

Israel fit the pattern exactly. Many details could be given here but it is interesting to note that the words of the prophet came to pass over a series of years in accord with his utterance.

Now it is worthy of note that the first of the prophet's predictions came to pass almost at once while some of the following ones did not come to pass for more than 700 years. If one asks how Israel could be expected to wait that long for the fulfillment of the Messianic hope, the answer is rather simple..as the prophecies came to pass one by one...the godly would watch for the fulfillment in God's time...they would be ready at the right moment for the fulfilling of what had been given.

III. Practical Lessons Derived from the Predictive literature...here and elsewhere:

A. One must Believe to be Blessed

1. This is frightfully basic and is modeled against the Isaiah-Ahaz dialogue in vs 7-13. The prophet tells the king what God will do and reminds him that he cannot be confirmed if he does not believe the spoken word. It is notable that God will fulfill his word whether the king believes it or not! It is not a question of what God will do but it is a point of interest that the man who listens cannot be in its benefit if he disbelieves God!

When we use the term "blessed" in this connexion we mean simply that one cannot have what God has offered and/or provided if he will not believe in His Word. It is an Old Testament background for Hebrews 11:6. And we re-emphasize, the fault is not of God...it is of man who will not hear.

2. Now in particular, one must believe three key matters:

a. He must believe God has spoken. This was, after all, not the ravings of the prophet. Ahaz might