

Testament. Yet it is important to remember that there are a few places at which we cannot be entirely certain about the exact original. In the prophecies of Daniel such instances are comparatively rare. There is amazingly little divergence in Hebrew manuscripts of this book.

4. Recognition that we Cannot Expect to Understand Everything

In interpreting prophecy it is very important that we recognize the limits of our knowledge and that we avoid building theories on insufficient evidence. We must approach God's Word with humility, not expecting that everything will be equally clear. Much will be easy to understand; some statements will require a great deal of study; we may find portions that we do not understand at all.

There are a number of reasons why we cannot expect to understand everything in God's Word:

- 1) The Bible is a divine book. It would be absurd to suggest that the knowledge of the infinite God could be fully contained in one volume. Any book that expresses the ideas of the infinite God will sometimes touch on matters that are difficult for human beings to understand.
- 2) The Bible was written when the material aspects of life were very different from those of our present time. This was true even one hundred years ago. There were then few telephones, no radio, no airplanes, and no automobiles. Good roads were practically nonexistent. Many days of traveling by ship were required to go from the United States to Europe -- a trip that is now made in a few hours by air. Few people today clearly realize how tremendously great are the technical changes that have occurred in recent years. As a result of these changes the situations of even a century ago are now hard to imagine. Two thousand years ago they differed