

present study. However, our purpose includes careful examination of every prediction, in order to determine in each case whether the fulfillment is still future. In such cases we have sought to examine every suggested interpretation that would consider the prediction as one that relates to events that have already occurred. It thus becomes necessary for us to consider two attempts to explain verse 27 as referring to events that are already past.

We shall first examine the interpretation presented by the supporters of the Maccabean view. They lay great stress on the words "put an end to sacrifice and offering," which could well describe what Antiochus did when he ordered that Jewish worship be stopped (cf. Dan. 8:11-13). (This, of course, does not prove that something similar might not also occur in the time of Antichrist).

Supporters of the Maccabean view say that the words that begin the verse, "he will confirm a covenant with many," relate to the event described in 1 Maccabees 1:11-15 where some of the Jews asked Antiochus for permission to introduce gymnastics and other Greek practices into Jerusalem, but this request does not really fit the statement in the verse. 1 Maccabees does not say anything about a covenant, there is no evidence that any time-period was involved, and the initiative did not come from the one who gave the permission but from those who asked for it. It does not mention any action that could properly be called "confirm a covenant" or include any words that could be related to the statement that the covenant was made "for one 'seven.'"

The other attempt to interpret the verse as having already been fulfilled is quite different from the Maccabean view. Starting as early as the fourth century A.D. efforts were made to apply the utmost possible of the prophetic writings to the life and work of Christ. The idea that the first sentence of this verse describes the ministry of Christ was suggested by Eusebius,<sup>11</sup> repeated by various commentators, presented by Hengstenberg<sup>12</sup> and strongly supported by E. J. Young.<sup>13</sup> It holds that the words "confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven'" picture the preaching activities of