

So the prediction of the fut. is a very difficult thing. I imagine today they can predict weather better than they could 30 yrs. ago. I don't know. Maybe worse! I know that 30 yrs. ago I used to follow the weather forecast rather closely, because the way I get my rest is by walking in the country, and I'm not extremely partial to walking in the rain. So one time about 30 yrs. ago there was a 4 day period in which I had no classes, and I had 3 days of studying I wanted to do. I did not care which of the 4 days == which 3 days I studied, but I wanted to get in 3 hard days of study and one day walking in the country. So the first day I looked at the paper and it said rain. So I stayed home and studied, and it was a beautiful clear day all day. The second day I looked at the paper and the paper said, Rain. So again I stayed home and studied and it was a beautiful clear day all day! The third day it said Rain, and I stayed home and studied. A Beautiful clear day all day. On the morning of the 4th day they said, Fair and clear; if only they'd stuck to their first prediction long enough they'd have hit it right. But I followed the prediction of the 4th day, I started off and did not even take rain clothing with me foolishly and when I'd been an hour the rain started to pour down and poured down all day! I got thoroughly drenched and I thought with all the resources science had available at that time they could not tell which of those 4 days it would rain and which it would not.

Can you predict what's going to happen centuries ahead. I don't think any human being can possibly do it. The ancient Greeks claimed to be able to do it onetime, but they were pretty cagey about it. There was an oracle in N. Greece -- the Oracle of Delphi which was supposed to be under the control of the god of _____. For a proper fee this oracle of Delphi would give you advice on any particular situation. King _____ the king of ~~KYXXXX~~ Lydia once found that the Persian army was moving in his direction and Cyrus King of Persia had conquered many other regions and had come right to the border of Croesus' territory, so Croesus sent a messenger to the Delphic oracle and said What shall I do? Shall I stay behind this river and hope Cyrus won't attack me or shall I march out and attack him? The answer came back, If you march across the river Hyllas and attack Cyrus a great empire will be destroyed, and Croesus said, What could be better than to destroy Cyrus's great empire. So he marched out and attacked Cyrus just like Nasser marched out and attacked Israel in full confidence just as Egypt trusted the Russian predictions with their fine weapons they would easily conquer. He marched out and attacked and was completely defeated and taken prisoner and a great empire was destroyed but it was the Empire of Croesus! Not the empire of Cyrus. The Romans had a similar situation. They had the Sybline ~~oracle~~ books. These books were held in the capitol in Rome and the officials used to read them at particular crises. They had keepers of the Sybline books who would give advice on them. The time came when the Emperor Maxentius (he'd only been emperor a couple of months then) was in Rome and a General named Constantine who had been in Britain had been declared emperor by his troops and he had left Britain and marched across France and across the Alps and was approaching Rome. Maxentius did not know whether to stay safe behind the walls of Rome thinking that Constantine could not get at him there, or to march out and destroy Constantine.