

Evidence of Fulfilled Prophecy

In verse twenty we revert again to the main theme of the ~~whole~~ chapter. Although it looks as if the conquest of Jerusalem by the Babylonians has proved that God has no power and perhaps does not even exist, He is indicating through His great acts in history that He is indeed the powerful and almighty God. In verse twenty-one He again challenges the idols to bring any proof of their power or even of their existence. Verses twenty-two and twenty-three bring in the thought of God's omniscience. We have already noticed what a wonderful proof of God's existence and power this is. Only He can truly predict the future. Here He calls upon the false gods to give a similar proof for themselves. *In the course of history many men have claimed* ~~We find many claims to predict the future, but seldom do we~~ *find one who* ~~is~~ *able to justify his* ~~claims.~~ *such* Mohammed had the good judgment not to make any ~~such~~ *of this type* claims. In the writings of ancient Greece and Rome we occasionally find ~~claims of power to predict~~ *attempts* ~~ions~~ given in such ambiguous language that no matter what happened the ~~claim~~ *prediction* might seem to be true. How utterly different are the many cases in the Bible where God declares exactly what is going to happen.

In verse twenty-five again Cyrus is referred to as the one who comes from the northeast who ~~is going to~~ *will* destroy princes as mortar. Through him God is going to deliver Israel. Verse twenty-seven declares that good tidings will be brought to Jerusalem.

We have already noticed the conclusion of the chapter: the utter vanity and worthlessness of the idols and false gods of the heathen.

Chapter Forty-Two

This is a striking chapter and one which at first sight seems to contradict itself. We find its first verses speaking in most exalted terms of the servant