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fourth range back may appear so great as to seem almost to touch it. Thus it is not always possible fully to discern the order of events, since the presentation is often arranged according to subjects instead of according to chronology.

There is no way to know exactly how much the prophets themselves understood of the details of God's plan for the future or of the chronological arrangement of these details. One can be sure that they were curious to know more than was actually revealed to them because Peter says that they were "searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ who was in them did signify, when he testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow" (I Pet 1:11).

VI. Prophets and Prophecy in the NT

A. The New Period of Prophecy. As indicated above (cf. II E) the OT prophetic movement came to an end about 400 years before the time of Christ. Josephus states that many Jewish books were written after the end of the OT, but that none of them were considered as infallible because "the exact succession of the prophets had ceased" (Contra Apionem I 8). Prophets were