

of history) quickly learns that the situation is far more complicated. One would hardly give the title "history" to a mere book of annals or chronology that would describe what happened on the 1st of January in a certain year in Cuba and Washington, what happened on the 2nd in Portugal and in Colorado, what happened on the 3rd in Texas, in Washington, and in Japan, what happened on the 4th in Cuba and in Syria, etc. Such a book would make very dull reading and would not be really informative. In order to understand what happened in any of these areas, it is necessary to refer to previous events and situations.

Any readable history of the present century would describe the important events in one country for a certain length of time, noting its relation with other areas, and then would describe those of another country for a similar (or overlapping) period. There should be constant interrelations, but in order to make the progress of events clear one part of the history would have to deal with a particular area or subject, while another part might discuss what happened at the same time in a different region. Thus for any large area historical material would be presented in an order that is to some extent logical rather than chronological.

If the book's objective were not specifically to write a history, but rather to show the importance of some force, movement, or viewpoint by giving illustrations from history, the order would be still further from being strictly chronological. In discussing each phase the writer might show how it had been exemplified in various areas at various times. Within each of these sections there would tend to be a chronological order but there would be frequent shifts back and forth according to the nature of the material presented.

A similar situation exists in prophecy. The prophets did not simply describe the events of the future in temporal order. This was not their purpose. They were sent to rebuke sin and also to give assurance of God's existence and of His love for all who receive by faith His provision for their salvation. In certain sections their perspective may be strictly chronological; often the order is logical rather than chronological;