

as I know, it is an unfulfilled prophecy, and that I have no record historically -- maybe some condition cancelled it out -- maybe there was some act of God that superseded it, but whatever the case is, I know nothing of it -- know nothing about it, when it was fulfilled or what not. I still know that the ultimate teaching of it is for God's blessing in a Redemptive way on those nations, and since the rest of Scripture points up to the fact that that great Redemptive teaching is with regard to the Second Advent, ~~that~~^{then} I don't just dump the unfulfillment in the eschatological vat -- I don't do that. I point out that ultimate redemption for the world is the second point (when I say ultimate, I mean a great ultimate plan) -- is the second point in the prophetic scope and that I think that these prophecies of Egypt and Assyria and even Tyre which is the negative one, look toward that end, and teach us something of God's purpose in a Redemptive way for the people outside of Israel as well as for Israel itself. Now, it leaves me with a lot of details that I can't answer. I don't know what the five cities are until this day. I don't know what the altar (7) in the land of Egypt is until this day. I don't think that it is the Elphantine thing as I mentioned yesterday, but I don't know what it is. I don't know why Egypt is spoken of as being the basest of the low of this day, but what I see with regard to Egypt is the dispersion of punishment and restoration which rather convinces me that the prophecy is given to show an eschatological pattern of things that God in His Redemptive course is going to bless the whole world in some specific way. Now, it could be that Egypt and Assyria are stand-ins. It could be, and I mentioned here under (4) that terms like 40 and 70 maybe used symbolically. I am not sure that they are. Time will have to tell about that. But the thrust is that the unfulfilled aspects of these things challenge us to a large degree of attentiveness on how these different Redemptive programs are going to work. We might have to ~~wait~~ wait to see that, and they may take (just between you and me) it may take a long period of waiting. On the other hand, as I said yesterday, some of the things which to me are unfulfilled now maybe have been fulfilled in time past and I just don't know about them. I hate to leave you with a nebulous note like that, but there are a lot of things I don't know. I am not even sure of my wife's birthday, so you had better believe there are a lot of other things I am not sure about. I do know that I adopted the policy years ago that on February 21st until the first of March, I would say, "Happy Birthday!" every morning. I get up very early