

we should make a full and impartial examination of the entire passage.

The Three Segments

(25) "Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree^a to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the^b Anointed One,^c the^b ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. (26) After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the^b Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. (27) He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."^d

^a More literally, "word." See discussion below.

^b There is no article with "anointed one" in v.25 or v.26, or with "ruler" in v. 25.

^c Better, "an anointed one," as in NIV margin. See discussion below.

^d In copies of the NIV published before 1984 this sentence was rendered differently. See discussion on p. 208ff.

Even a casual examination of these verses shows that they divide the 70 weeks into three parts. Verse 25 mentions a segment of seven 'sevens' and one of 62 'sevens'; the segment of 62 'sevens' is mentioned again in verse 26; verse 27 speaks of one 'seven' and refers to "the middle of that 'seven'." The fact that the total of 70 is made up of three segments, one of seven weeks, one of 62 weeks and a final