

8 Daniel (session 2)

divisions does he have?" He was interested in material strength, not in any kind of supernatural force, whatever such as the Pope claimed to have. "And a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honor with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. Thus shall he do in the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory." Now this description from vs. 36 on here, the description does not fit Antiochus Epiphanes. So we are in a situation where we have two possible interpretations.

We have the interpretation of the modernist who says, Up to vs. 35 the man who wrote this book was in the time of Antiochus Epiphanes is describing past history as he knew it, as it had occurred. He describes it very accurately. Then he goes on to make guesses about what is going to happen in the future and his guesses proved to be wrong. That's one possible interpretation but not a Christian interpretation. That is the interpretation you find in Farrar's book on Daniel, The Farrar who wrote that Lovely Life of Christ. He also wrote a commentary on Daniel in which he presents this view.

But then you have the other possible view that the prophet up till vs. 35 is looking at Antiochus Epiphanes and then that his vision looks as if you are looking at a mountain range and you see these events up to this point and then you see ~~another~~ another range behind it, and you describe what is there. So from vs. 36 on, he describes a different king who is similar in characteristics and attitudes to Antioch, but who is different and who lives at least 2000 years later and who is somewhat similar but a different man and a different situation. So you have a gap here just as you had a gap in ch. 8 where he told about the coming of the Persian to destroy the Babylonian empire and immediately about the coming of Greece, and there was all that period of 200 years in between. You just went from one ~~to~~ to the other. And you had the gap in chapter 11 again, where he told about the king of Persia who attacked Greece and then he told about the King of Greece coming and ~~overcoming~~ ~~overcoming~~ Persia. In between there was a period of 120 or 150 years. So here between vs. 35 and 36 (since up to 35 fits exactly Antiochus Epiphanes and from 36 on describes something that is similar but is absolutely not true of Antiochus Epiphanes we feel) - most Christian interpreters feel, that there is a gap and that after looking at this situation he then looks at another king who is similar but different. So most Christian