

be unspecified intervals in any historical account. It is often impossible to know the length of these intervals.

An account of famous Americans might mention that John Adams was President of the United States but failed of re-election and that his son John Quincy Adams was also elected President of the United States and also failed to be re-elected. Such a statement would not necessarily mention the interval of 24 years between the presidencies of the two Adamses. Similarly an account of the Harrison family might state that William Henry Harrison was elected President of the United States but died shortly after he was inaugurated, and that his grandson, Benjamin Harrison, was elected President but was not elected to a second term. Here again the interval of 48 years between the two presidencies might not be mentioned.

Similar instances frequently occur in the historical sections of the Bible. Two interesting ones might be noted in 2 Kings 19. Verses 20-34 of that chapter contain a long message from God that Isaiah passed on to Hezekiah at the time of Sennacherib's invasion, when it appeared certain, from a human standpoint, that Jerusalem would soon be conquered by this powerful Assyrian king. In verse 29 Isaiah predicted that the Assyrian danger would continue for another two years, but that in the third year it would again be safe to leave the protection of the city walls and do normal work in the fields. Thus Isaiah made it clear that the present danger from the Assyrians would continue for two years. Yet Isaiah's prediction is immediately followed, in verse 35, by the account of its fulfillment. Obviously there is an interval of at least two years between verse 34 and verse 35, and we must understand the words, "that night," which begin verse 35, as pointing not to the time when the prediction was given but to the later time when it was fulfilled.

Another interval is found between verse 36 and verse 37 of the same chapter. Verse 36 tells about Sennacherib's return to Nineveh, and verse 37 describes his death. The casual reader might think that the events in verse 37 immediately follow those described in verse 36. Yet Assyrian