

Jan. 2

to Nebuchadnezzar, and in which Daniel interprets it. That is one of the chapters of Daniel which is most quoted. There is probably no^t chapter of Daneil which is more quoted than that chapter. As far as ~~prophecy~~ prophecy is concerned, certainly none is more quoted. That chapter has the vision of the four great empires to conquer, and is much discussed in connection with prophecy. So actually we have seven chapters of the book which are prophetic. We have five which are historical, and a little more than five, because a portion of the second might be considered historical. Yet after you have said that, that shows the importance of the prophetic as over against the historical in the book, we can go a little further. Take the word prophetic in the proper sense which we haven't yet discussed in prophets this year. The fact that prophetic does not mean prediction, though it may include prediction, it means speaking forth the will of God, giving the message God wants the people to have. Whether that be a message about the future, or a message as to how they are to act in the present. It is God's message regarding the lives and attitudes of His people. Well, in that sense, all the book is prophetic, rather than historical. Certainly it is not historical in the normal sense of the word. You pick up a history of England. It will be very different from the first six chapters of Daniel. It is not a history of Babylonia. You start right in the middle of events in Babylonia, you have certain things told you about the kings there, certain things told you about certain rulers, but at the end of chapter 4 you are dealing with Nebudhadnezzar, ch. 5 starts talking about Belshazzar. It doesn't tell you Nebu. died. It doesn't tell you how Belshazzar came to become king. It tells you nothing of the events in between. Such history in the political sense as is contained in the book, is incidental, rather than the principle subject of the book. It is not a history of Babylonia ~~and~~ and Persia. Neither is it a history of Israel. Those first six chapters don't have much to tell us ~~about~~ Israel. They talk about some Israelites. But they don't tell us a great deal about Israel. It is not really a history of Israel. Now how about the Israelites. You might say a life of Abraham is a historical book. It is a history of his life. Are the first six chapters of Daniel a