

in the book of Revelation. Except for 48: 12, quoted in Rev.1: 8,17 (I am the first and the last--Alpha and Omega), the quotations are in Rev. 18 and concern the fall of Babylon there described.¹ In Revelation, of course, Babylon is the ^{gnomic} mnemonic designation of Rome (which it would doubtless have been death to mention in such terms). But it does not follow that because the Old Testament description is applied to her that the Old Testament Babylon is Rome also. And commentators do not so suppose. Neither is Old Testament Babylon to be taken as a type of final Rome so much as she is to be taken as an example. The New Testament merely finds history repeating itself in a marvelous and dreadful style as the last Babylon falls under the condemnation of the same "strong Lord God who judged her".(Rev. 18:8).

Our conclusions from this part of our study are already given. We need only a bare summary. The first principle we have observed is that the prophetic style of Isaiah, at least, is one of ~~the~~ impassioned and poetic address. It therefore deals largely in metaphor, hyperbole, and imagery of all sorts. The words are therefore not to be pressed prosaically beyond the purpose declared in the context. It is not fair to say that the prophet exaggerates any more than does Ps.114, but we must remember that the details are to be studied only in the light of the context, and are valuable for the total picture they present. Second, we saw that frequently the succession in time of the events prophesied is confused or altogether neglected. The distant future is bound up with the present in almost an inextricable connection so that the concatenation of events would make us think he looked for the advent of the Messiah at once upon the heels of the Assyrian invasion, or

1. The quotations (listed in Toy, Quotations in the New Testament, p.311) are:

Isa. 47: 7,8	- - -	quoted in	-	-Rev. 18: 7.
Isa. 47: 9	- - - -	"	"	-Rev. 18: 8.
Isa. 48: 20	- - - -	"	"	-Rev. 18: 4.