

actions God will perform and ending in v. 28 with the prediction God says He is the one who says of Cyrus, he is my shepherd and shall perform all my pleasure even saying to Jerusalem thou shalt be built and to the temple thy foundation shall be laid." If Cyrus did not give the command for the rebuilding of the city then Isaiah was surely a false prophet. I don't see how anybody who accepts the Bible as God's word and Isaiah as a true prophet can doubt that the command to rebuild Jerusalem was given by Cyrus as stated by Ezra twice and as predicted by Isaiah(44:28).

So I say that a second great advantage of Keil's view is that if the KJV is followed it starts at the right point.

3. Its coverage parallels Dan. 2, 7, 11, 12. We noticed that the purposes were not simply to atone for iniquity -- that was extremely important, but that is only mentioned once and the great stress is on finishing transgression, making an end of sin, bringing in everlasting righteousness. We find this is nothing new in Daniel. Ch. 2 tells about the great image that Nebuchadnezzar set up and he says that the image is to be so destroyed that it is completely pulverized and it is completely blown away so that not a trace of it is found, and God will establish in its place a kingdom that will endure forever. Ch. 7 tells about a terrible beast that is destroyed and burned and that One like the Son of Man is to come upon the clouds of heaven. Jesus Christ said that (referring to this passage) Hereafter ye shall see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven. . . . Ch. 11 and 12 is one continuous prophecy, that is at least the first few verses of ch. 12 and it leads right up to the resurrection. Surely it is in accordance with the practice of Daniel to have his prophecies look forward clear to the end.

These are 3 very great advantages to Keil's view. But we have 3 great difficulties which I feel prove the view impossible. The first of these is the length, the proportion of it. The proportion is truly bad. To say that you have two periods, one of 7 weeks and one of 62 weeks which are covered in that short verse 25, and then the third period which is only one week which includes all of v. 26 and all of v. 27, what a strange proportion! That may be rather minor, but it's worth noting. More important than that, if the weeks don't stand for weeks of years, or for specific numbers, but stand for a long period, surely there must be some reason for the proportion. Why say, 7, 62, and 1 if the 7 and the 62 are more or less identical or something like this. There must be some reason for it. And if you are going to say 530 yrs. or 560 yrs., whatever you want to say depending on what part of Christ's life you look forward to in it, represents the first period ~~XXXXXX~~, the second period of 62 weeks would logically be about 4500 years! And the last, of course, about 50 or 55 years.

It is not the practice of the Bible to tell us exact dates. God says (Jesus said) the times and seasons God has kept in his own power. It is not his practice to tell us these dates -- exactly what is going to happen in the future. Jesus said over and over Be ready for ye know not the time when the Son of Man comes.