

frequently the author will use three or four words, just to remind the hearer of the passage. You might say Jer. Isaiah or Micah said such and such and you immediately think of the context and the situation. If you know the passage and know the context, you see immediately how it fits in. If you haven't studied that passage and don't know the background, very often your reactions will be, how on earth does this fit in--and so people get into all kinds of ideas from this misunderstanding--and I think it is for that very reason they don't try to give us an exact verbal quotation and it would not do much good if when translation took place it would be difficult to understand what was meant. But here it speaks of two groups being brought together and that is why James puts in these introductory words--instead of saying that after this Christ will return and fulfill the words spoken at that time he puts in this introduction that shows when it will apply. Maybe we misunderstand what inspiration is--some say that you can prove anything out of the Bible and that is true, if you take individual words instead of getting the ideas and the facts. You have to get a hold of the thought of the passage as a whole. It is like some people who thought they should use clubs and not swords because Jesus told Peter to put up his sword. You can prove almost anything imaginable if you took words out of the context that way--it is the thought that is behind the words taken as a whole. To say that he took this from another prophet --that doesn't even make sense. It would seem that James up this introductory phrase to show how and where it fitted in. Verbal inspiration means that these words present the facts--you have get the thought of the passage as a whole; other wise you get into the position of those North African Christians that used clubs instead of swords since the Lord had told Peter to put up his sword. You will hear a great deal of the presentation of the doctrine which is as unreasonable as that--you hear a great many fine Christian preachers taking things out of the context and the truth is presented as though these particular words proved. God has stooped to ur weakness and has done a lot of good through it, but it is in spite of it and not because of it--the thought is the thing that is vital. That doesn't mean that you don't believe in verbal inspiration however.