

Prophets 92

and they came to me and said "We want to know your title, what you are going to talk about" and I hadn't any idea yet what I was going to talk about, I just said "The Siege of Damascus" and I figured that was a title that would fit anything and I could decide later what I was going to do. Well that is simply part of the modern custom of using a title simply as a handle. About three hundred years ago, perhaps even more recently, the habit was to try to give a title that would tell you exactly what was in the book and consequently most books published then have titles that are about four lines long. They will say, instead of calling a book "Miracles" they will say "A Careful, Thorough and Intensive Consideration of All the Problems Involved in Studying the Relation of God to His Universe and the Occasions on which He Performed Miracles in the Sacred History Recorded in the Bible". That would be a typical for a book about three or four centuries ago. They tried to tell exactly what was there and to tell it fully. Now it's a comparatively recent idea to take a title as a handle, to put it on there and this indicates this. It may not give you much idea of what is there but it is an indication. Now it is not an ancient thing. They did not give titles in that way in ancient days and so it was long after these books were written that people began to attach a specific title and use it, and so it would not be at all strange if a second group of material which is very similar to the material in Isaiah written by a man a century and a half later than Isaiah had predicted the exile. Isaiah 39 ends with the account of the fact that the people are going to go into exile. That is the main detail of Chapter 39. It's the most wonderful prediction by Isaiah, Chapter 39. The Assyrian is a great power. To the Babylonian, Babylon is a little insignificant city. Suppose that somebody had made the statement back in 1935, suppose that somebody had said: "The United States is going to be ravaged and plundered by the forces of Hitler's Germany". "Well", somebody would say, "There's a fascist. There's a man who is pro-Nazi. There's a man who is warning us of these but look out! That's when it happens if we are not careful, if we don't prepare ourselves so we". That's what somebody would have said in 1936 but if in 1936 somebody had made the prediction "The United States is going to be ravaged and plundered by the forces of Stalin's Russia", ^{people} / would say right away: "What a silly thing! Why, Russia is right up there next to Hitler and in terrific danger that Hitler will