

The old idea of history was that it was what the kings did, what the rulers did, and who was in leadership. That was, of course, just a superficial viewpoint of it. The reason that they were interested in what the kings did was because they were supposed to have great importance as far as the whole nation was concerned and what they did as to have ~~exhibited~~ effected the future of the nation. Today we are more apt to be interested in what the general movements are than what a particular individual did or what was done by an individual who was influential than ~~if~~ what was done by a man who ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ happened to belong to a certain family. ~~xxxx~~ History then involves interpretation and these interpretations differ from time to time. Now in view of these aspects we have noticed the meaning of history and the fact ~~of~~ that history involves interpretation, you see how difficult it is to answer a simple question which is much argued by people. Some say prophecy is history written in advance. Others say that that is absurd to say that prophecy is history written in advance. The fact of the matter is that until they agree what is meant by history, there is no sense in talking about such a matter. ~~xxxx~~ Prophecy is not history written in advance if you mean that it gives you exactly the same picture in advance that a history is going to give you. But if you mean that prophecy gives you knowledge of facts in the future and of events and that these are important events and it tells you something of the interrelation of some of the important elements of history, and those certainly are involved in predicting prophecy. So you see that ~~it~~ is true that prophecy is history written in advance and it is false that prophecy is history written in advance. It depends on how definitely you understand what you mean by history and it is not complete history but it is a very large aspect of history.

Now number 3. As to the value of history so far we have been looking principally at its definition. History explains much that is otherwise obscure. I think that this is one reason why many people find history boring is that they have never had this pointed out to them. This is one of the most