

Consider the man contemplating surgery, for example. He would like to know about the future so as to know how quickly to get on with the immediate matter. So the man investing his funds...he is surely interested in the future but chiefly so as to know how much of what he now has may be invested. When we think of this more particularly we will recognize that by and large we are much more interested in the future for the present setting than we possibly realize. We are fascinated by it and, if we knew for sure what it held, our present life-style might vary a good bit.

The prophecies of the Bible are given (in their predictive element) more for this purpose than for simple information about what is going to happen. They serve to authenticate God's Word and God's messenger so that those on the present scene may orient their lives to His will. While there is some validity in just knowing things about the future the great use for them is to help us live today. This is one of the things that is very important in predictive prophecy and makes the study of it very worthwhile. It is information for the head and it is direction for the heart.

Therefore we think our point of discussion is not too broad. The information about tomorrow, whether as revealed to the Hebrews of old, or as given to us in the present age, is very important to improve the spiritual conditions of lives today.

2. The Contest

The inability to see what God was doing was the thing that hounded the Hebrew mind of Jeremiah's day. It was difficult to give up a kingdom they had for the pagan kingdom of Babylon and feel that they would never have a kingdom again. True, many of the persons in Judah were unworthy of a kingdom but if we can enter into their lot sympathetically, we can easily feel this truth. To leave your own home...for a foreign home...feeling that you will never see your own again, that is not an easy thing. This, of course, stresses again the importance of yieldedness. But to make this an easier action God was pleased to give a very large preview of the future.-.both good and bad...in the