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were aware of this part of their work, but often realized that they themselves knew only a small part of the truth that God planned eventually to reveal. Peter declares that they often longed to know more about the whole situation than they yet understood (cf. I Pet 1:10-11). Since the Holy Spirit so inspired the writers of the Bible as to protect their words from error, the messages of the prophets contain more vital information than they themselves understood, and the comparison of one prophecy with another can often yield greater understanding than was known to the author of either passage.

#### C. The Place of Prediction in Prophecy.

Although the primary work of the prophet was not to satisfy curiosity about the future but to declare whatever message God gave him, it is not at all strange that these messages should contain a great deal about the future. Since God controls everything and knows all the future, it would be strange indeed if the messages He gave did not reveal many glimpses of what is ahead. How great a part prediction of the future plays in the forthtelling of divine messages becomes quickly apparent if one relates it to the