm 37:10; Obadiah 16. DA 763.4

This is not an act of arbitrary power on the part of God. [What does this mean? What kind of law is arbitrarily enforce? Imperial/imposed law, the punishment is just made up, fines, imprisonment, even death sentences are arbitrary. However, this is not so with design law, the punishment is always the natural result, what one reaps if not healed. So, notice how the quote continues.] **The rejecters of His mercy reap that which they have sown. God is the fountain of life; and when one chooses the service of sin, he separates from God, and thus cuts himself off from life. He is “alienated from the life of God.”** Christ says, “All they that hate Me love death.” [Do you see design law clearly being described here? Do you see how the common view in Christianity denies this and sustains Satan's lies about God and His law?] Ephesians 4:18; Proverbs 8:36. God gives them existence for a time that they may **develop their character and reveal their principles. This accomplished, they receive the results of their own choice. By a life of rebellion, Satan and all who unite with him place**



themselves so out of harmony with God that His very presence is to them a consuming fire. The glory of Him who is love will destroy them. DA 764.1 [Why do they die? Is it because God inflicts death on those who would otherwise live eternally, or is it because of their actual state of being, the character they have developed is incompatible with life as God designed it? They are out of harmony with God, God's law and the law of life! Now, notice this, understanding why they die the next paragraph.]

At the beginning of the great controversy, the angels did not understand this. [What did angels not understand? The nature of God's law, the nature of sin, why death happens.] **Had Satan and his host then been left to reap the full result of their sin, they would have perished; but it would not have been apparent to heavenly beings that this was the inevitable result of sin.** [Why do Satan and sinners die? Because they are out of harmony with the laws upon which life is built. And why didn't God allow Satan and the rebellious angels in heaven to experience this in the very beginning of Satan's rebellion? Because sin is not a physical entity, but a belief system that undermines love and trust, so notice the last sentence.] **A doubt of God's goodness would have remained in their minds as evil seed, to produce its deadly fruit of sin and woe.** DA 764.2

Can God obliterate sin by using power to kill all sinners? NO! It is only by truth, love and freedom that sin can be eradicated. And until Christians effectively present these truths then Satan's kingdom of lies continues to hold minds captive and prevent the healing remedy from doing its work.

This is why the message of the 3 angels is to go forward—a message of eternal good news—always true in eternity past and future. This good news is about God, and when we come back to this eternal good news then we are in awe of God and give Him glory by revealing the truth of His character so that people can make a right judgment about Him and worship Him who made the heavens earth and fountains of water...

MONDAY

Read second paragraph, "First, nowhere in Daniel's prayer..." Daniel knows that the people were in captivity because they had failed to stay faithful to God—but is that the full understanding? Was something more going on than: well they weren't faithful so they were being punished?

Does our understanding of God's law make a difference on this?

For instance, was God acting to cause this event using divine power to inflict punishment upon them for sin, or was God withdrawing protection and allowing evil forces to attack them? If one believes it was the active infliction of punishment—I would ask, Then, was God forcing Nebuchadnezzar to invade against Nebuchadnezzar's will? Neb was really a peaceful man, humble, kind, who wanted to set up humanitarian health clinics around the world, but God forced him to become an invading tyrant?



No, God didn't use His power to make it happen in this way, but God surrendered rebellious Israel to go their own way, like a prodigal child leaving home, God let Israel go their own way without His interventions to protect them. And what happened?

Babylon invaded and took them captive.

Jeremiah writes "I will summon all the peoples of the north and my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon," declares the LORD, "and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants and against all the surrounding nations." (Jer 26:9 NIV84)

If God didn't force Nebuchadnezzar then what does this passage mean? How do we understand it?

Did God know Nebuchadnezzar's heart, mind, character, and plans? Did God also know the hearts of Judah's leaders? Did God know the future? So, God knew what Neb was going to do and God could have acted to stop it like He did with the 185,000 Assyrians in the time of Hezekiah, but this time God didn't. Why not?

Did God make a judgment of what action was best for God to take?

And how do we understand God's judgments?

If we understand judgment through the lie that God's law is like human law then we think God is inflicting punishment.

But if we understand design law and the Great Controversy, and the fact that after Adam sinned the Messiah is promised (Genesis 3) and humankind could not be saved without the Messiah, and God was working to save humankind and end sin, then we understand the OT is the record of this battle between good and evil for the salvation of the species and the arrival of the Messiah.

In this light, we can understand that God judged that Judah was persisting in rebellion against God, and that rebellion would destroy the people who would be the avenue for the Messiah—it would destroy them by corrupting their characters and hardening their hearts so none would remain loyal to God.

Thus, God judged that they needed to repent—so He sent prophet after prophet to warn them and call for repentance. But they rejected His prophets and preferred the false prophets that opposed God's prophets. So God judged that the only way for them to retain a faithful remnant, in harmony with His methods, principles and laws, was to withdraw His protection—to give them their freedom to reap what they had chosen and allow the captivity which would sift the people destroying many of the hardened and keeping a remnant that would be faithful to Him. God could no longer protect the nation, but God could and did protect the individuals who were faithful to Him. And this painful, but therapeutic judgment, worked. The avenue for the Messiah was secured.



And God revealed this was the plan to Daniel—What did the vision given to Daniel reveal about what was to come?

- 490 years for his people to continue to be the ambassadors of God and the avenue for Messiah
- In the middle of the last 7 years the Messiah would end all the rituals and provide the remedy for sin
- The evil one would counter-attack and war against God's people with lies which infected their minds, the truth of Daniel's little book wouldn't be understood until much later in human history
- It would be 2300 years until the people recovered enough truth to have their minds cleansed of the lies and prepare themselves to be united with God

TUESDAY

Read first paragraph, "Daniel's prayer..." How is "judgment" used here? It is understood as punishment, i.e. under the human-law model. But if we understand judgment to be God's therapeutic actions to bring about the plan of salvation, why would praying to God result in staving off judgment? Because their hearts changed and when their hearts actually changed and they were won back to loyalty to God, then the need for the impending therapeutic "judgment" was not needed thus it is averted.

But not always, consider Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham prayed for God *not* to bring "judgment" upon these cities, but Abraham's intercession didn't make a difference why? Was the prayer of a righteous man not sufficient to influence God to lay off? No, it wasn't about God's attitude it was about the reality of the hearts and minds of the people in Sodom, and the plan of salvation in bringing the Messiah.

What is shown in this story is that God was quite eager not to destroy Sodom, if only there were any people there with hearts that were healable, hearts that were not fully hardened against Him. But there were not; since there were no hearts to turn back to Him, God judged or diagnosed that the condition was necrotic, unhealable, and if this cancerous lesion of sinfulness remained it would infect His people down the road and obstruct the avenue for the Messiah—thus, God acted therapeutically to excise this lesion and keep open the avenue for the Messiah. God also gave an object lesson, as Peter later informs us, that the wicked will not suffer and be tormented for all eternity.

God did not allow the gangrenous ancient world to completely cut itself off from him but brought the flood to excise the necrosis and save Noah—a teacher of the Remedy—and seven others.⁶ He diagnosed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah as beyond healing, and in mercy, he cauterized those festering lesions to ash, making it clear that the unhealed will not be made to suffer eternally, but the torment of sin will mercifully be ended; 2Peter 2:5-6, *The Remedy*

Let's talk about the intercession of Moses—did the intercession of Moses truly change God's mind?



- Does God know the end from the beginning?
- Did God know that when He told Moses that He was going to wipe out Israel how Moses would respond?
- Did God know how He would respond to Moses?
- Then, was God ever really planning on destroying Israel?
- Then, what was the purpose in telling Moses He was going to wipe out Israel and start over with Moses' family?
- Can angels read hearts and minds? If they could would any have been deceived by Lucifer in heaven?
- What was it looking like at this time in human history to the angels? Was it looking like God was winning? After the 10 plagues, after the Red Sea, the fire by night and cloud by day, what were the people doing? Worshipping a golden calf—and do you think Satan was taking advantage of this?
- So, what might God want the angels to know—that they didn't understand? That God cannot win by might and power, but truth, love and freedom really does work. God wanted to help the angels see the evidence of His methods healing and transforming a sinner. What is revealed to the angels in heaven, and to us who read the story today?
 - That Moses, who at age 40 murdered an overseer, revealing that at age 40 Moses had a heart willing to use force to kill others to get his way, but, after 40 years with God Moses was now willing to give his life to save others—God revealed that God's methods work for those who trust God!

This is what was really happening. Sadly, those stuck in the human law lie, read this story and falsely conclude that Moses needed to plead to God to get God to back off. Think about that—Wow, sure glad we had good old Moses there because God was having an off day and we couldn't trust God not to kill us, but Moses the murderer, him we can trust to get God to do the right thing. How pathetic is that line of reasoning?

What about the story of Elijah—did God need Elijah to pray to God to get God to send rain? Or, was the entire 3.5 years of drought part of God's plan to expose Baal (the god of weather) as a false God and turn the hearts of the people back to the true God? So Elijah wasn't praying to God to get God to do something, but Elijah was God's agent, God's spokesperson, praying to God so the PEOPLE could see and understand that the rain was coming from God and not from Baal!

The lesson says that in this case that Daniel plays the role of an intercessor or mediator...hmmm... does that mean if Daniel doesn't make this prayer then the people would have to stay in captivity longer?

Read bottom green section, "If you would..." What does the quote mean? What law lens do you read it through?

Why would attempting to present your good works to God as meriting your salvation be treason to God's government?



Here is the dictionary definition of treason:

1. the offense of acting to overthrow one's government or to harm or kill its sovereign.
2. a violation of allegiance to one's sovereign or to one's state.
3. the betrayal of a trust or confidence; breach of faith; treachery.

How is presenting our good works to God for salvation treasonous to God and His government?

What type of law would such an act be based upon? What would such an act suggest about the government of God and the laws of God's kingdom?

What is Satan's primary weapon against God—Satan is the father of lies! And Satan's prime attack is on God's law, that God's law functions like human law.

So, the act of presenting good works to God to merit our salvation is sustaining Satan's lies about God and God's law and government—thus it is treasonous it is an act of war against God's methods of truth, love and freedom.

It would be like getting Ebola infected tissue and offering it to people as a remedy to make people healthy.

What about not offering our good works to God to merit our salvation, but instead offering God the blood of His Son to merit our salvation?

WENDESDAY

Let's examine the meaning of the prophecy here in Daniel 9:24: "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish (restrain) transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy. NIV84

Read second paragraph, "1. 'To finish transgression...'" What law lens do you read this through? If we think through the imposed law lie, then we read this as taking punishment and paying penalties, but what does it mean through design law? That an end to the sin-condition in humanity would occur—that Jesus would cure the condition, that Jesus would restore God's law into the species human and eradicate the infection of fear and selfishness and become the remedy for the species.

Read next paragraph, "2. 'To make an end of sins...'" What do you understand this to mean? Do we see this as legal accounting, or actual fixing? Was Jesus, as the second Adam, tempted in every way just as we are yet without sin? Did Jesus destroy the infection of fear and selfishness in the humanity He assumed and purify that humanity rising as a perfected human? Heb 5:9, "once he was made perfect he became the source of salvation for all who obey him."



3. to make reconciliation or atone for wickedness—what does this mean? Do you read it as legal, or actual? Was God, through Christ, doing something to God, or was God, through Christ doing something in humanity to fix the sin condition and restore humanity to oneness with God?

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! [Does the Bible say he is declared a new creation and the old record of sin is erased from the record books and a new record is written down in heaven's ledger? No, it says we are actually renewed, recreated, reborn, this is real happening in the hearts/minds/characters of those who trust God] ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: [Who is being reconciled to who? Is God being reconciled to man or is man being reconciled to God? The penal lie says that God was also being reconciled to man because God, after sin, was filled with anger and wrath and Jesus had to dissipate this from God's heart in order to enable or prepare God to be reconciled to us. This is paganism and false. God never changes, is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. God is perfect always and needed no changing. No, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself!] ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. [What? But surely God is keeping an accurate record of sins to do exactly that, to count them against us. No, God keeps an accurate medical record of our condition in order to heal and restore all who let Him, and to reveal why those who are lost are lost—because they refused all actions from God that would have healed them and die of their own terminal condition.] And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2Cor 5:17-21 NIV84 [Here we have Jesus as our substitute! Yes, Jesus was our substitute—but for what? Not to pay a legal penalty but to fix the condition so that we may *become* the righteousness of God! Just as the prophecy of Daniel says, the very next element in the prophecy is...

4. to bring everlasting righteousness—how? What does this mean?

The law requires righteousness,—a righteous life, a perfect character; and this man has not to give. He cannot meet the claims of God's holy law. But Christ, coming to the earth as man, lived a holy life, and developed a perfect character. These He offers as a free gift to all who will receive them. His life stands for the life of men. Thus they have remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. More than this, Christ imbues men with the attributes of God. He builds up the human character after the similitude of the divine character, a goodly fabric of spiritual strength and beauty. Thus the very righteousness of the law is fulfilled in the believer in Christ. God can "be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Romans 3:26. DA 762.2

5. To seal up the vision and prophecy—what does this mean? To fulfill and confirm, to make it happen, part of history that cannot be changed.

6. To anoint the most holy—what does this mean?



Two views are possible—the most holy being anointed refers to:

- Jesus when He was anointed by the Holy Spirit
- The Heavenly Sanctuary when Jesus ascended victoriously

Most Christian and Jewish theologians believe this refers to the Messiah being anointed, but the SDA commentary reads:

In view of the fact that the Hebrew phrase cannot elsewhere be shown to refer definitely to a person, and in view of the fact that the heavenly sanctuary is under discussion in the larger aspects of the vision (see on Dan. 8:14), it is reasonable to conclude that Daniel is here speaking of the anointing of the heavenly sanctuary prior to the time of Christ's inauguration as high priest.¹

Well a couple of concerns about this view:

The SDA commentary in the paragraph immediately preceding the one just read, states:

The most Holy. Heb. *qodesh qodashim*, “something most holy,” or, “someone most holy.” The Hebrew phrase is applied to the altar (Ex. 29:37; 40:10), other vessels and furniture pertaining to the tabernacle (Ex. 30:29), the holy perfume (Ex. 30:36), specified meat offerings (Lev. 2:3, 10; 6:17; 10:12), trespass offerings (Lev. 7:1, 6), the shewbread (Lev. 24:5–9), devoted things (Lev. 27:28), the holy district (Num. 18:10; Eze. 43:12), and the most holy place of the sanctuary (Ex. 26:33, 34). **The phrase is nowhere applied to persons, unless, as some suggest, it is so applied in the text under consideration and in 1 Chron. 23:13. The latter text may be translated, “Aaron was separated to anoint him a most holy one,”** although it may also be rendered as in the KJV. Jewish expositors and many Christian commentators have held that the Messiah is referred to.²

So, the commentary acknowledges that in one place this language is applied to a person, but then suggests in the next paragraph that it isn't applied to a person.

And, its second argument is that the context of Daniel, references 8:14, is about the heavenly sanctuary. However, that ignores the immediate context in this case. Note, Daniel 9:24,25:

Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to **anoint the most holy.**

¹ Nichol, F. D. (Ed.). (1977). *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* (Vol. 4, p. 852). Review and Herald Publishing Association.

Heb. Hebrew

KJV King James Version, 1611, formerly called the Authorized Version

² Nichol, F. D. (Ed.). (1977). *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* (Vol. 4, p. 852). Review and Herald Publishing Association.



25 “Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decreed to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the **Anointed One, the ruler, comes**, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ Daniel 9:24-25 NIV84

So, if we consider the immediate context, the focus is not on the entire 2300 years in these passages, but on the portion of the 70 weeks allocated to Daniel’s people. Further, within this time frame of the 70 weeks the most holy is to be anointed and there is a person referred to as the Anointed One, the ruler who is to come. So, it seems to me it is more reasonable and consistent with the scripture to consider this phrase to refer to Jesus’ anointing by the Holy Spirit.

EGW suggests this when in *The Desire of Ages*, after quoting this prophecy in Daniel she writes:

The time of Christ's coming, His anointing by the Holy Spirit, His death, and the giving of the gospel to the Gentiles, were definitely pointed out...DA 234.1

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

March 27,28, 2020: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at an AACC River Conference at Plano, TX. More info at <http://theriverconference.com/>

April 17,18, 2020: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Lakewood SDA church in Lakewood OH.

September 17-19 2020: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the AACC National Conference in Dallas, TX

October 3, 2020: Come and Reason will have a one day seminar in Chattanooga TN on Healing the Mind, Recovering from Sexual Abuse, the Impact of Digital Media on Kids and more. Details coming soon.