

Paul, the future apostle of the Gentiles, steps upon the stage (Acts 7:58), and is converted the year after Stephen's death (Acts 9).

The following words from Sir Robert Anderson sum up the climactic significance of Stephen's death: "But though the public event which marked their fall (the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70) was thus deferred, **the death of Stephen was the secret crisis of Israel's destiny.** Never again was a public miracle witnessed in Jerusalem. The special Pentecostal proclamation was withdrawn. The Pentecostal Church was scattered. The apostle of the Gentiles forthwith received his commission, and the current of events set steadily, and with continually increasing force, toward the open rejection of the long-favoured people" (The Silence of God, pp 82, 83).

3.—OF WHAT PRACTICAL VALUE IS THE "SEVENTY WEEKS" PROPHECY TO US TODAY?

It reinforces our confidence in the Divine inspiration of the Bible. No human hand could write history 500 years in advance with such amazing accuracy!

It demonstrates the matchless love and forbearance of God. He endured Israel's perversity for 1,000 years, and then added another 500 years of patient and loving favour!

It provides the master-key which unlocks the great time-prophecy of Dan. 8:14. (The subject of Lesson 28.)

It confirms our faith in Jesus Christ as the true Messiah. No other person in all history was ever the subject of such a detailed and exact prediction!

Conclusion John 1:45: "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write."

Happy is the man who has made this thrilling discovery!