

### **The Possibility of Intervals**

Unspecified intervals frequently occur in the prophecies of Daniel (cf. pp. 47-49). While the years in each segment of the 70 weeks are, of course, to be thought of as following one another without a break, the possibility that there are unspecified intervals between the segments cannot be ruled out. Although this may seem strange to some readers, an illustration will readily show that it is a possibility. Let us suppose that a professor in a great New England university was strongly identified with the Democratic party and was frequently invited by Democratic presidents to hold important government positions. Such a man might say: "I lived in Washington sixteen years. I was on Truman's staff four years (1949-53). I was Attorney General eight years (1961-69) and I was Secretary of State four years (1977-81)." There would be unmentioned intervals between the segments, but no one familiar with American political history would have any difficulty in understanding the situation.

### **The Solution**

In view of the difficulties mentioned above we find it necessary to reject Keil's theory in spite of its many good points. Yet its strong points can be retained and its weaknesses avoided by acceptance of a few simple alternatives at points where two interpretations are equally possible: (1) taking *dabar* in its usual sense of "word" rather than in its less common sense of "command"; (2) recognizing that the term "anointed one" (which refers to Christ in v. 26) need not refer to the same individual in both occurrences, especially since there is strong evidence for considering that in verse 25 it refers to Cyrus, to whom Isaiah had already so definitely applied it; (3) recognizing that there is no ground for insisting that the three segments must follow one another immediately without intervals between.

Thus the first segment would reach from the issuance of