

The Problem of Unfulfilled Prophecy

Mr. Taylor

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technically speaking, if it still had not occurred, you could not say: It is not going to happen. Are you with me? Technically speaking, if it still had not occurred, you could not say: It is not going to happen. Because the prophet uses a device that all the Old Testament prophets use when they give long predictions. He first predicts two or three rather immediate things, ~~that~~ that will always be available for study and you can see that he has spoken the truth. And then he predicts in a condition ^{of} time, the long range thing, which if it still had not happened, you could not doubt the reality of it. Now, you think back on Isaiah 19, and the history of Egypt. He first predicts that the nation will be thrown into quandry (?). He then predicts that there will be a rebellion and that Pharaoh and his enemies will be turned against one another. He predicts that the Pharaoh himself will fall to his own foes, and then he predicts that Nebuchadnezzar will overrun the territory. Then he predicts that Egypt will be ^{deserted} ~~deserted~~, and ^{repentant} ~~repentant~~ and brought back into ^a ~~the~~ place of relationship with Israel and Assyria. What the prophet has done in a passage like that is to set in sequence for us a series of specifics which can be studied in the books as long as you want, and see the reality of them. Now, as I said yesterday: I still haven't changed my mind on this. I change my mind only in a 48 hour period! It looks to me like the period of Egypt and Assyria is kind of past, and I would expect to see the 40 year wandering in Egypt fulfilled by now. But the fact that the prophet has indicated that he speaks truly, tells me that even if I can't see the 40 year period fulfilled by now, it does not mean that it is not coming, and because my knowledge is limited, it may have already been here. Although, see, as I mentioned yesterday, it is so distinct. It is hard to image it wasn't. So, when we come to condition, there are two things.

1. There is a general condition of repentance which almost always cancels judgment, and (in the second place)
2. There is a condition of time, when, if the prophet doesn't specify, it may be forever.

Now, take a deep breath. It will stop you from dying ~~from~~ suffocation. Take a deep breath and note this: (I'm not saying, you know, that the prophets had free access to just say, Well (like my grandfather -- my grandfather used to go into a store in the ~~the~~ little town where we lived, and he would look at the ~~simple~~ clerk and he would say, "It is going to rain." And one of those -- we had one of those clerks ^{that} ~~who~~ never