

this time there would be a rebuilt city "with streets and a trench,¹ but in times of trouble." Montgomery suggests that the words "street" and "moat" (NIV "trench") are used here to show the interior complex and surrounding moat of the city and thus to "present a graphic picture of the complete restoration."²

Verse 26 -- An Anointed One Cut Off

According to those who hold that the book was not written until the time of the Maccabees this statement refers to the killing of the innocent high priest Onias in 171 B.C. Most other interpreters agree that the "cutting off" of an anointed one, said to occur "after the sixty-two 'sevens'" relates in some way to the Lord Jesus Christ. The verb *yikkaret* (translated "will be cut off") is used a number of times for death, but can also have a more general meaning.

The beginning of the verse includes a phrase that differs strikingly in the NIV from its translation in the KJV. The KJV says: "And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off but not for himself." The NIV says: "After the sixty two 'sevens' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing."

Most present interpreters recognize that the KJV reading "but not for himself" is not a literal translation of the Hebrew words but a paraphrase which aptly describes the atonement of Christ. He did not die for any guilt of His own; He laid down His life as a sacrifice to bear the sins of those who would believe on His Name. The translation in the NIV "and will have nothing," is more literal but its import is far from clear. It does not say what it is of which he "will have nothing" nor does it show whether His having nothing is a situation that precedes or coincides with His being cut off, or whether it is a result of His being cut off. All of these are possible interpretations of the phrase.

The KJV reading is a paraphrase. Is it an acceptable paraphrase? Or must the words be taken as meaning that the Anointed One will lose all that He previously possessed, whether it be goods, authority or people?