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prediction should be interpreted in the light of its actual fulfillment. From careful study of the material between I Kings 17 and II Kings 13 a proper foundation can be laid for the understanding of much of the material in the prophetic books, and no extensive study of the prophetic books should be undertaken without having been preceded by this reasonable preparation.

7. Recognition of Figurative Language.

Like all literature, prophecy contains figures of speech. This does not mean that it is necessarily obscure. When one says that a man was "a lion in the fight," he does not mean that the man was transformed into a physical lion or that he chewed up the enemy with his teeth, but that he showed the qualities of bravery and tenacity that are considered typical of a lion. The language is definitely figurative but its meaning is perfectly clear--perhaps even clearer than a literal statement would be.

If prophecy is so interpreted as to pile figure upon figure and thus to take practically nothing as literal, it becomes meaningless. Such a method of interpretation is quite mis-