Prophets 20

has nothing to do with that time, but to fit the two together and show that

this part has to do the contemporary situation and that part is primarily

of interest to the people of a time seven hundred years later, is something

which is not simple, and I think it will serve to bring the problem before

you rather impressively. I don't know whether we'll say a few more words

about this problem or go on to the next at five o'clock, but we'll meet again.

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Prophets 20   Second part.

We were speaking at our last meeting about certain problems in the study of the

prophetic books and under that we had turned our attention just at the end of

the hour to Isaiah 7 and we noticed there, that Isaiah 7:16 is undoubtedly

primarily for contemporaries. It is a prediction of something to take place

within the two or three years after the prophet spoke, and there is no other

reasonable interpretation of the passage that I have ever heard of. On the

other hand, Verse 14 is pointing to something which was to happen seven hun-

dred years later. It finds a specific, exact counterpart in that which occurred

seven hundred years later, the inspired writer Matthew tells us that it was

fulfilled seven hundred years later and there is absolutely nothing of which

there is any historical evidence which occurred during the century in which

it was written which can in any whatever be said to be a fulfillment of that

verse, so that we have here this definite situation. We have in Verse 14 a

prediction which was primarily for future generations. Of course, it was given

as a rebuke to Ahaz. Ahaz was shown what God was going to do to displace this

unworthy scion   of the house of David eventually by one who would really

represent God's will in the matter, and it has a meaning for that time, but

an immediate application to a later age, the other one has a meaning for us

today as showing how God's will was fulfilled, but it's immediate application

for that time. Now how to fit the two together is a problem, a problem which

perhaps we don't need to worry about, but I would just like to have the problem

be clear to you and to have you be thinking about this problem as it is very