

This does not mean that the Bible presents a complete and simple picture of the divine plan for the future. God did not give us the Bible just to satisfy our curiosity. He gave it to show us how we can be saved and how our lives can be changed from failure and misery to joy and happiness. He gave it to tell the great facts about Himself, about our destiny, and about the meaning of life, which no man could have learned by purely human observation or investigation. He gave the Bible centuries ago to people whose language, thought forms and approach to life was in many ways different from our own. People had wilfully tried to put God out of their hearts and minds. God gave a revelation to bring back to man's knowledge the great facts that we need to know. This being the case, while the Bible speaks to all men at all times, we cannot expect that every part of it will be equally simple or easy to understand.

Sometimes it has been said that Bible prophecy is history written in advance. This statement is to some extent true, and to some extent false. History depends to a very great extent upon the purpose of the historian. A history book written a century ago was sure to devote much of its text to telling about wars and rulers. History that is written today is apt to pass over such matters with far less attention, and to endeavor to describe in more detail the life and activities of the mass of people. Among the thousands of events that occur the historian tries to select those that have an important meaning in showing developments and turning points. Here judgment enters in to a very great extent. If he were to tell everything that happened, there would simply be a series of chronicles millions of pages long in which the reader would be utterly lost in the mass of detail.

It is not God's purpose to give us such an understanding of the development of events in the future as a historian seeks to find for the