

what it is. A. D. So ~~ifx~~ supposing it was (I forget when it was) say it was put up in 1923. Subtract 1923 from the other figure and you will not get 4004. It seems to me it is nearer 3700 but I forget it exactly. I didn't bother to learn it because it is one of the many different conjectures that have been made. The Scripture doesn't tell us. But when people have taken a guess and have spoken dogmatically that the Bible says that Adam was created in 4004 B. C. and others have come along with evidences from science which look pretty strongly against any such view, people say that the Bible is wrong. Well, that doesn't prove the Bible is wrong because the Bible never said anything like that. It is purely human inferences from the Scripture which were perfectly harmless if they related as a probable inference rather than given as a dogmatic fact. Given as a dogmatic fact are extremely harmful. I think it is one thing we should be very careful to avoid--giving as dogmatic facts that which is only a probable inference from the Scripture.

Now the latter part of chapter 8, verse 7 to 15, is really a separate section by itself. Verses 7 to 15, of course, it is not so long a section and so it may very well be in here, but it is quite sharply distinct from what precedes and what follows. It is an account of a trip which Elisha made to ~~Damascus~~ Damascus. You remember that Elijah was told when he came to Damascus to anoint Hazael king of Syria. As far as evidence goes, Elijah never came to Damascus. and so could not fulfill the command which had been given him. If God had intended him to go to Damascus, God would certainly have ordered him to go to Damascus. I think the reason ~~we~~ for giving him the command in the first place was to reassure him of God's power over the nation. Why ~~did he~~ ~~be~~ ~~afraid~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~wife~~ of a king of a small nation when God is able to change the kings of a far greater nation. So God gives him this prediction of the future as a means of reassuring him of God's control and God's power. But Elijah never anointed Hazael. Now the Scripture doesn't say that he didn't anoint Hazael. Somebody wants to say that he probably did even though we are not told about it. You have a right to