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passage to mean anything at all that the interpreter may desire. There are even commentaries that assert that a certain book or portion of a book is to be taken entirely figuratively so that everything in it is a symbol of something else. The result of such an approach is to make it possible for any reader to draw from the passage anything that he might desire. Thus a portion of Scripture is made practically useless. Such an approach is dishonoring to the Word of God.

It is sometimes difficult to know exactly what a portion of the Bible means. It may be impossible, at a particular point in history, to be sure of interpreting a passage correctly. Yet if one moves forward carefully and cautiously, interpreting the obscure and the difficult in the light of what is plain and clear, definite results can be attained in most portions of the prophetic writings.

8. Realization of the Principle of Progressive Revelation. The Bible is not simply a book of rules, or of theological propositions. It sets forth the way in which God presented His truth to human beings who had