

The Problem of Unfulfilled Prophecy

Prof. Taylor

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looked at me in stony silence, and they said, Thomas (I can hear the words yet), This is a course in Fulfilled Predictions, not in Unfulfilled. And I recognized that to be true, but I became quite obsessed with that particular ~~subject~~ study, the thrust being not that you have to have -- not that you have to have a chapter on everything that is predicted _____, but I became quite possessed with that study. So I pursued it at great length, and I went to all the commentaries and found that if there were something that I thought there ought to be some record of fulfillment, there wasn't. I went to thirty commentaries, and I found that they either spiritualized it; they didn't make any notes of it; or they gave some obviously inane suggestion as to how it was fulfilled -- one of the three (Of course, ^{they} ~~you~~ have the benefit in any of my courses when they go through commentaries -- and so you can't expect too much out of them - - -) So I was always struck by that. So I studied it for some length and then when this particular opportunity in the Seminar came up, I thought this was the opportunity to dig out the old notes, retrench the procedures of scholarship, and share my thinking with you all -- although whether I share any conclusions or not may depend a little bit. So, we have called it The Problem of Unfilled Predictions. Now, a lot of qualifications will have to be made, and I'll try to make them quickly fast that you will wonder if we have even considered them or not. But that is often the case. I have here a whole battery of stuff on this first page which would be irrelevant, except that I am the kind of guy that thinks he needs it. I will not go over it. I break predictions into different classes (Maybe I ought to say one or two words) But I break them down into different classes. A prediction is only part of prophecy. You all know that. A great deal in prophecy is telling people what's up right now. Prediction is only part of prophecy. Prediction is the authoritative part; it is by far the more interesting part, although as I said a few moments ago, it is not always the most necessary part, but it is only part of prophecy. There are all sorts of predictions. There are very general predictions like "The soul that sinneth it shall die." That is a prediction, but it is a very general prediction. No one soul in view. Every sinning soul in view is big enough for that particular thing. So predictions fall into all sorts of classes and divisions. There are all types -- general predictions, very specific predictions. One king looks at one man and another man looks at one king, and he says to the king, he says, Write this man childless. That is a prophecy, of course, given to Jehoiakim