

the prophetic word to Jeremiah that Jerusalem would be rebuilt (587 B.C.) to the decree of Cyrus that made this rebuilding possible (538 B.C.). Taking the 70 weeks as weeks of years, we find that the first segment had been exactly fulfilled when Daniel wrote. This parallels the practice found elsewhere in Daniel's prophecies of beginning a prophetic picture with something that has already occurred and thus giving those who received it added reason for expecting the other parts of the prophecy also to occur (cf. p. 85-7).

The second segment would be a period not designated as to precise beginning or ending but filling a great part of the time between the decree of Cyrus and the coming of Christ. This would lead to a second unmentioned interval during which the destruction of Jerusalem would occur, as described in verse 26, and reaching to the still future events of the third segment.

This interpretation exactly fits the words of the passage. It takes every phrase in a way that is in line with the usage of the Hebrew words and gives a satisfactory understanding of the course of events in the prophecy of the 70 weeks.

The Final Segment

Both according to Keil's theory and according to this solution, the third segment describes events that have not yet taken place. No one can know how long the present interval will last.

Full interpretation of the statements about the third segment is outside the province of the present book. God usually reveals future events only in general or sketchy form, clearly enough for their occurrence to give evidence that God's Word is true but not fully enough to give advance knowledge of all the details. Full interpretation of statements about events that are still future, going beyond what can be gained from a simple reading of the passage, would require careful examination of all relevant passages in other portions of the Bible. Before the present writer would wish to attempt such a study he would think it