

some that is predictive and far-reaching beyond the time of the prophet. It is unfortunate that many Christians only think of the "predictive" part as much of the rest of the teaching is of immense value. In school we say that the prophets were both "foretellers" (men telling of things to come) and "forthtellers" (men announcing God's will for a particular setting). The Bible scholar should remember that prediction is only one aspect of the Word of God and while it is extremely important---and a vital point in the biblical apologetic---it is not the only item and in some ways a servant matter to other teachings.'

3. Prophecy that is Predictive has a twofold meaning. (or use)

a. First, it gives information about the future. It does this, not to satisfy our curiosity, but to show us how God is working and where our own energies should be spent in his will. It does, as noted above, in this regard, have a very strong apologetic value.

b. Second, it gives instruction for the present. In the light of what is going to be done, advice is given as to what should now be done. This is a vital matter in the prophetic literature and should be carefully observed. Knowledge about what is coming is chiefly to make us more useful at the present.

4. All Scripture fits together.

The predictive parts and the historical parts are all given by the inspiration of God and have a connected value of telling us fully His will. It is not wise to concentrate on one part of Scripture and ignore the rest. We attempt not to do this. But in the face of the present world situation and many prophetic writings that today face the church, it does seem well to consider the predictive Scriptures not so much in the light of analyzing the future as in the hope of being faithful today.