

the coming prince by sir robert anderson

the coming prince by sir robert anderson is a seminal work that delves into profound theological and prophetic interpretations, particularly concerning the identity and timing of the Antichrist and the Second Coming of Christ. Sir Robert Anderson, a prominent barrister and Christian apologist, meticulously examines biblical prophecies, historical events, and theological arguments to construct his case. This comprehensive exploration will dissect Anderson's core arguments, analyze his exegesis of key biblical passages, discuss the historical context of his work, and evaluate its enduring impact on biblical scholarship and eschatological thought. We will explore the intricate details of his understanding of Daniel's seventy weeks, the nature of the "coming prince," and his conclusions regarding the future fulfillment of prophecy.

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Understanding The Coming Prince: Sir Robert Anderson's Prophetic Framework

Sir Robert Anderson's seminal work, "The Coming Prince," presents a meticulously researched and argued case for a particular interpretation of biblical prophecy, focusing on the prophetic timeline and the identity of the Messiah. Anderson, a man of considerable intellect and deep faith, sought to demonstrate the divine inspiration and accurate fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies concerning the coming of the Messiah. His primary objective was to prove that the prophecies, particularly those found in the book of Daniel, pointed unequivocally to Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah, and that His first advent had already fulfilled specific prophetic periods. Furthermore, the book addresses future prophetic events, including the identity of the Antichrist and the timing of Christ's return, based on his foundational interpretation.

The essence of Anderson's argument revolves around a rigorous application of chronological principles to prophetic texts. He believed that biblical prophecy was not merely symbolic but contained precise temporal indicators that could be deciphered through careful study and comparison with historical events. This analytical approach aimed to move prophetic interpretation from speculative conjecture to a more grounded, scholarly discipline. The implications of his findings were significant, not only for

understanding past fulfillment but also for projecting future prophetic events, thereby offering a coherent eschatological framework for believers.

The Core Arguments of The Coming Prince

At the heart of "The Coming Prince" lies a series of interconnected arguments that Anderson constructs with remarkable precision. He sought to establish a robust case for the veracity of Old Testament prophecy by demonstrating its fulfillment in Jesus Christ and its continued relevance for future events. These core arguments form the bedrock of his entire thesis and have been the subject of extensive discussion and debate among theologians and scholars for generations.

The Identity of the "Coming Prince"

One of the central tenets of Anderson's work is the identification of the "Coming Prince" mentioned in prophetic scriptures. He argues forcefully that this figure is none other than Jesus Christ. Anderson meticulously examines various Old Testament prophecies that speak of a future ruler, a prince, who would bring salvation and establish a kingdom. His analysis connects these prophecies to the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus, asserting that no other historical or future figure could adequately fulfill these multifaceted predictions. The concept of the "Coming Prince" is thus a pivotal element in Anderson's apologetic, aiming to establish the Messianic claims of Christ through the lens of predictive prophecy.

The Timing of the Messiah's Arrival

A significant portion of "The Coming Prince" is dedicated to demonstrating that the prophecies concerning the Messiah's arrival had a specific and divinely ordained timeframe. Anderson's critical focus is on Daniel's prophecy of seventy weeks. He argues that this prophecy provides a precise chronological framework for the coming of the Messiah. By carefully calculating the starting and ending

points of these weeks, and by correlating them with historical events such as the decrees to rebuild Jerusalem, Anderson endeavors to prove that the period designated for the Messiah's appearance concluded with Jesus Christ's first advent. This temporal proof is intended to serve as irrefutable evidence of Christ's identity as the promised Redeemer.

The Prophetic Significance of Daniel's Seventy Weeks

The interpretation of Daniel's prophecy of seventy weeks (often referred to as the seventy sevens or Daniel 9:24-27) is arguably the cornerstone of "The Coming Prince." Anderson engages in a detailed exegesis of this passage, breaking down the seventy weeks into their constituent periods: sixty-nine weeks and the final, unfulfilled week. He posits that the first sixty-nine weeks, totaling 483 years, directly precede the Messiah's arrival. His calculation of the commencement point, often linked to the decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus, and his meticulous tracing of the subsequent years are central to his argument. The interruption between the sixty-ninth and seventieth week, he argues, signifies the Church Age and the subsequent future fulfillment of the final week, which he associates with the Antichrist and the tribulation period. This interpretation is crucial for both establishing Christ's Messianic credentials and for understanding his views on future eschatology.

Anderson's Exegesis of Key Biblical Passages

Sir Robert Anderson's persuasive arguments in "The Coming Prince" are deeply rooted in his careful and often intricate exegesis of specific biblical texts. He does not merely cite verses but engages in a thorough examination of their linguistic, historical, and prophetic contexts. His analytical approach to scripture aims to unveil layers of meaning that he believes confirm the divine origin and predictive power of the biblical narrative, particularly concerning the Messianic prophecies and end-times events.

Daniel and the Seventy Weeks

The book of Daniel, especially chapter 9, is the linchpin of Anderson's prophetic chronology. He dedicates substantial effort to dissecting the prophecy of seventy weeks, arguing that it is not a metaphorical or symbolic representation but a literal, chronological sequence of years. Anderson's interpretation hinges on the understanding of a "week" as a period of seven years, and therefore seventy weeks as 490 years. He meticulously traces the starting point from the decree to restore and build Jerusalem, a point he identifies with great precision based on historical records, and calculates the end of the sixty-ninth week. This calculated endpoint, he argues, aligns precisely with the public ministry and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The gap between the sixty-ninth and the seventieth week, he explains, represents the present Church Age, with the seventieth week yet to be fulfilled, pointing towards future prophetic events.

The Olivet Discourse and Future Prophecy

Anderson also draws heavily from Jesus' teachings, particularly the Olivet Discourse found in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21. He views these discourses as containing not only predictions about the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 but also significant prophecies concerning the end times. Anderson meticulously distinguishes between the immediate fulfillment of these prophecies in relation to Jerusalem's fall and their future application to the final tribulation period and the second coming of Christ. His exegesis of the Olivet Discourse seeks to demonstrate a pattern of prophetic fulfillment, where events are sometimes reiterated and amplified for future dispensations. This allows him to connect the signs of the end times with the detailed prophetic timelines previously established from Daniel.

The Role of Israel in Prophecy

A crucial element of Anderson's eschatological framework is his emphasis on the unique and ongoing

role of Israel in biblical prophecy. He argues that God's covenant promises to Israel are immutable and that their national restoration is a key indicator of the approaching fulfillment of end-times prophecies. Anderson interprets various prophetic passages concerning the regathering of the Jewish people, their return to their land, and their role in the final conflict as direct evidence of God's continued faithfulness and His unfolding plan for the ages. He sees the existence and revival of the nation of Israel as a confirmation of the prophetic timeline and a harbinger of Christ's imminent return. His understanding of Israel's future is intrinsically linked to the fulfillment of the seventieth week of Daniel.

Historical Context and Reception of The Coming Prince

Sir Robert Anderson's "The Coming Prince," first published in the late 19th century, emerged during a period of intense theological and prophetic interest within Protestant Christianity. The Victorian era witnessed a resurgence of eschatological study, fueled by a desire to understand the signs of the times and to find assurance in the imminence of Christ's return. Anderson, himself a distinguished figure in the legal profession and a respected layman, brought a unique blend of scholarly rigor and devout faith to his prophetic expositions. His work was not an isolated voice but contributed significantly to a broader movement that sought to interpret scripture, especially prophetic passages, in a systematic and chronological manner.

The reception of "The Coming Prince" was largely enthusiastic among those who shared Anderson's dispensationalist and premillennial viewpoints. His clear and logical presentation of arguments, particularly his detailed analysis of Daniel's seventy weeks, resonated deeply with many readers seeking a concrete framework for understanding biblical prophecy. The book became a foundational text for many, influencing subsequent generations of Bible students and theologians. Its emphasis on the literal fulfillment of prophecy and its precise chronological calculations offered a compelling apologetic for the Christian faith, demonstrating what proponents considered the divine accuracy of scripture. The book's influence extended beyond academic circles, finding its way into pulpits and personal devotions, solidifying its place as a significant work in the field of biblical prophecy.

Enduring Impact and Critical Perspectives

The enduring impact of "The Coming Prince" by Sir Robert Anderson is undeniable, marking it as a landmark text in the study of biblical prophecy. Anderson's rigorous, chronological approach to interpreting Daniel's seventy weeks, in particular, has profoundly shaped dispensationalist eschatology. His detailed calculations and his assertion that the sixty-ninth week concluded with the first advent of Christ, leaving the seventieth week for a future fulfillment, became a widely accepted tenet within many evangelical circles. This framework provided a robust apologetic for the Messianic claims of Jesus and offered a structured understanding of end-times events, influencing countless theological works and ministries.

However, like any significant work of theological interpretation, "The Coming Prince" has also faced critical scrutiny. Some scholars and theologians, while acknowledging the intellectual rigor of Anderson's arguments, have offered alternative interpretations of Daniel's seventy weeks. These critiques often focus on the historical accuracy of the starting points of his calculations, the translation and interpretation of specific Hebrew and Aramaic words within the prophecy, and the application of literal timelines to prophetic visions. Debates have arisen concerning the precise definition of the "anointed one" in Daniel 9:25 and the nature of the "cutting off" mentioned, leading to differing views on when the seventy weeks were completed or interrupted. Furthermore, some theologians have questioned the extent to which future prophetic events can be precisely mapped out using ancient texts, advocating for more nuanced or symbolic approaches to prophecy. Despite these differing perspectives, the influence of "The Coming Prince" remains, prompting ongoing discussion and study within the field of biblical eschatology, underscoring its continued relevance and provocative insights.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the primary theological focus of Sir Robert Anderson's 'The

Coming Prince'?

The primary theological focus of 'The Coming Prince' is the meticulous examination and defense of the 70-week prophecy of Daniel 9, arguing for its literal fulfillment in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, particularly His atoning death and the subsequent rejection of the Messiah.

What is the main historical evidence Anderson uses to support his interpretation of Daniel's 70-week prophecy?

Anderson heavily relies on historical decrees, particularly those issued by Persian kings like Artaxerxes I, as the starting point for the 70-week timeline. He meticulously traces the dates of these decrees and calculates the 490 years to pinpoint the timing of Christ's crucifixion and the subsequent desolation.

How does 'The Coming Prince' address the concept of a 'gap' between the 69th and 70th week?

Anderson firmly argues against any 'gap' theory. He interprets the 70 weeks as a continuous, unbroken period of 490 years, culminating in the Messiah's cutting off (death) and the covenant confirmation. The interruption of temple worship and the desolation following the 69th week represent the consequence of Israel's rejection of the Messiah.

What is Anderson's view on the 'prince' in Daniel 9:26?

Anderson identifies the 'prince' in Daniel 9:26 unequivocally as the Messiah, Jesus Christ. He argues that the prophecy speaks of the Messiah being cut off, but not for Himself, and that the subsequent destruction of Jerusalem and the temple is a direct result of this rejection.

What is the significance of the phrase 'the covenant' in Daniel 9:27 according to Anderson?

Anderson interprets 'the covenant' in Daniel 9:27 as the new covenant in Christ's blood. He argues that the Messiah confirms this covenant for many for one week (seven years), and in the midst of that

week, He sacrifices Himself, bringing an end to sacrifices and offerings.

Why is 'The Coming Prince' considered a foundational text in dispensational premillennialism?

'The Coming Prince' is considered foundational because it strongly advocates for a literal, chronological interpretation of prophecy and presents a compelling case for the identification of Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of Daniel's 70-week prophecy, a key tenet of dispensational theology that emphasizes a future fulfillment of unfulfilled prophecies.

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to Sir Robert Anderson's *The Coming Prince*, with short descriptions:

1. The Prophetic Times: Unlocking Daniel's Seventy Weeks

This book delves deeply into the intricate prophetic timeline presented in the Book of Daniel, specifically focusing on the seventy weeks prophecy. It aims to provide readers with a clear understanding of how these ancient predictions relate to historical events and future expectations. The author likely expounds on the chronological calculations and theological interpretations that have shaped the study of this pivotal prophecy.

2. Messiah's Countdown: The Chronology of Christ's First Coming

Messiah's Countdown meticulously examines the historical and biblical evidence supporting the timing of Jesus Christ's arrival as predicted by Daniel's seventy weeks. It seeks to demonstrate how the established timeline aligns with key events in Jewish history and the life of Jesus. This title would offer a compelling case for the accuracy of biblical prophecy concerning the Messiah.

3. The Seventy Weeks: A Historical and Prophetic Exegesis

This work provides a scholarly exegesis of Daniel's seventy weeks prophecy, blending historical analysis with prophetic interpretation. It likely traces the fulfillment of portions of the prophecy throughout history, from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem to the present day. The book aims to equip

readers with a robust understanding of this complex prophecy's scope and significance.

4. Anderson's Legacy: Continuing the Study of the Coming Prince

Building upon the foundational work of Sir Robert Anderson, this book explores contemporary scholarship and ongoing discussions surrounding The Coming Prince. It may revisit Anderson's arguments with updated research or address different perspectives that have emerged over time. The aim is to keep the study of this prophecy relevant and accessible to a new generation of readers.

5. The Gap Theory: Reconciling Prophecy with Current Events

This title suggests an exploration of the "gap theory" as it relates to the seventy weeks prophecy, particularly concerning the period between the 69th and 70th weeks. It would likely analyze how current world events and the state of Israel are interpreted within this prophetic framework. The book aims to bridge the gap between ancient prophecy and modern geopolitical realities.

6. Signs of the Times: Daniel's Prophecies in Our World

Signs of the Times connects the prophetic insights of Daniel, as illuminated by Anderson's work, to the observable signs and events happening in the contemporary world. It would likely draw parallels between biblical predictions and current geopolitical, social, and religious trends. The book seeks to encourage believers by demonstrating the unfolding of God's plan.

7. The Royal Lineage: Tracing the Messiah's Earthly Connection

This book focuses on the genealogical and historical aspects of the seventy weeks prophecy, emphasizing the connection to the Davidic covenant and the Messiah's earthly lineage. It would likely explore how the prophecy underscores the legitimacy and divine appointment of Jesus as the promised King. The work aims to highlight the meticulous fulfillment of God's promises regarding the Messiah.

8. Eschatology's Foundation: The Seventy Weeks as a Cornerstone

Positioning the seventy weeks prophecy as a fundamental element of Christian eschatology, this book examines its importance in understanding end-times events. It would likely argue that a solid grasp of this prophecy is essential for a comprehensive view of biblical prophecy. The author aims to establish

the centrality of Daniel's vision to prophetic theology.

9. The End of the Age: Daniel's Seventy Weeks and Future Hope

This title suggests a book that synthesizes the historical and prophetic interpretations of Daniel's seventy weeks to offer a perspective on the "end of the age." It would likely provide encouragement and a framework for understanding future events based on the certainty of fulfilled prophecy. The aim is to inspire faith and hope in God's ultimate plan for humanity.

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