

a divinely inspired book, accepted by the Jews at the time of Christ as being a divinely inspired book. And Jesus set His seal of approval on the books that were accepted by the Jews at that time as being God's Holy Word.

So on the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ we believe Daniel actually lived in the time of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, and that Daniel was able to predict these historical events during four centuries after his time with remarkable accuracy. Where it goes beyond what happened then, we believe it is looking forward far further into the future much beyond the time of Antiochus Epiphanes. We take that attitude because we believe Jesus Christ gave His authority to the OT as God's Word and as entirely true, and dependable.

In this course we are not interested in studying the criticism. We do have to do a good bit of that in our classes. It is vital that you be prepared to meet the higher critical views that are so widely taught as established fact in seminaries and universities around the world today. But that is not the purpose of this particular course.

Yet we find it necessary in this course to deal with this particular theory to some extent, because it makes a difference in the interpretation at a good many points. So I will refer to the critical theory a good many times. You simply do not want to take anything that the critics who think it was written later say as being necessarily false, because they are certainly right in saying the book of Daniel contains a remarkable picture of the history of those four centuries. But the interesting thing is that in order to hold their theory they have to at a number of points say, he was quite mistaken about the history! And that is quite interesting, and I think a rather weak point in their whole theory. We will notice certain points of that type as we come to them.

I want to say a few words specifically about the purpose of this Course. The purpose of this course is definitely not to find proof texts for views already adopted. There is great value in someone who has a complete idea of what he believes the Bible teaches about the future writing on the book of Daniel to show how it fits in with those ideas. And in order to give evidence from the book of Daniel of particular points of his viewpoint. But the unfortunate thing is that most Christian teachers are equally dogmatic about those matters that are absolutely clear and definite in Scripture and about those matters that are highly speculative, as to interpretation. That is one thing we particularly try to do here at Biblical is to inculcate an attitude of saying, This is clear in Scripture, we stand upon it. But here is something which may be interpreted in two different ways. We think this is the more likely but we do not stand on it as positively as we do on those things that are absolutely clear and definite in the meaning of Scripture. So our purpose in this particular course is not to come to the book of Daniel with an already adopted idea of the future. We are coming to it simply to find what is there, and to see what is taught in this particular book without importing into it any more than we can possibly help of ideas from other sources.