

God is not a God of confusion. In the Proverbs often there is one subject and then another and then another. There are cases where you have a chapter on a subject, and then you go on to a chapter on something unrelated. There are such instances, but ordinarily you find that the units run together into larger units and that there is a relationship between them, that there is a definite relation of thought, a progress, a movement. We must not read this into Scripture any place, but we must see what it is and get it out because it may be very important in the understanding of it. Well, in order to do that we want to find out what ~~is~~ the first part of the chapter is talking about. And right there, we face a difficulty. There are two methods of interpreting the first part of the chapter. The first half is dealing with desolation. It is dealing with a time when everything is quiet. It is not telling about the evil there, it is telling of a time when everything is deserted and empty and spoiled, mourning, languishing, people in famine and suffering except possibly in the last phrase or two of the first verse, it is not a picture of things occurring, but a picture of the result of the things occurred and as you read the first verse in the A.V. or the R.V., you immediately think this is a picture; of the end of the age, the whole earth is involved and the whole earth is mourning and languishing. Now when does that come into the end of the age? I don't know of anyone's interpretation of the end of the age that has a long period of everything languishing, defiled, mourning, fading away at the end of the age. It doesn't say that. picture of the progress that I know of that you get anywheres else in the Scripture. And there are 9 9/10 in this first half that don't fit with that interpretation at all. At the end of it, it is talking about one city, the city of confusion is broken down. "In the city is left desolation, and the gate is smitten with destruction" Verse thirteen says, "When thus it shall be in the midst of the land among the people ~~there shall be~~." Vs.3, the land shall be utterly emptied and utterly spoiled; vs. 2 tells about different types of the people,