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DAN. IX, 25.

THE STREET SHALL BE BUILT AGAIN, AND THE WALL, EVEN IN  
TROUBLOUS TIMES.

**T**HE affairs of the Jews in the days of this prophet, had been very far removed from their former splendour. Disregard for religion, and those crimes which flow from impiety, had exposed that nation to the judgments of God ; and they were groaning in captivity in the midst of their enemies. They had seen Mount Zion, beautiful for situation and the joy of the whole earth; again, they had beheld even its sanctuaries a prey to the devouring flames ; the Lord had measured out to them the bread and the water of affliction ; and they who had once joined in the songs of Zion, now hanged their harps upon the willows by the rivers of Babylon.

These events, you will perceive by this chapter, engaged the attention, and aroused the feelings, of the prophet's mind. He had been himself exalted among the princes of Babylon ; but the daughter of Zion was dwelling in the dust ; and his heart burned with affection for the captives of Jacob : in his own prosperity he remembered Jerusalem, and approved himself, to be the friend of Israel and of Israel's God. Aware of the causes of the Divine displeasure, and also, of the mercy of God in the corrections of the Church, he poured out his heart to Him who had often manifested his salvation in troublous times ; and the preceding verses contain a humble confession of the sins of Israel, and fervent supplications, that the Lord would arise and have mercy on his offending people.