

11:15...to the foolish ones

11:16...about the coming shepherd

11:17...with regard to shepherds in general

5. Summary notes on 9-11

Here are some scrambled ideas on the passage...to be rounded into good shape with the help of the student mind!

--As regards the first part of the book, the picture is given that God has returned His people, has settled His foes, and has given them every assurance of success in their work, and has promised a great future to Jerusalem and the Hebrew culture. But you must remember that there is the good condition of obedience in all of this. The promises of God in this regard are given on the condition that the people will do what they are told. The brilliant future for the temple depends on getting it built. His work in history should direct their activities for the present...but He is obviously not going to do a great work...if they do not get "with it" and erect the temple.

It seems to me that the nature of this is so obvious it does not need repeating, but it must, I think, be seen and the simple restatement of it is very important for the work of the believer. There are unilateral statements by the Lord and there are also bilateral arrangements. A good example may be seen in Isaiah 7:9.

It then seems plain that the prediction of the Alexander campaign is the scope of chapter 9. The description of warfare cannot apply to Nechadnezzar and the Tyre campaign but it does strikingly illustrate the Alexandrian warfare. The protection of Israel is also very similar to what we know from history. If this be true, it would seem that this prophecy is being used to show the reality of the prophetic word, and the subsequent fulfillment of a later message. Perhaps it is too detailed to be regarded as an inorganic element but it certainly is possible to see it as the evidential mark to indicate that a true prophet has spoken.