

they should and people of succeeding generations and so it uses the language of the times and deals with events of the times. It is filled with allusions which are not clear at all unless you know something of the historical background. This is a very important feature of the value of the history particularly when it comes to understanding the prophetic books.

Then "c" It enables us to understand the occasion of the revelations and interventions of God. God does not simply come to people and give them a message. It ought to be possible to come to people and say, "Here is God's message. Here is what He wants you to have." But most people in the world ever since the Fall are so much more interested in their own concerns than in what God has to say to them, that that method of bringing the word doesn't have much effectiveness as a rule. God did not use it in giving the Bible. He came to people with a special need and he ~~was~~ gave them an answer to those needs. He came to people who were possessed with their sin and had reached the point where they were utterly dissatisfied. He showed them that He could give them the answer, the truth, the solution to their problem. He came to nations who were absolutely desperate facing destruction and gave them deliverance in the physical sphere and then proceeded to teach them of deliverance in the spiritual sphere. The gratitude which they had for their physical deliverance made them responsive to the spiritual sphere. That is true of the deliverance of the people of Israel from the land of Egypt. They were ready when they came out of the land of Egypt to listen to what God said and to say, "All that thou sayest, we will do." ~~We are~~ They are ready to try to do what He wanted and to seek His face because they had passed through a tremendous national emergency. And God speaks in the Bible in situations, "When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son." Does that mean when the clock struck a certain point? No, it means when the situation was set, that things had come together to that exact point which he desired to use in sending His Son to do the great work which He was going to do. He prepared the Roman Empire to conquer Europe to make