

The Problem of Unfulfilled Prophecy

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Page 29

It is not general like back in Isaiah. Isaiah it is rather general. I mean the prophecy is plain enough but the nature of the destruction, rather general, but here three times the concept is given 40 years -- 40 years the strip will be unoccupied -- 40 years the land will be desolate. After the 40 years, I will (what does he say?) I will gather the Egyptians from the people whither they were scattered. So the 40 years not only involves a destruction of Egypt, but also a scattering of the Egyptian people _____.

"I will cause them to return into the land of Paphros and into the land of land of their habitation, and they shall be there a base or a low or an humble people. (Let's translate it humble. I am a sensitive type fellow. Let's translate it "humble," meaning "base", meaning "inferior," meaning "meek". Humble meaning whatever you want it to mean. We 'd say you put the three on the blackboard or you put the three on the dart board, and throw your dart with your eyes shut. That is the way the good Hebraists get these things ready for my class of study! Let's say "humble." It sounds better. Meaning "not of great position" Now, I have heard that verse read 15 times at least (I didn't count it) but I have heard that verse read 15 times at least and then a fellow go into the history of Egypt from the days of Nebuchadnezzar to the present, and point out that it has never been a great kingdom. It has always been a humble kingdom -- most of the time either the -- I forget the names - - - - -

Student: Ptolomies?

Mr. Taylor: Well, it is beyond the Ptolomies. I^{am} thinking of the M _____, the Califfs, that ruled Egypt for so many years. Most of the time somebody else ruled; then the British got it, and today somebody else has got it. So I have often heard them say, There you have the thrust, the proof of that particular verse. Well, maybe you do. Maybe you do. But and get this big, exciting "But," If the history of Egypt from the time of Nebuchadnezzar and the fall till today is a fulfillment of the base kingdom state, then somewhere in the background of the nation should be the 40 years of desolation and wandering. Is it not so?

Unless there is a condition that wasn't met; unless there is a speech figure that we have muffed; unless there is a whole period not known to us, but if the circumstance of today is the fulfillment -- I mean there is such a thing as the interchange of parts of the prophecy -- but it is hard to break it right off in the middle and dash way to the end, and dash back again,