

The Problem of Unfulfilled Prophecy

Mr. Taylor

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to system in a pursuit of answers. So, I -- I had a long talk with a friend of mine one afternoon, <sup>He was</sup> ~~and~~ convinced that Isaiah 11 is a picture of the peace in the church -- (a good friend of mine, and I think a lot of him in spiritual things) He is convinced that Isaiah 11 is a picture of the peace in the church, and that the cow lies down with the bear and the lion with the lamb and all that sort of thing. It's a picture of the way that people with evil dispositions get along together in the church. And of course, he's not here, so I can -- I just said to him, I said, Well, I said, How many people are in your church? Oh, I -- you know -- quite a number were in his church -- and I said, Are they all lambs? <sup>Now,</sup> ~~but~~ when I said that, he immediately saw where I was headed, being a bright fellow, so he got nasty with me, and he said, "Don't give me that stuff, Taylor". What I was going to say was that <sup>see,</sup> ~~even~~ in his church (since I happen to know the situation pretty well), the people often fight and growl and bite and devour one another. The words of the Galatian Epistle -- If ye bite and devour one another -- could apply to his church better than they could to mine, or maybe either one equally, whatever the case might be! But the fact of the matter is: Is that people with nasty dispositions still do each other a lot of harm in the framework of the church, and I may be Exhibit A of that if I am not careful, but it goes that way. So, I said to him, ~~I said,~~ <sup>I said,</sup> Look you can never explain Isaiah 11 on the basis of the internal peace and harmony in the church because you don't have it, and I don't have it either. Whatever I am -- I am kind of a rabbit myself and quite often get eaten! I said, Whatever I have, that's -- Yes, ~~he said,~~ <sup>he said,</sup> Well, maybe you are right. But he said, I am not going to change my scheme of interpretation just because of that. Well --

Well, I admire him -- I admire him, see, for at least not being fickle. (Laughter) And believe ~~that~~ it or not, he is better off not to quickly jump and change from hermeneutic to hermeneutic than to change for every Bible teacher that comes by. There are some people -- every ~~Bible~~ teacher that comes by they become a new follower. So I am prone to think that prophecy should be interpreted generally in a literal sense; that there are some things in it that I don't <sup>quickly</sup> understand that could be better understood by another hermeneutic. But by changing to it suddenly I might come up with all sorts of problems in the background. Take for example the 40 years on Egypt. I would like -- now this is just a like -- I would like to interpret them immediately in a symbollic sense. That 4, the 40 speaks of a time of testing. You really can't doubt ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup>, can you?

<sup>26</sup> You haven't sat down with your concordance and looked at the number of times the number 40 is used in the Scripture, You have been missing <sup>it</sup>. It is used a lot of times,