

new dynasty would displace the one then headed by Ahab and Jezebel, before whose threats Elijah had fled. After God had given these evidences of His control over the nations He designated the man who would continue Elijah's own work. The perspective was clearly logical rather than chronological.

In order to meet the needs of those to whom the prophet speaks or writes, prophetic statements are frequently presented in such a way as to be logically related to a present situation instead of being chronologically related to each other. Thus, when the prophet has endeavored to persuade individuals to turn away from sin by describing one or more future calamities, his strong emphasis on sin and retribution may lead to an urgent need to bring encouragement and comfort to those who are true believers. As the true believers realize the terrible nature of the sin in which they themselves, as part of the nation, are necessarily implicated, and look forward to the terrible events that are predicted, they may tend to become discouraged. It then becomes an important part of the prophet's work to tell them about the great blessings that God has planned for the more distant future.

The perspective of prophecy has been compared to the situation of a man who stands on a high hill and looks at a number of fairly distant ranges of mountains. At one point in the landscape certain high ridges on the nearest range may completely hide the ranges behind. At another point he may see something in the second range. At still another point something in the fourth range may appear to be immediately behind the first range. Often the events in the area between are not visible to the observer.

In some predictive passages it is very easy to understand the time relation of future events; in others this relation may require very careful study. It should never be taken for granted that the perspective of prophecy is entirely simple. Each case should be carefully studied.

3. Intervals

Unless exact dates are constantly given there are sure to