

Christ, and that "put an end to sacrifice and offering" describe His death at Calvary.

There are a number of serious objections to this view:

- 1) Even if it should be granted that the words, "he will confirm a covenant," might be considered as a prediction of the earthly ministry of Christ, it is hard, on this interpretation, to see any relevance to the phrase, "for one 'seven.'"
- 2) It is highly questionable that Christ's death can be properly described as "put an end to sacrifice and offering." It is true that all the sacrifices and offerings pointed to the death of Christ, but these sacrifices continued to be offered for nearly forty years after that event. In answer to this objection, it is said that they ceased to be valid after that time, but this implies that until that time they had been effective as atonement for sin. The sacrifices never had validity in themselves but simply pointed to the sacrifice of Christ (cf. Heb. 10:1-9).
- 3) A very serious objection involves the words "middle of the week." On the assumption that the earthly ministry of Christ lasted three and a half years a first half of the week might be assumed, but if the second half ran to the destruction by the Romans (which, on this interpretation, would surely be what is described in the remainder of the verse), then the second half of the week would be nearly 40 years in length -- a very lopsided week! Some have suggested that this could be alleviated by assuming that the second half of the week runs to the death of Stephen; others say, to the conversion of Paul. Various theories have been advanced, none of which has any basis in precise knowledge of chronology, or in fitness of idea.
- 4) A less important objection might be based on the rather confused chronology involved in taking the last part of verse 26 as a description of the events from A.D. 66 to