

D. What are the dangers in prophecy

1. The danger of a preoccupation with the unknown...to the overlooking of the known reality.
2. The danger of detail concentration with main points minimized.
3. The potential for misapplication and muddying up the clear message of the Bible.

--We must add that overlooking prophecy is also a danger...of another sort, but one with which we must be cautious.

E. Conclusion

God has spoken. The people He chose to give us the Word have given it in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit consequently makes the Word alive in our hearts. It is our portion to receive the prophecies and live our lives in the light of what the Lord wants us to be and to do.

II. PROPHECY IN BOTH TESTAMENTS..a written record of truth.

1 Peter 1:6-12, 2 Peter 1:19-21

A. Some Introductory Thoughts

1. The prophetic message is a written record of truth and as such it has significant apologetic value. This is true of both the foretelling and forthtelling aspects but much more so of the former. The usefulness of this idea, however, is somewhat dependent on our understanding of the broader confines of prophecy as an instrument of revelation.
2. In "both testaments" means we are interested in the connexion of the Old and New Testaments as well as the independency of each portion. You have probably heard a number of comparative ideas on the testaments..."what within the Old is concealed now within the New is revealed"... "the Old proposes, the New discloses", etc. We need to remember that we have only "one" Bible but these divisions seal the record of redemption from "cover to cover" so to speak. We discover that prophecy is not so mysterious as it is practical and directive. Correspondingly we are interested in how it is fulfilled within each segment independently and between the segments dependently. Well, if that has not confused you...
3. So in looking at these things we will discuss something of prophets true and/or false, what the purposes are that attend the various expressions of prophecy, how God revealed himself (in character and purpose) through the prophets, something of how fulfillment is seen in the Scripture, and finally make a few notes on fulfillment in our day although one should not expect anything very exciting in this area... the leader of these discussions is very mild and cautious in his identifications of named prophetic discourses.