

Prophets 8

Now I might know, I might know that that prediction had been made by someone, at the end of the term, but that's not saying that I would try intentionally to make the prediction come true. I might have quite a different disposition in course - of a disposition. We have, for instance, a very interesting, striking example of that in history. Constantine the Great became a Christian and after his successors had been Christians for a time one of them became emperor who was opposed to Christianity and this ruler, Julian the Apostate, as we call him, desired to put an end to Christianity and Julian said, he tried to give all the privileges he could to the pagans and to the Jews and do everything he could to hurt Christianity but Christianity was pretty well established in the land. And then Julian said, "Now if I can cause that one of the predictions in the Bible shall be proven to be utterly false, that will make people lose all faith in Christianity" ^{had} because Julian read that Christ had said that the holy place would be trodden down of the gentiles until the end of the time of the gentiles. Julian said, "The times of the Gentiles are here and we are ruling, I am Roman emperor in control ^{here} / " and he said, "The holy place will no longer be trodden down of the Gentiles but returned to the Jews," and he gave the command, "The Jews are free to reestablish their temples in Jerusalem and to reestablish their . ." Julian said, "Now when the people see the temples reestablished and see the Jews again in control of the holy place they will have absolutely clear evidence before them that Christ was a faker and Christianity is a fraud, because His predictions did not come true," and therefore Julian intentionally set to work to cause prophecy not to be fulfilled. How could someone tell three hundred years in advance that Josiah wouldn't be that same sort of a man? Suppose Josiah's parents did want to fulfill the prediction and said, "We'll name our son Josiah so that he will be a . ." We certainly know they didn't because his father was a very ungodly man, one of the most ungodly kings in the history of Judah. But suppose he ^{had} said, "We will make Josiah, give Josiah that name to fulfill the prediction. They couldn't tell in the providence of God but what Josiah might be another Julian. He might be a man who would deliberately set about to prove the prediction wrong by keeping just as far away from those as he possibly could.

So we have here five elements in the prediction, any one of which it is difficult to think of as having been brought about by human endeavor in the effort to authenticate the prophecy and some of which could not possibly have been brought about in that way, and which all