

The Problem of Unfulfilled Prophecy

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Page 9

writers, you know, the writer gives a series of predictions, and then they are not all fulfilled at the same time. So that in Luke 4 (you must all know this, I think), but in Luke 4, the Lord tells us to do a whole bunch of things to preach the Gospel for, but not to bring in the Day of Vengeance. So that particular part of the prophecy is omitted there. We say that there you have a partial fulfillment ⁱⁿ ~~of~~ the view of the writer and the giver. And likewise in

(5) Predictions generally -- Isaiah 6:10, the prophet says, What am I going to do? ^{you will} And the Lord says, Go and give this message and/make the heart of this people fat ^{you will make} and/their ears heavy, you will make them disobedient.

Well, in the New Testament that is cited about four times in the Gospels and Acts (I say about, that means 'generally') - in the Gospels and Acts with regards to the way the Jews acted, first, toward Christ's teaching, and, second, toward the Apostles' teaching. So there you have ~~the true~~ a general nature of the true hardening of men's hearts in a general aspect of fulfillment.

(6) is the one that really interests us in regard to unfulfilled predictions. And so I note that it breaks down into two things:

One - Predictions that are clearly future - predictions that are clearly future, and so naturally they are unfulfilled since the time of the fulfillment is not yet. That really is an intelligent way to put it! They are clearly future. And by clearly future, I mean the eschatological predictions of the end time or of Heaven, or of you wearing a white robe and having a crown, and having a smooth stone, and all that. (I guess the theologians would say in a special sense we already have 'those things, but the ones I see don't appear in them yet. If any theologian came in here wearing a white robe, we would think he had gone to the wrong place. But whatever the case is, those are not the ones I am chiefly interested in. The ones that are clearly imperative of the future are not the ones I'm -- because obviously they are unfulfilled, and they will stay ~~unfulfilled~~ unfulfilled until that time. The second group

Second -- are those which, as far as we can see, should have been fulfilled in time past, and yet we do not see clear evidence that they were.