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make an exhaustive study of a difficult passage in the prophetic books and then to take this as a basis on which to interpret other passages, and in some cases even to explain away the obvious intent of these other passages. Proper method requires that the passages that are fairly obvious or quite simple to interpret should first be carefully examined, and principles drawn from them in the light of which the more difficult passages can be understood. For this reason, and also because of the importance of understanding the historical background, much of which in the case of many of the prophetic books has to be inferred from careful study of their contents, it is advisable that any careful study of the prophetic books, and particularly of their predictive sections, should begin with an exhaustive study of the life, activities and messages of Elijah and Elisha. Here the historical situation is clearly set forth and easily understood. Here the purpose of each prophetic message is usually quite easily deduced from the nearer or larger context. Here in most cases the fulfillment of the prediction is described, and it is therefore easy to see exactly how the