

And then we had a recession, and after the recession was over and we had come up again, he said they had planned that too. But I would have liked it a little better if he had told us in advance we were going to have a recession. It is a very, very difficult to predict the future.

Mohammed didn't try. Mohammed tells us in the Koran about the judgment day, and a few things about the end of the world. But what happened in between that we could stay away from? He doesn't take any chance.

The ancient Greeks and Romans occasionally claimed to be able to predict the future. There was in Greece an oracle called the Delphic oracle, and King Croesus of Lydia would have liked to know what to do. Cyrus the Persian was coming with a mighty army against him and was plundering regions round about,- should Croesus stay in his own land and be peaceful, in the hope that Cyrus wouldn't attack him or should he march out and attack this aggressor who was sure to attack him eventually anyway? So he sent a messenger to the Delphic oracle and asked, "What will happen if I march out across the river _____ and attack the army of Cyrus?" And the answer was given,- if you march out and attack the army of Cyrus a great empire will be destroyed. Croesus said, That is wonderful; Cyrus has a tremendous empire and I would like to see it destroyed. And so he marched out with his army, attacked the armies of King Cyrus, and was terrifically defeated in the battle. A great empire was destroyed, but it was the empire of Lydia and not the empire of Persia that was destroyed. What the oracle said, would be true no matter what happened.

The same thing happened in Rome. They had in Rome what were called the Sibylline books. There was a man who became emperor of Rome, but another man in distant England was declared by his soldiers to be emperor; and Constantine began marching with his soldiers across Europe from Britain and Licentius was at Rome. Constantine came down into Italy with his army and Licentius wondered whether to stay where he was, secure in the