

have two sides and I incline to think that is a picture that He gave him of this situation which would be though some of these verses are hard to be sure of. Prediction often is very clear after the events occur, so it does not always ==it is not always easy to tell what is going to occur. You can see there are predictions in the Bible where you can see what has happened and you can see how it did fit and if it had been said any other way it would not have fit. And yet to look ahead and say how it is going to be very often are guesses proved wrong.

So the predictions are not given to satisfy our guesses about the future. They are given in order that when they are fulfilled we can see that God knew all things from the very beginning. That God knew what He was predicting and that His hand was in it all.

Then there continue some predictions that have been fulfilled in the rest of this chapter including particularly the prediction against idolatry. He says "I will destroy your horses from among you.... destroy the cities of your land ...destroy your witchcraft . . ." These predictions of terrible things to come in the future were certainly fulfilled when Jerusalem was conquered by the Romans and thousands of them sold into slavery and thousands of others were killed. Then 100 years later a group of zealots cathered others around them and they had a man who they claimed was the Messiah. In the 2nd century A.D. they tried to reestablish themselves in Jerusalem. Hadrian sent an army and destroyed it and ordered no Jews should come within many miles of Jerusalem and he made it a heathen city with a temple to the god Zeus, in the city then. The things that were gone through are here summarized in these predictions.

He says: I will destroy your carved images and your sacred stones from among you; you will no longer bow down to the work of your hands." The was one of the great things that the propeht attacked was the tendency of the Jews in their day to adopt the heathen worship and worship idols. That was one of the great sins that the prophets were constantly attacking. But Micah predicted God would destroy their idolatry. "You will no longer bow down to the work of your hands" and after the return from Babylonian exile one thing that has caracteized the Jews all through history has been their opposition to idolatry. They stood solidly for monotheism through all the centuries since and so this prediction of Micah's here was wonderfully fulfilled in later times. It is marvellous to see how God did give these predictions of the future!

Then in ch. 6 he tells about what God had done for them in the past and rebukes them for turning away from him and you whave this marvelous passage here in 6:6: "With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? . . . He has showed you O Man, what is good. And what does the LOrd require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (6:6-8). That is one of the marvelous passages in he prophetic books where it shows that God requires our worship. He requires many things, but is what is most important is the attitude of the heart. That is the most important. He lays the stress upon it. "Godhas showed you what is good--to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Then we start a new section with 6:9, a section were we have sin described again in the next few verses, and then punishment. V.13, "Therefore, I have begun to destroy you, to ruin you because of your sins. You will eat but not be satisfied . . because what you save I will give to the sword" And there he goes on to give the terrible punishment that has indeed come through the years.