

far-fetched. The reason for this is that the New Testament teaching is never based on the few words that are quoted, but always on the whole teaching of the passage from which the quotation is taken. Many parts of the prophetic writings are better understood when we know how New Testament writers referred to them, and the New Testament passages are better understood when we have a real understanding of the situation and context involved in the relevant Old Testament passages.

Another principle that is vital for the understanding of Isaiah is to recognize that sometimes he has the whole nation in mind with particular emphasis upon the ungodly portion of the nation, while at other times he speaks directly to the hearts of the true believers. In many parts of the book, as in various writings by other prophets, there is a regular order of presentation beginning with words of rebuke and judgment against the nation as a whole for the wickedness and apostasy of great numbers of its people, and then turning his attention to the godly among the nation, who might be tempted to give way to despair as they hear of coming punishment for sin, and seeking to comfort true believers by assuring them of God's continual presence and by showing them wonderful pictures of the glorious future blessings that He plans to give. Some of these pictures are rather brief, but some are quite extensive. Recognition of this rather frequent alternation is often helpful in interpreting specific passages.

#### Translations

This book is based on the readings of the "Authorized Version." This version, which was prepared at the command of King James I of England and first published in A.D. 1611, is one of the best translations of the Bible ever made. Yet its present value for general use is very greatly limited, as