

000530

Chapel

Oct. 29, 1981

Fulfilled Prophecy II

Last Thursday we looked at the challenge God gave to the idols to prove that they amounted to something by predicting the future. I would like to turn your attention now to a passage a little difficult in the book of Isaiah, the 48th chapter at the beginning of which the Lord gives a careful rebuke to the people of Israel. He says in ch. 48:1 "Listen to this, O house of Jacob. . . (reading text), through v. 6.

I think that's a very interesting passage pointing out how anxious God's enemies are to explain away the evidences of His existence and His power. You see many instances of this in the case of the prophets ==the prophecies* that the Lord has given. I mentioned some of them to you last Thursday. I mentioned to you the fact that in the book of Daniel we had such marvellous predictions of the events of the period 400 years after the time of Nebuchadnezzar when Daniel lived, that these critics have insisted perhaps more strongly than about any other book of the Bible that it was not written about the time it claims to be but 400 years later.

So that all these apparent wonderful prophecies would be simply somebody later on pretending that the prophecies had been made. Of course if one does not believe there is a God who can predict the future, then one has to believe that Daniel was written later. Some of the most wonderful prophecies in the Bible relate to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. I don't think anybody could have read the OT and then written the life of Christ the way it would be from what was in the OT. It does not give you such precise and full details that you can do that.

But it does give many aspects that show the purpose of His coming. It shows some of the miraculous elements in His life and it has a number of incidental features pointing to precise incidents in connection with the life of Christ, which for people of that day were a tremendous proof that He was the One who had been predicted and they are a tremendous proof to people today. Because God saw to it that some centuries would pass between the time when the OT was written and the time when our Lord came so that no one can say who knows anything about it that these predictions were written after these events actually happened.

I should not actually say no one can say so I introduce the words things about because I recall how disgusted a Prof. in the U. of Pa. was on one occasion a few years ago. He was professor of semetics and OT in that university, a man who held many modernistic views but he heard about another instructor in another department in the university who declared in his class that the OT had all been ~~xxx~~ written after the time of Christ, had been written by Christians in order to throw mystery on the origin of their religion! This professor there was giving his life to studying the OT and altho he did not admit very much of the miraculous in it he was very much disturbed that such a thing would be said in his own university by an instructor in another department. But it simply is an illustration of how anxious the enemies of Christianity --not only human enemies but demonic enemies are-- to destroy the evidences to blind people's eyes so they will not look to the Lord and be saved.