

Also the ravine between me and the other side was covered with rather thick brush and the descent was pretty steep. With a trail it would be easy to go down, but without a trail, extremely difficult. If I should get off the trail, I might find myself in difficult country. At the same time I did not want to go out of my way and find myself away from the proper trail, so I gradually headed somewhat down toward the ravine. As I went, the going became harder and harder. Finally about a third of the way down, I saw that it would be unwise to go any lower. So I contoured along to the right there. The going was much more difficult than would have been the case if I had stayed on the top of the ridge where I could have easily followed the ridge along to the right as far as I might desire. Here I ~~maintained~~ contoured along the rather steep slope for a distance of a few hundred yards, and then I came to a place where the slope flattened ^{out} ~~down~~ a good deal and I came on to the trail coming down from above. I had probably gone a somewhat shorter distance than if I had stayed up above where I should until the proper time to descend, but I had taken probably double as long as if I had remained on the easier country. Once I hit the trail again, it was easy to follow it down the gentle slope to the head of the ravine, which was here far higher than where I would have had to cross the ravine if I had stayed down below. Then I came to a dirt road which led me down to the left and brought me to the place where I could join the trail which I had seen from above.

There is an analogy in this for the interpretation of the prophets. Often indications in the next word or two are not clear, even the next verse or two. We may not be sure which or two or three ways to head in our interpretation. We can look quite a distance ahead and see that toward which we are going. We must interpret in view of larger contexts as well as closer contexts; if we do not do so, we will be led astray, whether it is in mountain climbing or in interpreting of prophecy. At the same time we must be ready to watch for