

raised yesterday in regard to conditional predictions. There are conditional predictions in the Scripture in great numbers. Generally speaking, any prophecy of ~~judgment~~ judgment -- generally speaking, any prophecy of judgment -- prediction of judgment -- is conditioned by the understanding that repentance will bring mercy. Generally speaking (you can write it down in the back of your head) any prediction of judgment is conditioned by the unexpressed fact ~~that~~ ^{that} repentance will bring mercy. Now, that is the easiest way to understand the Jonah prediction, that is the easiest way to understand the Jonah predictions: Yet forty days and Nineveh will be destroyed. Now he ~~might~~ ^{may} have said a lot of other things like that. He might have asked what Sarspharilla cost at the corner drug. I don't know. He may have predicted a lot of things. But basically he said: Yet forty days and Nineveh will be destroyed. Well, that is your element of condition, ~~but~~ because like it or not, it wasn't destroyed in forty days. They repented but nowhere in the book does Jonah say, Repent and you won't be destroyed. So the element of condition is rather simple: That almost any judgment prophecy -- almost any prophecy of judgment or doom has a conditioning factor understood in it, namely repentance -- if they repent, they will be spared, and that prediction ~~will~~ ^{may} never come to pass. Check. The situation necessitating it will pass too. So that's true of individuals and true of nations. But in the area of condition -- in the area of condition, there is also another aspect and that's what we refer to usually as condition of time. Condition of time meaning that the prophet spells out a particular thing and he doesn't spell out when that particular thing will come to pass, and when it will happen. So, it is kind of left in the air. Now, in Isaiah 7 (you will forgive me if I don't turn there, but I can note it for you sketchily) In Isaiah 7 you have the prediction with the condition of time in beautiful force. Now the prophet Isaiah -- Isaiah meeting the King Ahab he predicts three things. He predicts them quickly. ~~and~~ ⁽¹⁾ he predicts that the plan of the Northern kings against the Southern kings won't work. He predicts that that won't work and he predicts that it won't work in such a way that in a couple of years everybody will know it is a failure. He simply ~~says~~ says, It won't work and that land will soon be shorn of its kings -- short range prediction. They were planning to come down that fall and defeat the southern kings, and so the prophet ^{he says:} says to ~~Ahab~~ Ahab/It won't work. That's all there is to it. And so, that is a ~~time~~ prediction in which the time element is necessarily very short. But then he gives the second prediction, he says, Within sixty-five years Ephraim will not be a kingdom.