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important caution in this regard will be noted below under sec. 9.

4. Relation to the Specific Divine Purpose. It is most important in the understanding of the "situation in life" of the prophetic books to determine the divine purpose in the giving of each portion of the prophecy. This is so important that section B below will be devoted to an inductive examination of the purposes of the various types of prophetic messages.

5. Special Problems Regarding Prediction. There are certain principles in connection with the interpretation of prediction that need special treatment. Some of them will be examined under heading D below.

6. The Need of Starting at the Right Place. In examining the prophetic books one should observe a principle that is important in almost any field of study, but that is more neglected in Bible study than in most other areas. This is the principle that one should advance his learning by proceeding from the simple to the less simple and from the clear to the less clear. It is all too common to try to