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tional. Eventually Nineveh suffered one of the greatest destructions recorded in history. The disaster was so complete that one of the greatest cities of the ancient world became a mere heap of ruins. Within a few centuries after Nineveh's destruction no one even knew where the city had been. It is hardly likely that God would have caused Jonah to make such a forthright prediction of Nineveh's overthrow if the destruction had not been a definite part of the divine plan. The aspect of time was conditional; in view of the immediate repentance the destruction did not occur until a later period.

2. Occasional Ambiguity of the Person Addressed. There are cases where it is obvious that the prophet shifted his vision, speaking for a time to one person, and then turning to another, or speaking to the nation as a whole and then turning his attention to the godly portion of the nation.

3. General Principle or Specific Prediction. Sometimes a prophetic message declares what will happen when certain circumstances occur. In such cases a general principle is presented which may be fulfilled over and over.