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men to cultivate it (vv. 23-25), but pasture land would be so abundant that everyone left could have an abundant supply of such products as butter and honey (clearly stated in vv.21-22, but already suggested in v.15).

Thus v.14 points to a single event which would occur 700 years later while vv. 15ff. describe the situation that would develop in the immediate future. Each part of the prediction has a single fulfillment, and any attempt to consider them as having a "double fulfillment" simply leads to obfuscation and obscurity.

5. The Perspective of Prophecy. In most cases predictions relate clearly to one or more of the purposes of prophecy (cf. B above). Mere satisfaction of curiosity about the future is not one of these purposes. God gives His people encouragement and teaches them the great truths of His plan of redemption, but does not choose to reveal all the details of the sequence of events in the working out of His plan. The arrangement of the predictions is to a great extent purposeful rather than chronological. This was illustrated in Isa 7 (discussed above) where a distant prediction, given for encourage-