

The Problem of Unfulfilled Prophecy

Mr. Taylor

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a lot of times and I can never remember of any time when it is used in a healthy sense. I mean: a time of trial, a time of difficulty. So, I would like to say -- *Well*, when 40 is used and they talk about 40 years in Egypt, it probably does not mean 40 years; it just means they are going to go through a bad time. And likewise the 70 years in Babylon. I would like to say (I am not saying I am saying this. I am just saying how easy the temptation is.) The temptation is easy to say: Well, it really doesn't mean 40 years. It just means they are going through a time of big difficulty. And the 70 years on Tyre doesn't really mean 70 years, but like the people of Israel they will be under a circumstance of punishment for their many sins -- maybe 70 years more, maybe less. But a period of similar punishment. Well, it would be easy to change on a particular point like that and follow another principle (and maybe some change is necessary), but if one isn't careful before long you will have a secondary meaning on every phrase, and the guy next to him won't agree ^{with} ~~on~~ the secondary meaning, and when you get away from a literal ~~concept~~, concept, except ^{where} ~~when~~ the Scripture plainly tells you you should go, you run into all kinds of grief -- all sorts of things. Well, those are six tabulations of ideas, Friends. I am more prone to lean under those ideas to Number 4 than to any of the others. I am more prone to lean to Number 4 than to any of the others for reasons that I will mention in a couple of minutes.

I don't think I will say much about the facts. I think you ought to remember. Mr. Dunzweiler talked about one. Item 2-I will say a word about. There is a tendency to take phrases in the prophetic Scripture and assign meanings to them that they may not have. For example, the phrase "In that day" -- "In that day" -- "In that day" or "In that time." In the Old Testament in particular that is about the only way you can designate a specific time or a specific day. That's about the only way you can do it unless you name it by year. So that the expression in the Old Testament "In that day" does not always connect with the preceding immediate thought. It sometimes simply means "at a given time" or "at a given point". Now, again the way you want to study that -- you want to study it, the way I tell the students in the Prophecy Class to study it when they all look at me like I am crazy, is that you get down your Strong's Concordance or Young's is easier here, and you record on a big chart every place where