

passage or force other passages into line with it. The present writer is very conscious of this danger and feels that there can be value in a fresh look at Daniel's prophecies, paying particular attention to those that have already been fulfilled.

It is not the purpose of this book to relate the prophecies of Daniel to other parts of the Scripture and thus to try to produce a detailed picture of God's future activities. This is a desirable goal and many attempts have been made to fulfill it; yet it is the feeling of the present writer that it is a second stage which can be performed much more satisfactorily if it is preceded by the type of investigation undertaken here.

The twelve chapters in Daniel's book contain a larger number of specific future predictions than any other Bible passage of equal length. They include a great deal of detail about the history of the four hundred years following the time of Nebuchadnezzar and also deal with later events. In some parts of the book the detailed predictions are so numerous and so precise that all "liberal" scholars insist that they cannot have been written until after their alleged fulfillment. Some of these prophecies are so unique that very special study is required to interpret them properly.

The first half of the book, with its thrilling accounts of how God protected His faithful servants contains incidents that are well known to most Christians. The second half, which principally consists of the visions God gave to Daniel, is far less known.

Most Christians are familiar with Nebuchadnezzar's dream in chapter 2 and the interpretation that Daniel gave it, pointing to four great human empires that would precede the establishment of God's universal kingdom. A smaller number are familiar with the parallel picture in Daniel 7 of four beasts coming out of the sea. Comparatively few Christians know much about the great prophecies contained in the last six chapters of the book. Yet these chapters are of great interest, not only for their prediction of events that are still future, but perhaps even more for the many predictions that have already been fulfilled. When these are