

c. Condition: Implied or stated (implicit/explicit)

(1) Many prophecies will have a statement of condition of one sort or another. It amounts to a proposition that "if this is done" "that will be done". This is called an explicit statement of condition and the outcome is determined by the meeting of the original setting.

Of these explicit conditions there may be conditions of fact, time, consequence, and almost anything else. The important thing is to note whether or not the prophecy is to be fulfilled with or without prior consideration

In the Hebrew Bible these explicit conditions will often be found in the expression of the Hebrew conditional clauses and marked by the suitable Hebrew particles used in such case.

(2) But occasionally a condition is implicit, not stated and yet plainly there. This is virtually always true with predictions of disaster or judgment. The implied condition of repentance is in the scene practically all of the time. A good example is the prophecy of Jonah for Ninevah. The prophecy contains an implicit condition of repentance and no doubt also one of time. Ninevah will be destroyed when and if...

This is why some predictions may seem to fail in fulfillment. There must be a consideration on the nature of the prophecy and some honest regard with what should have been expected of it.

And remember that some conditions are only implicit in Hebrew and this medium will carry to prophecy.

d. Application: This touches on the theological setting with which one comes to the prophetic literature

Our position is that the primary receivers of the message be regarded as the most natural and pressing. Secondary receivers should be proved (and there is some of this in the Bible) but not assumed. The theological set of the student often determines what he does in these areas. It will hinge around the millennial concepts and we are prone to allow the courses in theology and prophecy to deal with this matter rather than to treat it in a course of general introduction such as this one.