

amount of harm done to the city and the sanctuary in the time of Antiochus, which was quickly repaired after the Maccabeans regained control. Nothing short of the indescribable horrors of the destruction under Titus can reasonably be considered as a fulfillment of the events predicted in this verse.

The First Part of Verse 27

This verse divides naturally into two parts. The first appears in the NIV as follows:

"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."⁸

The words "for one 'seven'" and "In the middle of the 'seven'" make it obvious that this verse deals with the third segment of the 70 weeks, the one that consists of only one week. Jerome says that two great Christian thinkers, Hippolytus⁹ and Africanus,¹⁰ who lived in the first half of the third century, A.D., considered the principal subject of verse 27 to be the rise and destruction of the Antichrist and said that this verse describes events that will occur long after those predicted in verse 26, after an unmentioned interval of undesignated length -- an interpretation similar to that stated above, on pages pp. 171-172, and also, as far as verse 27 is concerned, agreeing with the interpretation advanced by Keil and Leupold. In considering such a view it should, of course, be recognized that the phrase "sacrifice and offering" might stand for worship and religious practice in general, and could thus point to actions similar to the efforts of present-day communist governments to stop all religious activities.

We shall not try to explain the verse in detail, since predictions of events that in our day are still future cannot be fully interpreted without a study of all relevant passages in the Bible, and this would go beyond the purpose of the